

# Czech Trade Focus

*News from the Czech Commercial Offices in the United States / October 2006*

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## ECONOMIC BRIEFS

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**Overall confidence in the Czech economy rose by one point in October** against the previous month and thus reached the second highest level in its history according to the Czech Statistical Office (CSU). Business confidence indicator grew by 0.7% to the highest level in history and consumer confidence indicator was up 2.5 points.

**Prague has the highest standard of living** among all capitals in post-communist countries, according to a survey by Swiss bank UBS. The bank evaluated prices, incomes and purchasing power in 71 capital cities around the world. Prague's advantage is its central location in Europe, which lowers corporate transport costs.

**The Czech economy will grow 6%**, down 0.1% from last year, according to an estimate by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In the spring, the IMF forecasted that the economy would grow 5.5%.

**More and more employees commute to work** in the Czech Republic. Over 660,000 employees commute to a different district or region. Some 170,000 commute to Prague alone.

**Meat production fell 2%** to 158,897 metric tons (175,000 short tons) in the second quarter of this year compared to the same period last year. Meat output comprised 53.4% pork, 12.4% beef, including veal, and 34.1% poultry.

**In terms of labour productivity, the Czech Republic has been catching up with the EU-15 countries** according to Eurostat. Central Bohemia has shown one of the fastest paces of the growth in productivity among all EU regions, although people in Prague earn the most per capita.

**The Czech market for organic foods** could increase by as much as 30% over the next five years. Organic food sales reached 350m Kc (\$15.7m) last year and accounted for less than 1% of the total food consumption in the country. An Agriculture Ministry survey showed that almost 50% of consumers are not familiar with organic products.

**Global retail chains** will continue their expansion in the Czech Republic next year although the domestic market is becoming saturated. Retail chains should open several dozen new outlets in 2007, but the expansion of the retail network will be slower than in the previous years. Retailers will focus more on smaller towns where competition in retail is not so strong.

**Czech households** will see costs rise by hundreds or even thousands of crowns a year starting in 2007 as energy prices increase and rent is deregulated. Low-income families should receive subsidies from the dividends of state power company CEZ to compensate for increasing energy prices.

**The Czech Beer and Malt Union** has approved a code specifying how draught beer should be stored and served in restaurants and bars. Mishandling of beer reflects poorly on beer producers.

**State budget revenues** will be 25bil Kc (\$1.1bil) higher than expected next year, and Czechs will pay a record 515bil Kc (\$23bil) in taxes, 40bil Kc (\$1.8bil) more than planned. This year, the government is expected to bring in 15bil Kc (\$675m) more than projected in tax revenues.

The Czech Republic will for the first time ever not be self-sufficient in the **production of potatoes** this year. Farmers have considerably reduced the potato crop area in the last few years due to low prices of potatoes. Yield was also lower per hectare.

**Prague's Ruzyně Airport** saw 6.4m passengers in the first seven months of this year — an increase of nearly 6% on the same period last year. Airport officials expect 11.5m passengers for the entire year, up from 10.8m in 2005.

**Czech tool machine makers** raised first-half output nearly 20% this year. Total production was worth nearly 4.6bil Kc (\$207m) during the beginning 2006. Producers saw the biggest growth in grinding and sharpening machines, which increased by 74%. Exports of metal-working machinery rose by 13%.

**The Czech Republic is a country with the fastest-growing beer exports in Europe.** The year-on-year growth rate of Czech beer exports reached double-digit figures in the past three years. Although beer consumption in the Czech Republic drops by around 1% a year, output continues to grow steadily due to exports.

**The Czech grain harvest** will be 6.3m metric tons (7m short tons) this year, 9.6% less than in 2005. The decline is attributed to the unusually hot and dry summer the Czech Republic has had this year.

**The average gross monthly wage** grew to 20,036 Kc (\$900). The average increased 6.9% compared to the second quarter of last year. The highest average wages are in the banking sector. Wages increased an average of 1,269Kc (\$57) through the first six months of 2006.

