



**Ministry
of Finance**

**Debt and Financial Assets
Management Department**

The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy

2019

Second Half Update

28 June 2019

Ministry of Finance

**The Czech Republic Funding and Debt
Management Strategy for 2019
Second Half Update**

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ISSN 2336-226X (Print)
ISSN 2336-2278 (On-line)

Issued semiannually, free distribution

Electronic archive:
www.mfcz.cz/statedebt

On 28 June 2019 the structure and method of covering the financing needs in the second half of 2019 were decided and the basic absolute and relative limits for issuance activity on the domestic and foreign markets and for active management of the state debt portfolio, financial assets and liquidity of the treasury single account in the individual currencies were approved (Ref. No. MF-16009/2019/2002-1). This decision updates the decision of the Minister of Finance from 17 December 2018 (Ref. No. MF-30170/2018/2002-1) published in the form of The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2019.

This defined operational framework in the form of the submitted The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2019 - Second Half Update enables the Ministry of Finance to act flexibly on the domestic and foreign financial markets while actively securing cash resources for covering the financing needs and ensuring the daily solvent position of the state, meaning the creation of initial

conditions for smooth implementation of budget and fiscal policy.

The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2019 - Second Half Update is consistent with the approved State Budget Act of the Czech Republic for 2019, proposed state budget for 2020 approved by the government including the medium-term outlook to 2022, the Fiscal Outlook of the Czech Republic from November 2018 and the Macroeconomic Forecast of the Czech Republic from April 2019.

The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2019 - Second Half Update is submitted via Debt and Financial Assets Management Department, which is responsible for operations related to the funding of the state, active management of the debt portfolio, management of the liquidity of the treasury single accounts, and short-term and long-term investment of available cash resources of state financial assets and the treasury single accounts on financial markets.

Table of Contents

Introduction	9
Key Events in the Second Half of 2019	9
Rating of the Czech Republic	10
Financing Needs and State Debt Development	10
Funding Programme and Issuance Activity in the Second Half of 2019	12
Direct Sale of Government Bonds to Citizens.....	14
Targets, Limits and Risk Parameters of the Debt Portfolio	14
Primary Dealers in Czech Republic Government Bonds.....	15
Calendar of Information Published in the Second Half of 2019.....	16

List of Tables

Table 1: The Czech Republic's Credit Rating in 2019.	10
Table 2: Financing Needs.	10
Table 3: Framework Issuance Plan of CZK-Denominated T-Bonds on the Domestic Primary Market in 2019 and Its Fulfilment in the First Half.	12
Table 4: Targets, Limits and Risk Parameters of the Debt Portfolio.	14
Table 5: List of Primary Dealers in Czech Republic Government Bonds for 2019.	15

List of Figures

Figure 1: Czech Republic's State Debt Development	11
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List of Abbreviations

bn	billion
CPI	consumer price index
CZK	currency code of Czech Koruna
CZSO	Czech Statistical Office
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESA 2010	European System of Accounts 2010
FIX	fixed-rate
GDP	gross domestic product
JCR	Japan Credit Rating Agency
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MTS	Mercato Telematico Secondario
p.p.	percentage point
R&I	Rating and Investment Information, Inc.
T-Bills	state treasury bills
T-Bonds	medium-term and long-term government bonds

Published aggregate data in the tables and in the text may not correspond in the last decimal place to the sum of respective indicators due to rounding in some cases.

Introduction

The Ministry of Finance (hereinafter the Ministry or MoF) presents to the public The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2019 – Second Half Update (hereinafter the Updated Strategy) in accordance with the calendar of published information. The Ministry reserved the possibility to update the funding programme plan and strategy targets in the second half of 2019 in order to respond flexibly to the actual development of financing needs and state treasury liquidity in the course of 2019 and to the situation on domestic and foreign financial markets in terms of minimizing the state debt service expenditure and financial risk management.

