



to the same period last year,” Savills noted. Two major sales helped retail lead in the first half of the year, that of the **Trei Portfolio** and **Palác Pardubice**, which according to Colliers sold for around EUR 220 million and EUR 125 million respectively. Aside from that, numerous retail parks sold across the country, the largest being **Retail Park Trutnov** acquired by **Fidurock from DRFG** in Q3. The office sector at roughly 24% was second in volumes, which as noted by Savills was 68 % lower than last year, followed by industrial at under 20 %.

The sale of the **Via Una** building (Na Příkopě 33) in Prague 1 to **Trinity Bank** was the largest office transaction in Q3, valued at over **EUR 90 million**. The refurbished city centre building will be the bank’s new headquarters. Another office deal was reported in October, the sale of **City Point** in Pankrác, Prague 4 from Amundi to serviced offices provider **WorkLounge**. Mint Investments Group advised Amundi on the 8,750 sqm building valued at over CZK 450 million. According to Savills, who advised WorkLounge, the country’s capital city drew most investment – seven office buildings were sold in the first three quarters of the year with a total value over CZK 6.4 billion. In the final month of the quarter, an arranged transaction also took place: ČMN has bought a further 25% the shares of the **Churchill Square** office complex near Prague’s main railway station from the Lebanese holding CFH for around 1 billion (**EUR 41 million**) making it the majority owner. Josef Eim, co-owner of **ČMN** stated that they plan to buy the remaining 25 % by the end of 2024. An extensive acquisition was also announced by Penta in December, which it said was the largest deal in the group’s history.

Other office buildings traded over the year, as pointed out by Lenka Šindelářová, Head of Research & Consultancy at Knight Frank, included **Kuta Centrum in Prague 4**, **Solitaire and Truhlářská** in Prague 1, **Rohan Business Center and Zirkon Office Center** in Prague 8, and **Moravské náměstí 8 and Rašínova 7** in Brno.

Domestic investors are still the main presence in the Czech market. The growing importance of Czech capital was also confirmed by Penta’s acquisitions in December. Data by Colliers and Knight Frank show that Czech investors drove 80 % or more of deal volume, and some two-thirds of deals. Czech capital also accounted for almost one-third of the EUR 3.2 billion investment volume in CEE-6 countries Q1–Q3, noted Colliers. This presence also helped temper the drop-off in sales in CR relative to other CEE markets, Sattar added.

The price gap in the market remains, all consultancies point out, some noting upward yield movement over different quarters. “For **Q4**, we will raise the yield for offices in CR to 5.5 %, otherwise we have **shopping centres at 6.25**, **retail parks at 6.5** and **industrial at 5 %**,” Šindelářová said.

“We are still going through a period of price discovery; there’s a gap of about 100 bp or slightly more, and I think that gap will narrow through the first half of next year, then we’ll start to see the pick-up of activity,” Sattar explained. Others concur with the sentiment, which bears in mind interest rate reductions by the ECB. “**The first rate cuts are expected in mid-2024**,” said Jakub Stanislav, Head of Investments at CBRE, noting a positive effect on trading. “We expect total Czech commercial real estate investment volumes to reach around EUR 1.5 billion in 2024, representing a 15% increase year-on-year.”



Visionary Office Building in Prague 7 – Holešovice is expected to be sold

Three of the sales previously said to be in the works in Prague, according to sources, include the **Arkády Pankrác** shopping centre, the office building **Visionary**, owned by CA Immo, and **two of the office buildings** of Skanska’s new Port7 project. The situation was also affected by the December acquisitions by Penta.

Slovakia

The investment market in Slovakia has also seen a significant slowdown in second half of the year. According to Colliers’ office in Bratislava a notable deal of the 3rd quarter was the acquisition of **Skalica Retail Park** in the Trnava region by the joint venture of Mitiska REIM and Slovak developer OPC Group. Mitiska REIM was also behind the largest portfolio deal in the CEE region. In December it completed **the sale of 25 retail parks in Romania** worth EUR 219 million to UK based LCP Group.

BHM Group bought a 120,000 sqm **industrial park in Trenčín** from Redside. According to Kinstellar, advisor to Redside, the sale is one of the largest M&A deals of 2023 in Slovakia. Another **industrial park in Sered** has recently been put on the market, in a sale being handled by Colliers. According to market sources, a **shopping centre in Nitra** was among retail assets on the market.

Czech capital in Poland

One of the CR’s fund managers to be active cross-border is **WOOD & Company**. In November it announced the first acquisition for its new logistics sub-fund: the construction of the third stage of the **7R Park Tczew III** project near Gdansk, Poland. WOOD & Company partnered with 7R, a warehouse developer who will provide 15% of the equity. In the same month the Czech developer **Crestyl** was active, completing the acquisition of the remaining **50% stake** in one of Poland’s largest residential developers, **Spravia** (formerly Budimex Nieruchomości), from Cornerstone Partners.