**Czech gross domestic product (GDP)** relies increasingly on household consumption rather than foreign trade. Household consumption accounted for 30% of the country's GDP in the first six months of 2006, compared to 20% last year. GDP growth slowed to 6.2% in the second quarter, down from 7.1% in the first quarter.

**The Transportation Ministry** plans to audit the tender to supply an electronic toll system on major roads. Austrian firm Kapsch won the bid despite coming in 4.5bil Kc (\$202m) higher than Italy's Autostrade. The government expects to start collecting the toll on 970 kilometers (601 miles) of roadways beginning January 2007, six months later than planned.

**Nearly three in five employers** offer food vouchers as a bonus to employees. More than 90% of employees who get vouchers said it is their favorite benefit, ahead of pension and vacation benefits. Employers spend an annual 13bil Kc (\$585m) to 14bil Kc (\$630m) on vouchers.

**Some 1.5m credit cards** have been issued by banks and other financial institutions in the Czech Republic. It is expected that the number could easily treble within three years. Another 700,000 credit cards are likely to be issued next year.

**Building companies** signed 22,166 orders for construction work worth 69.1bil Kc (\$3.1bil) in Q2, a growth of 11.5% on the year.

**Prague ranked the 13th-most-attractive city in which to run a business**, according to the annual European Cities Monitor. The monitor surveyed managers of 507 major companies in 33 European cities. London, Paris and Frankfurt took the top three spots. Warsaw and Budapest placed 18th and 22nd, respectively.

**Czechs have taken more than 300bil Kc (\$13.5bil) in housing loans.** Mortgage and construction loans have increased 10 times in seven years, but Czech household debt remains below the EU average. Nearly 3.5% of Czechs have housing loans.

**A growing number of European Union citizens** are working in the Czech Republic. More than 93,000 citizens from other EU countries worked in the Czech Republic in 2005, up nearly 30% from 2004. At least 75,000 of them came from neighboring Slovakia. Poles and Germans made up the next largest groups.

**Tourist numbers at Czech hotels** rose by 7% year-on-year to 3.4m in the second quarter of the year. The number of Czech guests grew by 6.9%, while the number of foreign tourists added 7.1%. Prague was once again the most frequently visited place, making up 57.6% of the total tourist numbers, ahead of the Karlovarsky (7.5%) and Jihomoravsky (6.5%) regions.

**The government has decided that the electronic toll for lorries** weighing more than 12 tonnes next year will be paid at 4.05 Kc (\$0.18) per kilometre on average. The toll rate will be valid for one year and then be reevaluated.

**Pressure on companies in the Czech Republic to find top-level managers grows** as turnover and profits continue to increase. New businesses opening in the country are also contributing to the lack of qualified leaders. Most of the world's headhunting firms now have Czech branches.

**Czech breweries** produced 14.96m hectolitres of beer in the first three quarters of the year, a year-on-year growth of 3.4%.

**Gross spending on television advertising increased** 213m Kc (\$9.6m) on the year to 2.1bil Kc (\$94.6m) through September. The advertising rates for Prima TV increased over that time, while the rates for TV Nova and Czech Television decreased. The five largest advertisers spent almost 615m Kc (\$27.7m), more than 25% of the total.

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## CZECH MACHINE TOOLS AND FORMING MACHINES

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The manufacturing industry and, in particular, the manufacture and repair of machinery and equipment have had a long tradition in the Czech Republic. The machine tool and forming machine sector is a sub-sector of the production of machines and equipment in the manufacturing industry. It is the foundation of the entire Czech industry. Its products influence other areas within the framework of the Czech economy. In fact, it is the driving force behind growing labour productivity and a source of added value. In 2005, Czech exports of machine tools and forming machines amounted to 321.9m EUR (\$408m; 9bil Kc).