The Updated Strategy includes an updated funding programme of the Czech Republic in 2019, particularly the funding programme for the second half of the year. The limits and targets for each monitored risk indicator of the state debt portfolio defined in The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2019 (hereinafter the Strategy) remain valid in the second half of 2019.

Basic background and parameters of the Updated Strategy were discussed at the 20th Primary Dealer Committee meeting on 28 June 2019.

Key Events in the Second Half of 2019

Financing Needs of CZK 193.7 Billion

- expected financing needs in the second half of 2019 at the level of CZK 193.7 billion dependent on the actual amount of carried out buy-backs and exchange operations of medium-term and long-term government bonds and actual state budget performance
- redemption of Government Bond of the Czech Republic, 2016–2019, 0.00% in total nominal value of CZK 70.0 billion
- redemption of Czech Republic Government Bond, 2013–2019, 1.50% in total nominal value of CZK 79.6 billion
- involvement of available cash resources of treasury into covering of the part of financing needs during the year and development of single treasury accounts administration system and liquidity management

Primary Market of Government Bonds

- gross issuance of CZK-denominated medium-term and long-term government bonds on domestic market in total minimum nominal value of CZK 50.0 billion in the second half of 2019
- possibility of issuance of new benchmark issue of CZK-denominated fixed-rate government bonds with maturity along the whole yield curve
- re-opening of already issued government bonds with maturity from 2021
- re-opening of medium-term zero-coupon issue of government EUR-bond maturing in 2021 and increase of its total nominal value outstanding to at least EUR 1 billion

- state treasury bills may be issued in all available maturities up to 1 year

Secondary Market of Government Bonds

- continuation of tap sales and exchanges of government bonds on secondary market in dependence on market conditions, demand from primary dealers and recognized dealers, and availability of government bonds on Ministry's asset account
- possible launch of government bonds buy-backs programme in dependence on the demand from the primary dealers and recognized dealers, and in case of cost-favourable conditions mainly for the purpose of the state debt maturity profile management
- continuation of active support of lending facilities of medium-term and long-term government bonds in the form of repo operations and also in the form of collateralized loans

Direct Sale of Government Bonds to Citizens

- continuing direct sales of government bonds to citizens at quarterly intervals while maintaining daily subscription options
- subscription period from 1 July 2019 to 13 September 2019 with issue date of 1 October 2019 and from 16 September 2019 to 20 December 2019 with issue date of 2 January 2020
- gradual electronization of the government bond sale system to reduce distribution costs
- extending the portfolio of government bonds types offered for subscription

Rating of the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic belongs among the exceptionally reliable issuers and enjoys considerable interest from domestic and foreign investors, as confirmed by its high credit rating with a stable or positive outlook from all major credit rating agencies with international scope of activity. The Czech Republic has the highest total rating of all the countries in Central and Eastern Europe and has had a higher rating than

the Euro Area member countries average for several years.

In the first half of 2019, the European Rating Agency rated the Czech Republic with AA- rating and a stable outlook and ratings from S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings were affirmed. In particular, credit rating agencies regularly appreciate sound public finances, low debt and a stable banking sector.

Table 1: The Czech Republic's Credit Rating in 2019

Rating agency	Local currency liabilities	Outlook	Foreign currency liabilities	Outlook	Affirmed
Moody's	A1	Positive	A1	Positive	20/4/2018
S&P Global Ratings	AA	Stable	AA-	Stable	18/1/2019
Fitch Ratings	AA-	Stable	AA-	Stable	1/2/2019
JCR	AA	Stable	AA-	Stable	25/7/2018
R&I	AA-	Stable	AA-	Stable	5/11/2018
Scope Ratings	AA	Stable	AA	Stable	26/1/2018
Dagong Global Credit Rating	A+	Stable	A+	Stable	16/10/2018
European Rating Agency	AA-	Stable	AA-	Stable	1/2/2019

Source: Moody's, S&P Global Ratings, Fitch Ratings, JCR, R&I, Scope Ratings, Dagong Global Credit Rating, European Rating Agency

Financing Needs and State Debt Development

The financing needs are determined by the standard components that must be covered by cash resources in a given year, i.e. the state budget cash deficit, and regular redemptions, early redemptions, buy-backs and exchanges of nominal values (principals) of state debt, including the related derivatives.

