

Comvex Inaugurates Largest Grain Terminal in Constanta Harbor



Bulk raw material handling company Comvex Constanta is getting ready to inaugurate the largest grain export terminal in the Constanta Harbour, with a capacity of 200,000 tons and become a grain export hub, following a €56m investment started in 2017 and funded by Raiffeisen Bank and EximBank.

Coca-Cola Sales Volume Down 10% to 20% in H1

Coca-Cola HBC Romania, the largest beverage bottler in the country, saw a 10% to 20% decline in sales in the first half, following the lockdown impact especially on the hospitality industry.



CTP To Complete Construction Of IKEA's New Distribution Center For Southeast Europe In 2020, Near Bucharest

CTP, the largest developer and administrator of premium industrial and logistics parks in Romania and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), will complete in 2020 the construction works on IKEA's new distribution center for Southeast Europe, located in CTPark Bucharest West, a warehouse to be operated by the joint venture between IB Cargo and Maersk.

- **Romania Posts Current Account Deficit Of €4.86bn In January-July 2020**, lower by 20% than a deficit of €6.03bn in the same period in 2019, central bank data showed Monday.

C&W Echinox: Romanian Investment Market Shows Resilience in the Face of the Pandemic

Transactions closed in the last weeks, totaling €400m, show the investment market in Romania remains strong and attractive even in the Covid-19 pandemic period and Romania is no longer seen as just a fringe market of Central Europe, according to C&W Echinox real estate consultants.

- **Romania's annual inflation rate inched down to 2.7% in August from 2.8% in July**, data from the country's statistics board showed Thursday.

ETI Sweets Plant in Craiova Sees 70% Rise in Revenue to RON94.4m in 2019



ETI European Food Industries, the company operating the production facility of Turkey's ETI group in Craiova, ended 2019 with RON94.4m (c.€20m) revenue, an increase of 70% on the previous year.

Net Investment in Romania Grows 0.4% YoY in 2Q/2020

Net investments in the Romanian economy grew 0.4% in the second quarter of 2020 compared with the same period last year, to RON23.509bn preliminary data from the country's statistics board showed Wednesday.

One United Properties Completes €25m Share Capital Increase Process

One United Properties, a real estate developer controlled by Victor Capitanu and Andrei Diaconescu, has completed the process of increasing its share capital by €25m, for investments in the One Cotroceni Park office space project.



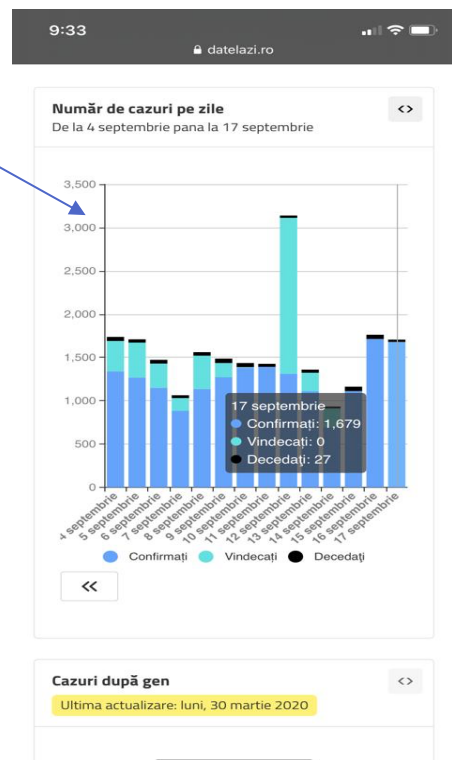
One United's Floreasca project (ex Global Finance plot)

- **Private Consumption, Industry Drive Romania's 2Q GDP Decline.** Romania's gross domestic product contracted 10.5% on the year in the second quarter and 12.3% compared with the first quarter, breakdown data from the country's statistics board showed.

Covid-19 UPDATE September to date:

- Blue: confirmed cases
- Green: healed cases
- Black: deaths

- ✓ Romania's capital market will be officially promoted from frontier to secondary emerging market on Monday, September 21, 2020, in a historic decision of global provider of indexes, benchmarks and analytics FTSE Russell.
- ✓ The assets managed by private pension funds (Pillar II and Pillar III) in Romania reached RON68.57bn (€14bn) at the end of June 2020, up 6.31% compared with the December 2019, data from Romania's financial market regulator ASF showed.