### Survey of Successful Firms Specializing in Machine Tools and Forming Machines

**Kovosvit Mas, a.s.:** develops, manufactures and sells high precision and high-quality MAS machine tools and provides customer services encompassing a full range of machining, milling, drilling and boring technologies. Number of employees: 1,000. [www.kovosvit.cz](http://www.kovosvit.cz)

**Pramet Tools, s.r.o.:** designs, manufactures and sells cutting and forming tools made of cemented carbide and intended for industrial use. Number of employees: 488. [www.pramet.com](http://www.pramet.com).

**Tos Kurim-Os, a.s.:** manufactures milling machines, single-purpose machines and automatic machining lines. Number of employees: 700. [www.tos-kurim.cz](http://www.tos-kurim.cz)

**Intos, s.r.o.:** manufactures machine tools, consisting of conventional and numerically controlled milling machines. Number of employees: 240. [www.intos.cz](http://www.intos.cz).

**Strojirna Tyc, s.r.o.:** manufactures portal machining centers. Number of employees: 40. [www.strojirna-tyc.cz](http://www.strojirna-tyc.cz).

**Trimill, a.s.:** specializes in development, construction, assembly, sale and servicing of machining centres. Number of employees: 70. [www.trimill.cz](http://www.trimill.cz).

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## INVESTMENT BRIEFS

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**In the first half of 2006, CzechInvest, the business and investment promotion agency mediated 84 new investment projects**, both foreign and domestic. These projects were worth more than 70bil Kc (\$3bil) and will create more than 17,500 new jobs in the Czech Republic. Although the automobile and engineering industries remain strongly represented, there is a shift towards more specialized production. In terms of number of projects, American investors came up in third place with 10 projects.

**Siemens VDO Automotive** wants to invest 1.2bil Kc (\$54bil) into a new plant for manufacturing automotive electronics in Trutnov, east Bohemia, in the next five years. It should employ 200 people by the end of the year.

**Google**, the world's most popular Internet search engine purchased the domain name Google.cz and is making plans to expand into the Czech Republic.

**Austrian farm technology producer Poettinger** will build a 141m Kc (\$6m) plant in Vodnany, south

Bohemia. The company, which produces soil-cultivating machines, has been active in Vodnany for six years. Poettinger currently employs more than 30 people.

**Skoda Transportation** is investing 1bil Kc (\$45m) in the construction of three new production facilities in the Plzen region that will be launched in January 2008. The company has signed contracts to supply trams to Prague. Skoda Transportation quadrupled its net income in 2005, pulling in 402m Kc (\$18m).

**The representatives of Czech companies** accompanying President Vaclav Klaus on his official tour of Asia signed contracts worth 3.6bil Kc (\$162m) in Vietnam. Talks are also under way on building power plants, cement works and hospital reconstruction in Vietnam. The value of the contracts being negotiated stands at around 36bil Kc (\$1.6bil).

**The toy manufacturer LEGO** has teamed up with DHL to open a new European distribution center in Jirmy, 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) east of Prague. The facility will include standard logistics activities and storage, creating nearly 600 jobs by 2007. The distribution center currently employs 280 people.

**Antitrust office UOHS has approved state support for the construction of a car plant of South Korean company Hyundai** in north Moravia. According to a contract signed with the Czech Republic, Hyundai can get a subsidy worth up to 2.4bil Kc (\$108m) from the state budget for the plant's construction in the years 2007 - 2013. Further, the car maker and its fifteen sub-contractors may get 2.5bil Kc (\$112m) by 2011 for the creation of jobs and staff retraining. The support still has to be evaluated by the EC. Hyundai Motor Company intends to invest 743m EUR (\$945m/ 21bil Kc) into the construction of a passenger car plant in Nosovice in the Frydek-Mistek area in the initial stage and overall, the investment is to top 5bil EUR (\$6bil/ 141bil Kc).