Financing operations on the side of state financial assets and within the single treasury accounts then take place on the side of cash resources that can be involved into the covering of the financing needs simultaneously with the state borrowing operations on financial markets.

Table 2: Financing Needs

CZK bn	2019F	2020F	2021F
State budget deficit ¹	40.0	40.0	40.0
T-Bonds redemptions ²	238.5	183.9	178.9
Redemptions and early redemptions on savings government bonds	2.7	2.6	0.0
T-Bills and other money market instruments redemptions ³	43.5	53.9	40.0
Repayments on credits and loans ⁴	4.7	3.8	3.5
Total financing needs	329.4	284.2	262.4
Total financing needs (% of GDP)⁵	5.9%	4.9%	4.3%

¹ For 2019 budgeted state budget deficit, for 2020 proposed deficit approved by the government, and for 2021 proposed medium-term outlook approved by the government.

² Incl. the effect of already executed buy-backs and exchange operations in previous years. Excl. planned future buy-backs and exchange operations.

³ Excl. T-Bills issued and redeemed within respective year, and roll-over of other money market instruments.

⁴ Credits and loans received from international financial institutions.

⁵ Source for GDP in ESA 2010 methodology for 2019 to 2021 Macroeconomic Forecast of the Czech Republic – April 2019.

Source: MoF

The updated financing needs for 2019 amounted to CZK 329.4 billion, i.e. approximately 5.9% of GDP, but its realized amount will depend mainly on the actual state budget performance and realized exchange operations and buy-backs of government bonds this year. Compared to 2019, the expected financing needs will fall by CZK 45.2 billion in 2020 and CZK 67.0 billion in 2021, mainly due to lower redemptions of medium-term and long-term government bonds in these years.

The resulting gross borrowing requirement, which is derived from the financing needs and represents the part of financing needs, which must be covered through borrowing operations on financial markets, especially government bond markets, is dependent

on the involvement of financial assets into covering the financial needs, i.e. in particular the available state treasury resources. In case of involvement of these liquid assets into covering the financing needs, the resulting gross borrowing requirement is lower than total financing needs in respective period. In the opposite case, when there is an accumulation of financial assets, the gross borrowing requirement is higher than the financing needs.

At the end of 2019, the Ministry expects a further decrease in the relative amount of state debt to GDP to 29.8%. Thus, the Ministry continues in the set trend when relative value of state debt in relation to GDP will decrease by 11.3 percentage points compared to 2013.

Figure 1: Czech Republic's State Debt Development



Note: Source for GDP in ESA 2010 methodology for 1993 to 2018 is CZSO, for 2019 Macroeconomic Forecast of the Czech Republic – April 2019. Source: MoF, CZSO

Funding Programme and Issuance Activity in the Second Half of 2019

Medium-Term and Long-Term Government Bonds

The total planned range of CZK-denominated medium-term and long-term government bonds gross issue nominal value on domestic market in 2019 has been increased to a minimum amount of CZK 220.0 billion. The planned minimum range of nominal value of CZK-denominated medium-term and long-term government bonds gross issue in the second half of 2019 is CZK 50.0 billion.

The Ministry plans to re-open already issued medium-term and long-term government bonds on domestic market with maturity from 2021 in dependence on the interest and demand from primary dealers and recognized dealers. Based on financial market and monetary policy situation

development, the Ministry retains the option, in accordance with the Strategy, to carry out a new issue of CZK-denominated medium-term and long-term government bonds maturing from 2024. This eventual decision will be communicated by the Ministry with the public, particularly with the primary dealers and recognized dealers, when publishing issuance calendars for the relevant month.