Romanian News brief: September 18th, 2020

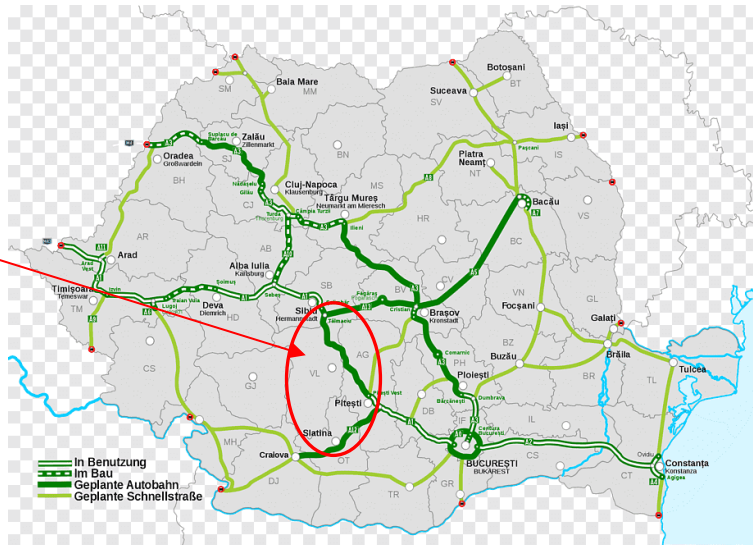


- Bucharest, including Ilfov County (metropolitan area), stands out with the highest stock of loans at the end of July 2020, some RON53bn, almost 7% year-on-year, Romania's central bank data show.
- Romanian Lender Banca Transilvania (TLV.RO) has started to grant loans under the New Home subsidized mortgage lending program, aiming for a total amount of RON700m.
- Romania's three-month ROBOR index, the interbank interest rate used as a reference to calculate variable interests for loans in lei contracted before May 2019, dropped to 1.96% a year on Wednesday (September 16).
- ✓ Apartment prices in Romania will see an average correction of 5% to 10% under the impact of the coronavirus-led crisis on the real estate market, with variations depending on each region, per data from the representatives of real estate agency franchise RE/MAX, based on a survey conducted on a sample on 2,130 agents and brokers across 27 European regions.
- ✓ The number of real estate deals in Romania stood at 43,762 in August 2020, 6,391 fewer than in July 2020, data from the national cadastre agency ANCPi showed Friday.
- Electronics retailer Altex (GCBP tenant) has completed its acquisition of Despec, one of the largest wholesalers of IT&C products in Romania, in a transaction of over €2m.
- Sales of laptops and computer tablets grew approximately 30%, with parents getting ready for the online education, according to retailers in the IT sector.
- Romanian carmaker Dacia, owned by France's Renault, Dacia unveils all-new Sandero, Sandero Stepway and Logan, third generation models with completely new reinvented designs.
- France's Groupe Renault announced Thursday a plan to develop its organization around its brands, grouping them mainly into four independent business units – Renault, Dacia, Alpine and New Mobility.
- Germany's Daimler-owned automatic transmission manufacturing unit Star Assembly increased production capacity of the 8G-DCT transmission in August when it added another shift and created 145 new jobs to meet rising demand, the company said.



- Danone Romania, the leader of the local yogurt market, ended last year with RON612m (some €125m) revenue, an increase of 10% on 2018, Finance Ministry data show. The net profit stood at RON28.8 million, 75% higher than in the previous year.

- ✓ Turkish private equity firm TC Capital is investing €23.5m in acquiring a grain and oil-seed farm in Buzias, Timis county, western Romania.
- ✓ South-African investment fund NEPI, the biggest shopping mall owner in Romania, said it was willing to buy the 46-hectare land at Romexpo in Bucharest, which the parliament assigned for free to the country's Chamber of Commerce.
- ✓ The European Commission has approved an investment from the Cohesion Fund worth €875.5m to build the first stage of the Sibiu-Pitesti motorway. This will be the first motorway crossing the Carpathian Mountains.



Home appliances production in Romania increased to over RON6bn last year, 8.5% more than in 2018, driven only by few companies.

The five largest software companies in Romania posted RON3.2bn (€668m) revenue together in 2019, an increase of 13% on the previous year and RON319m net profit.

- Electricity consumption in May 2020 showed very low levels in a number of countries, in particular in Spain and Poland (both -13.7% compared with May 2019), Slovenia (-13.4%), Croatia (-11.9%), Romania (-11.8%) and Portugal (-11.6%), Eurostat data showed Wednesday.
- The number of newly established companies in Romania dropped 31% on the year to 60,634 firms in January-July 2020, but the trend has tempered compared with the January-April period, when the decline was 47%, per a KeysFin analysis.
- Greek-owned Alpha Bank Romania reported a gross profit of €2.1m for the first half of 2020, compared with €9.9m in the same period last year.