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## THE CZECH REPUBLIC'S ECONOMY IS UNDERGOING A ROBUST BOOM

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The Czech GDP growth reached a record of 6.9% at the end of last year. In fact, the GDP per inhabitant increased to almost 73% of the EU average according to Eurostat data and the Czech Republic hence overtook the weakest member of the former EU fifteen, Portugal. As a result, the Czech Republic became the 17<sup>th</sup> most developed EU country.

Still, the first quarter of this year has this record beat with 7.4% growth. It can be assumed that the first quarter represents a climax of the Czech economic boom to date and that the next quarters will bring lower rates. Nevertheless, said slowdown of economic growth does not indicate an end to the boom. Rather, the economy shall assume values sustainable over the longer term.

The Czech GDP is growing mainly due to the rapidly developing manufacturing industry and some branches of the service industry. Foreign controlled companies in the manufacturing industry have made great investments in the Czech Republic. Further, although net exports still contribute to the economic growth, the Czech economy relies more and more on domestic consumption and also on investment based on the continuing inflow of foreign capital and low interest rates.

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## HITACHI IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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The Japanese company Hitachi, Ltd. has begun construction of a plant for the production of flat-panel displays in the Triangle industrial zone, which is approximately 80 km northwest of Prague in the Usti region of the Czech Republic. The new branch, which is to cover the growing demand for flat-panel TVs in Europe, will employ up to 1,500 people. The operation will include a design and R&D division, which will be in close contact with the R&D division of Hitachi Europe.

"As a leading player in the global consumer electronics market Hitachi brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that we believe will yield benefits to the region as a whole," says Makoto Ebata, CEO of Ubiquitous Platform Systems, Hitachi, Ltd.

For the Czech Republic, this is far from the typical investments in production that used only cheap labour, as was the case in the 1990s. Investors coming to the Czech Republic are bringing both research and development capacities with them. The R&D division of Hitachi branch in the Czech Republic will meet local requirements, such as digital broadcasting, and strengthen development capacities.

Hitachi will invest approximately EUR 60 million (\$44 m/ 1bil Kc) in the plant. Recruitment of employees for middle-management positions is currently underway. Production is expected to begin next summer and should reach 80,000 plasma and LCD TVs per month.

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## COMPANIES AND BUSINESS

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**The PPF Group** is acquiring Agrobank, a small Ukrainian bank with 20 branches, through its Home Credit unit. It is also buying PrivatKredit, the largest consumer finance company in Ukraine. The financial group intends to combine the two companies.

**Czech company Inekon Group** signed a contract with Pho Son Cement JSC to build a 3.3bil Kc (\$148.7m) cement factory in that country. The first supplies will start going to Vietnam in the first quarter of next year, and the plant should be completed within three years.

**Glaverbel Czech** plans to launch the construction of a 3bil Kc (\$147m) production line to produce flat glass in Retenice, northern Bohemia at the end of the year.

**The Austrian company Hagelversicherung**, which insures farmers against natural disaster, will enter the Czech market to compete with Generali, also of Austria, and Ceska pojistovna. The Czech Republic is the first market the company has entered outside its own country.

**French company Bouygues** plans to take over Cermak a Hrachovec, a manufacturer of sewage pipelines and water mains. The companies did not disclose the price tag of the deal. Cermak's sales were 600m Kc (\$27m)

last year. The Anti-Monopoly Office must approve the acquisition.

**The TPCA automotive consortium**, which operates a plant in Kolin, lost 2.2bil Kc (\$89m) last year. It was the biggest loss by a company in the Czech Republic. The loss was related to the cost of opening the car plant.

**The Czech unit of German clothing chain New Yorker** saw net profit more than double to 267m Kc (\$12m) last year. Sales grew 51% to 1.14bil Kc (\$49m). The company operates 22 outlets in this country and opened six new ones last year. New Yorker is planning to continue expanding its operations in the Czech Republic.

**PLP** started construction of a bioethanol and biomass distillery in Trmice, north Bohemia. Production at the facility should produce 80,000 metric tons (88,185 short tons) of ethanol a year. It will employ 80 people.