The issuance including the inclusion of variable-rate medium-term and long-term government bonds will be carried out with the respect to the riskiness of the debt portfolio and maintaining strategic targets and limits for risk parameters.

Table 3: Framework Issuance Plan of CZK-Denominated T-Bonds on the Domestic Primary Market in 2019 and Its Fulfilment in the First Half

CZK bn	Framework scope of sale	Gross issue in the first half of 2019
Fixed-rate T-Bonds		
Maturity segment of up to 5 years	Max. 30	0.0
Maturity segment of 5 to 10 years	Max. 100	46.1
Maturity segment of over 10 years	Max. 240	108.0
Variable-rate T-Bonds		
	Max. 20	0.0
Total		154.1

Source: MoF

The Ministry will continue in tap sales of medium-term and long-term government bonds from its own asset account on the secondary market via electronic trading platform MTS Czech Republic during the second half of 2019 supplementing the issuance on primary market due to the significantly higher flexibility of these operation, as they may be carried out more often and in the limited scope of total nominal value compared to the auctions on primary market. The tap sales may be carried out in situation, where the primary dealers' and recognized dealers' interest in using these government bonds within government bonds lending facilities drops. Furthermore, tap sales of government bonds with a long time to maturity may be used to manage the average time to maturity of the debt portfolio.

In the first half of 2019, the Ministry also successfully tested the issuance of a government bond issued on the domestic market under Czech law and denominated in EUR when it issued the Government EUR-Bond of the Czech Republic, 2019–2021, 0.00%. This pilot issue was initiated in order to raise euro funds in connection with the redemption of the government bond in June 2018 issued on foreign markets in 2008 with a total nominal value of EUR 2.0 billion, which was short-term covered on the money market

for a negative yield. High interest from primary dealers and recognized dealers confirms that issuing a EUR-bond under Czech law is not an obstacle for domestic and foreign investors. Given the natural euro currency financing needs, the Ministry plans to re-open this issue in the second half of 2019 to increase its nominal value outstanding to at least EUR 1.0 billion. The Ministry will continue its effort to further increase the attractiveness of this EUR-bond with in term of the settlement of its sale. In case of continuing demand for this type of asset, the Ministry will consider further issuance of a new issue of EUR-bond under domestic law.

The execution of benchmark issue of medium-term and long-term government bonds on foreign markets in the second half of 2019 will depend mainly on current market conditions on the domestic and foreign markets, which the Ministry will monitor and evaluate intensively throughout the year in the cooperation with the contractual primary dealers. The condition for executing foreign issues is lower costs related to the issue on foreign markets compared to the comparable issue on the domestic market after taking into account the costs of hedging of the currency risk.

The competitive part of primary auction of medium-term and long-term government bonds will be held on the traditional auction day of Wednesday while the non-competitive part of primary auctions will be held on Thursday in the course of the second half of 2019 as well. The settlement will take place according to the T+2 standards for settling operations on the primary market, usually on Friday.

The issuance calendars of medium-term and long-term government bonds together with indicative maximum total nominal value of these bonds sold in auctions for respective quarter of the year will be published monthly, third or fourth working Monday of the month preceding the respective month unless announced otherwise by the Ministry, with the exception of issuance calendar for January 2020, which will be published together with The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2020.

Money Market Instruments and Other Debt Instruments

State treasury bills may be offered by the Ministry in all available maturities up to one year with respect to the actual borrowing requirement, conditions of the money market and effective state treasury liquidity management. State treasury bills will be issued on traditional auction day of Thursday with a settlement T+1, usually on Friday.