**Siemens** is facing a critical worker shortage in its Czech subsidiaries. The company's VDO Automotive unit will need hundreds of workers for its 1.2bil Kc (\$54m) plant in Trutnov, east Bohemia.

**GE Money Bank** increased first-half net earnings by one-fifth to 1.6bil Kc (\$72m) by Czech accounting standards

thanks to a large demand for loan products.

**Czech bank eBanka** made a before-tax profit worth 43.9m Kc (\$1.9m) in the first half of the year, a growth of 34.6% year-on-year.

**The Chodov family brewery in Chodova Plana** is the first beer spa in the Czech Republic. The beer provides the spa guests with its curative effects and relaxation.

**TV Nova** is changing its structure to prepare for the introduction of digital television. The company, owned by U.S. media group Central European Media Enterprises, would like to grow to five or six stations as part of the restructuring. The launch of digital television is expected to come with the end of analog broadcasting in 2010.

**CEZ, the Czech power company and largest energy company in central and eastern Europe**, made a debut on the Warsaw Stock Exchange. It is the eighth foreign company traded in Warsaw.

**Liberty Global**, the owner of UPC, the country's largest cable television provider, will buy the number two player on the market, Karneval, for 322.5m EUR (\$416m/ 9bil Kc). The deal, which is still subject to review by the Anti-Monopoly Office, should be completed by the end of the year.

**Czech state-run rail operator Ceske drahy** raised cargo transport by 12.4 % year-on-year to 41.87m tonnes in the first half of the year.

**Engineering company Prvni brnenska strojirna (PBS) Trebic** generated sales of 457m Kc (\$20m) in the first half of this year. The company also saw a profit of 25m Kc (\$1m) — an 80% increase from a year ago. PBS exports 85% of its output, mainly to France, Germany and Austria.

**The consumer electronics chain Datart** became the first retailer to offer cash-back services in the Czech Republic, but the offer only applies to the few thousand people who are Cetelem cardholders. The company will allow customers to receive up to 5,000 Kc (\$223). CSOB plans to launch a service at Albert and Hypernova stores allowing its cardholders to get up to 1,500 Kc (\$67) back.

**The Czech division of Philip Morris saw its share price fall by 8.5%** after it announced a 27% drop in net profit and a 16% decrease in sales for the first half of the year. The company's profit amounted to 1.1bil Kc (\$49m). The company attributed the happenings to smokers shifting to cheaper cigarette brands due to higher taxes.

After a seven-year lawsuit, **Vilja became the majority owner of CET 21, which broadcasts TV Nova.** Vilja is controlled by Central European Media Enterprises (CME) and now holds a 54.6% stake in CET 21. CME owns another 16.7%. The remaining 28.755% is registered as a freed stake taken from former owner and director Vladimir Zelezny.

**The publisher of the weekly Respekt, R-Press, reduced losses to 3.7m Kc last year from 3.9m Kc (\$179,000)** in 2004. Sales rose by 1.2% to 22.8m Kc (\$1m). *Respekt's* gross income from advertising decreased by 6.6% to 16.5m Kc (\$742,000) last year.

**Airplane manufacturer Aero Vodochody** reached agreement with the Italian Alenia Aeronautica to participate in the production of the C-27J Spartan military transport plane. The project would provide the Czech company with 150 new jobs. The

Army is currently considering using the C-27J Spartan for foreign missions.

**The Anti-Monopoly Office approved a merger for truck maker Tatra and Blue River,** a company established in 2005 for the sole purpose of buying Tatra. The company is owned by Tatra board member Alan Ronald Adams. He now stands to be the majority shareholder.

**Power producer CEZ** expects record electricity output in 2007 as a result of high demand seen at a recent wholesale electricity auction. CEZ controls nearly 55% of the electricity market. The company raised its target output for the year to 57 terawatt-hours (TWh). The previous record output was 56 TWh in 2003.

**Dominant fixed-line operator Telefonica O2** (formerly Cesky Telecom) has registered a fall in the number of fixed lines by 1m to 2.84m since the year 2000, mainly due to the growing popularity of mobile telephones whose number grew by 7.5m to 11.8m in the six years.

**Delta Pekarny and Odkolek bakeries** will close a third of their Czech branches and lay off more than 1,000 employees after a recent merger. The Anti-Monopoly Office approved the merger between the two companies, making Delta-Odkolek the largest Czech bakery, covering nearly a quarter of the market.

**Aero Vodochody,** one of the world's oldest aircraft manufacturers, has been sold by the Czech government to financial group Penta for 102m EUR (\$130m). Aero makes subsonic L-159 trainer jets.

**Coal-mining company Mostecka uhelna,** which controls nearly one-third of the Czech coal market, will increase coal prices more than 20% in the coming years.

**Employees at a Karsit factory** in Roubaix, France, held nine Czech managers hostage for six hours October 19. The Czechs arrived in France to review the situation at the factory, which was 2.5m euros (\$3.1m/70.9m Kc) in debt. The employees feared that the company

would move its production to the Czech Republic. The managers were released with the help of the Czech consulate and French authorities.

**Sazka,** the biggest lottery company in the country, wants to offer cash withdrawals in its betting terminals beginning next year. The company made the announcement during its 50th anniversary celebration, and revealed its intentions to increase its focus on nonlottery activities. Sazka has nearly 7,000 terminals throughout the Czech Republic.

**Czech power producer CEZ** obtained an electricity-trading license in Serbia. The company made the move in anticipation of the opening of the power market in southeast Europe. Serbia is the ninth country in which the company has a trading license.

**Skoda Auto** plans to open three workshops to employ hundreds of disadvantaged people by the end of 2007. The company already has one workshop that employs people with disabilities, seniors and single parents.

**Komercni banka (KB)** completed the takeover of the building society Modra Pyramida, buying 60% of its stock. The Czech National Bank and the UOHS approved the transaction. Modra pyramida — established by KB, the German Postbank and Ceska pojistovna in the early 1990s — has nearly 1m clients. It raised net profit to 216m Kc (\$9.6m) in the first half of the year.

**The UNEX engineering and metallurgical group** has won a tender for the delivery of new bucket-wheel excavators for the Indian market together with its partners.

**The Cabinet approved the transformation of Letiste Praha,** the company that operates Prague's Ruzyně Airport, into a state-owned joint-stock company. The move paves the way for a possible privatization of the company next year. Letiste Praha had net profit worth 1.4bil Kc (\$63m) in 2005.

**Czech national rail operator Ceske drahy** transported 91.77m passengers in the first half of the year, a year-on-year growth of almost two million people.

**Czech Airlines** will open a new Prague- Atlanta route. The flights will operate in cooperation with Delta Airlines. It is expected that 40% of the passengers on these flights to be transit

passengers flying on to Eastern Europe.

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## ECONOMIC POLICY BRIEF

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**The Czech government has officially postponed adoption of the euro** from 2010 to an unspecified later date.

**The Czech Republic** spends just 0.5% of its GDP on job creation and unemployment training, one of the lowest totals in Europe. Government

spending on the employment policy rose 3.9% over the past year, but the number of people entitled to unemployment benefits dropped nearly 5,000.

**The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry** does not plan any spending cuts in an effort to lower the 2007 state

budget deficit. The ministry plans to save money by lowering overhead costs and halting construction investment. Annual social benefits spending has increased 72% since 1999 to 198bil Kc (\$8.9bil)

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## CZECH COMPANY LOOKING FOR REPRESENTATIVES, IMPORTERS, DISTRIBUTORS

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SIRIUS Praha Ltd. seeks business partners, distributors or service partners in the field of sales and technical services for their line of punching and notching machines and devices. This company, based in the Czech Republic, is known for the development and production of tools, devices, machines and automatic production lines for punching and cutting of open or closed profiles and sheets. SIRIUS Praha is a regular participant at Czech and European fairs (Brno, Hannover, Düsseldorf, Poznan, Moscow etc.). Depending on customer needs, the company supplies systems from a manually operated cutter to fully automatic punching machines. Please refer to [www.sirius-praha.cz](http://www.sirius-praha.cz).