The issuance calendars of state treasury bills with particular maturities offered in individual auctions will be published monthly, third or fourth working Monday of the month preceding the respective month unless announced otherwise by the Ministry, with the exception of issuance calendar for January 2020, which will be published together with The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2020. The nominal value of state treasury bills offered in auction will be published in predetermined indicative range or an indicative maximum value will be announced. However, the Ministry reserves the right to change the range or maximum value according to the actual development of market

However, the Ministry reserves the option to update the issuance calendar according to the actual development of market conditions and the demand from the primary dealers and recognized dealers. The Ministry also reserves the right to replace the offered government bond with government bond having similar time to maturity. The selection of particular government bond for the relevant auction will be announced at least one working day before the date of the competitive part of the auction. The nominal value of medium-term and long-term government bonds offered in the competitive part of the auction will be published in indicative maximum amount or in indicative range within the issuance calendars. When choosing particular maturities and instrument type, the Ministry will flexibly react on the development of market conditions and demand from primary dealers and recognized dealers.

conditions or the demand from primary dealers and recognized dealers. Together with the issuance calendars, the Ministry will publish also the indicative maximum total nominal value of state treasury bills issues for respective quarter.

Also during the second half of 2019, the Ministry plans to use the medium-term and long-term government bonds lending facilities in the form of repo operations as well as in the form of collateralized loans. The scope of realized medium-term and long-term government bonds lending facilities in 2019 will primarily depend on the demand for particular government bonds from the investors with the fact, that the Ministry will be ready to flexibly satisfy this demand accordingly to the availability of government bonds on its asset account.

In 2019, the Ministry does not plan any drawing of EIB loan tranches or receiving any loans from other international financial institutions.

Buy-Backs Programme and Exchange Operations on Secondary Market

The Ministry plans the inclusion of government bonds into buy-backs and exchange transactions in dependence on market condition in particular segment of the yield curve and their execution will primarily depend on the demand from primary dealers and recognized dealers. The exchange operations and buy-backs will be technically

available to primary dealers and recognized dealers via the MTS Czech Republic electronic trading platform. The impacts of these operations will affect the financing needs and borrowing requirement accordingly and have positive impact on refinancing risk of state debt portfolio.

Direct Sale of Government Bonds to Citizens

At the end of 2018, the Ministry resumed the project of direct sale of government bonds to citizens on the occasion of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Czechoslovak Republic, when it offered “Dluhopis Republiky” for subscription during the first half of 2019. During the pilot phase, the Ministry offered four issues of “Dluhopis Republiky” with original time to maturity of six years, which could be subscribed daily within three subscription periods and issued quarterly at specified intervals. During the first half of the year, citizens purchased two types of “Dluhopis Republiky” - reinvestment and inflation-linked government bonds in total nominal value of CZK 9.2 billion reflecting high interest in reliable and stable investment. The yields of the “Dluhopis Republiky” bond were set at market conditions, thus avoiding any additional costs to the state budget in the form of a premium.

After the evaluation of the pilot phase, it was decided to continue the project of direct sale of

government bonds to citizens also in the second half of 2019, when the Ministry offers for subscription from 1 July 2019 the Inflation-linked Government Bond of the Czech Republic, 2019-2025 II, CPI%, Reinvestment Government Bond of the Czech Republic, 2019-2025 IV, FIX% and Fixed Government Bond of the Czech Republic, 2019-2025, 1.50% with original time to maturity of six years and the issue date 1 October 2019. Its yield will be reinvested after each interest period by subscribing additional government bonds in the amount of the bond yield on the relevant asset account in the Ministry’s register.

For subscription of some government bonds to citizens, the Ministry will continue to use the network of selected branches of contractual distributors, but the focus is on the gradual electronization of the government bond sales system to achieve cost savings, when selected “Dluhopis Republiky” can be subscribed only online through an electronic access to asset account.

Targets, Limits and Risk Parameters of the Debt Portfolio

Targets and limits for each risk indicator of state debt portfolio for medium-term horizon announced in the Strategy remain valid. The markets risks among which belong the refinancing, interest and currency risk are managed by these medium-term targets and limits.