Business Development Manager located in USA

To contact SIRIUS Praha directly:

Mr. Frank Suchan  
Phone: +1 (419) 874 9160; Cell: +1 (419) 973 7514  
Address: 26242 Carrington Boulevard, Perrysburg, Ohio 43551, USA

Mr. Karel Zdrazil  
Phone: +420 272 703 594, Fax: +420 272 703 794,  
[zdrazil@sirius-praha](mailto:zdrazil@sirius-praha)

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New Design Containers (NDC) is a company developing new environmentally friendly bottles and drink packages and seeks US PET bottle manufacturers for its customers in the US. The company offers new patented PET bottles and containers.

Contact: Oto Mušálek  
Vrablovec 99, 747 14 Ludgeřovice  
Phone: 420-607-521-574  
e-mail: [ndc@volny.cz](mailto:ndc@volny.cz)  
web: [www.ndcpet.com](http://www.ndcpet.com)

December 9-20

**CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

<http://www.incheba.cz>

December 8-17

**CHRISTMAS TRADE**

<http://www.bvv.cz/chrismar>

January 11-15

**GO**

International Fair of Regional Tourism

<http://www.bvv.cz/go-gb>

**REGIONTOUR**

International Travel Trade Fair

<http://www.bvv.cz/regiontour-gb>

January 25-27

**ROOFS PRAGUE**

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Roofs Prague International

Fair and 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Specialised

Exhibition on Energy Efficiency and

Renewable Energy Sources.

Organizer: Střechy Praha

Place: Prague Fair Ground (Vystaviste)

in Holesovice

Contact person: Jitka Řehorova

E-mail: [jrehorova@strecchy-praha.cz](mailto:jrehorova@strecchy-praha.cz)

<http://www.strecchy-praha.cz>

February 1-4

**PRAGOINTERIER NEW DESIGN 2007**

17th international exhibition of furniture, flooring, home textiles, lighting and accessories

**PRAGOTHERM**

34th Annual International Trade Fair

for Power Engineering, Heating and

Energy Saving

Organizer: Incheba Praha

Contact person: Ing. arch. Maria

Wohlrabova

[m.wohlrabova@incheba.cz](mailto:m.wohlrabova@incheba.cz)

<http://www.pragointerier.cz/>

Together with the fair:

**WINDOWS-DOORS-STAIRS 2007**

8th specialized exhibition of windows, doors, stairs and staircases, their

accessories, parts and construction elements

Organizer: Incheba Praha

Contact person: Mgr. Monika Smatova

[m.smatova@incheba.cz](mailto:m.smatova@incheba.cz)

[www.oknadvereschody.cz](http://www.oknadvereschody.cz)

February 7-9

**MODA PRAHA**

7th International Fashion Fair

Organizer: Incheba Praha

Contact person: Jindra Konecna,

Michaela Krivankova

[moda@incheba.cz](mailto:moda@incheba.cz)

[www.modapraha.cz](http://www.modapraha.cz)

February 8-10

**PRAGOOFFICE**

2<sup>nd</sup> International Fair of Office

Furniture and Equipment

Organizer: Incheba Praha

Contact person: Ing. arch. Maria

Wohlrabova

[m.wohlrabova@incheba.cz](mailto:m.wohlrabova@incheba.cz)

<http://www.pragooffice.cz>

February 14-16

**STYL**

International Fashion Fair

<http://www.bvv.cz/styl-gb>

**KABO**

International Fair of Footwear and Leatherware

<http://www.bvv.cz/kabo-gb>

The largest Fashion Fairs in the Czech Republic STYL and KABO have been ever more attracting foreign firms.

February 15-18

**HOLIDAY WORLD 2007**

16th Central European Premier

Tourism Industry Event

Organizer: Agentura Triumf

Contact person: Libor Patocka

[triumf@triumf.cz](mailto:triumf@triumf.cz)

<http://www.holidayworld.cz>

February 15-18

**HUNTING AND SPORTING ARMS 2007**

15th Specialized Exhibition of Hunting and Sporting Arms.

Contact person: Eva Nogolova

[e.nogolova@incheba.cz](mailto:e.nogolova@incheba.cz)

<http://www.loveckeasportovizbrane.cz>

February 15-18

**APETIT PRAHA 2007**

1st Annual gastronomic exhibition

Organizer: Incheba Praha

Contact Person: Mgr. Monika Smatova

[m.smatova@incheba.cz](mailto:m.smatova@incheba.cz)

<http://www.apetit-praha.cz>

February 22-24

**PREFABRICATED HOUSES AND FLATS 2007**

Trade-fair of materials, products, technologies and services for revitalization of prefabricated houses.

Organizer: Incheba Praha

Contact person: Ing. Arch Vera

Kesnerova

[v.kesnerova@incheba.cz](mailto:v.kesnerova@incheba.cz)

<http://www.incheba.cz>

February 24-26

**OPTA**

International Fair of Eye Optics and Ophthalmology

Exhibitors and other represented firms:

Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong Sar, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, U.S.A.

<http://www.bvv.cz/opta-gb>

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CZECH COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES

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**Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C.:** Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Contact: Ms. Andrea Hejcova, Phone: 202.274.9104

Fax: 202.244.2147, [eco\\_washington@embassy.mzv.cz](mailto:eco_washington@embassy.mzv.cz)

**Consulate General in Chicago:** Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota a Wisconsin.

Phone: 312.861.1037, Fax: 312.861.1944,

Contact: Borek Lizec

[chicago@embassy.mzv.cz](mailto:chicago@embassy.mzv.cz)

**Consulate General in Los Angeles:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Contact: Ms. Ludmila Kunderatova, Phone: 310.473.0889 x.229

Fax: 310.473.9813, [losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz](mailto:losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz)

**Consulate General in New York:** Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Contact: Mr. Josef Dvoracek, Phone: 212.717.5643  
Fax: 212.717.5064, consulate.newyork@embassy.mzv.cz

**CzechTrade - Chicago Office** (Czech producers & Opportunities)

Contact: Ms. Ivana Ingram, Phone: 312.644.1790, Fax: 312.527.5544, chicago@czechtrade.cz

**Czech Center New York**

Contact: Ms. Monika Koblerova, Phone: 212.288.0830 x.103,

Fax: 212.288.0971, koblerova@czechcenter.com

**CzechInvest – Chicago Office**

(investment opportunities in the CR)

Contact: Mr. Bohuslav Frelich, Phone: 312.245.0180,  
Fax: 312.245.0183, chicago@czechinvest.org

**CzechInvest – U.S. Operation West, Campbell Office**

(investment opportunities in the CR)

Contact: Mr. Radomil Novak, Phone: 408.376.4555,  
Fax: 408.376.4557, california@czechinvest.org

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## BUSINESS AND TRADE WEBSITES

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General Information	<a href="http://www.czech.cz">www.czech.cz</a>	CzechInvest	<a href="http://www.czechinvest.org">www.czechinvest.org</a>
Czech Supplier	<a href="http://www.supplier.cz">www.supplier.cz</a>	Tradeshows	<a href="http://www.veletrhyavystavy.cz">www.veletrhyavystavy.cz</a>
CzechTrade	<a href="http://www.czechtrade.cz">www.czechtrade.cz</a>	Czech Embassy	<a href="http://www.mzv.cz/washington">www.mzv.cz/washington</a>

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