Within the refinancing risk, the Ministry publicly announces medium-term targets and limits for these indicators: share of short-term debt (debt due within one year) to the total state debt, share of medium-term debt (debt due within five years) to the total state debt, and average time to maturity of the state debt portfolio. Within the interest risk, the Ministry publicly announces medium-term

targets and limit for these indicators: share of interest re-fixing of the debt portfolio within one year to the total state debt and the average time to re-fixing of the state debt. Within the currency risk, the Ministry publicly announces limits for the share of net foreign-currency exposure of the state debt with the impact on state debt level and net foreign-currency exposure with the impact of the level of interest expenditure on state debt service.

In case of refinancing and interest risk indicators, the Ministry allows their short-term deviation from stipulated medium-term targets and limits with the fact, that they will be met by the end of medium-term horizon.

Table 4: Targets, Limits and Risk Parameters of the Debt Portfolio

INDICATOR	Announced targets and limits for medium-term horizon
Short-term state debt	20.0% and less
Medium-term state debt	70.0% and less
Average time to maturity	6.0 years ¹
Interest re-fixing up to 1 year	30.0 to 40.0%
Average time to re-fixing	5.0 years ¹
Net foreign-currency exposure with the impact on state debt level	15.0% ²
Net foreign-currency exposure with the impact on the level of interest expenditure on state debt service	15.0% ²

¹ With a possibility of deviation of 0.25 years.

² Possible short-term excess by 2 p.p. in case of an unexpected depreciation of domestic currency. The limit stipulated by the Ministry is valid for each year of medium-term horizon without the possibility to exceed it. However, its value is subjected to the condition that there will be no more pronounced depreciation of Czech koruna exchange rate.

Source: MoF

Primary Dealers in Czech Republic Government Bonds

Medium-term and long-term government bonds and state treasury bills are offered in auctions to a group of primary dealers, who concluded the Primary Dealer Agreement for Czech Government Securities with the Ministry, and from 1 January 2019 also to recognized dealers, who concluded the Recognized Dealer Agreement for Czech Government Securities with the Ministry, whose obligation is to be an active market participant and to contribute to the liquidity

of government bonds, but access to the non-competitive part of auctions is left exclusively to the group of primary dealers. The status of recognized dealer of Czech government bonds can currently be used by Goldman Sachs International. The number of primary dealers for the second half of 2019 is 8. The following table contains the list of primary dealers.

Table 5: List of Primary Dealers in Czech Republic Government Bonds for 2019

Primary Dealers	
Citibank Europe plc	J.P. Morgan Securities plc
Erste Group Bank AG / Česká spořitelna, a.s.	Société Générale / Komerční banka, a.s.
KBC Bank NV / Československá obchodní banka, a. s.	PPF banka a.s.
ING Bank N.V.	UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia, a.s.

Source: MoF

Calendar of Information Published in the Second Half of 2019

July

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Publication of The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2020
- in the week of 16 December
- Publication of The Czech Republic Debt Management Quarterly Report
- the third Friday in July and the third Friday in October
- Publication of statistics of the Central Government Debt and Fiscal Data for the Czech Republic (SDDS Plus standards)
- the third Friday in July and the third Friday in October
- Publication of the Statistics on Government Bonds by Type of Instrument, Statistics on Government Bonds by Type of Holder and Statistics on Government Bonds by Maturity
- the last working day of the month
- Publication of the issuance calendars of T-Bills and T-Bonds for following month
- the third or fourth Monday in the month prior to the month of the respective auctions, except December, when issuance calendar will be published together with The Czech Republic Funding and Debt Management Strategy for 2020

Ministry reserves the right to change the date of publication due to flexible response to financial markets situation. Any change will be communicated to the public in time through Ministry's website.

The publication was prepared based on the information and data available on 28 June 2019. The Ministry reserves the right to promptly respond to the actual development of financing needs using its tools over the course of 2019. The fulfilment of the funding programme and announced strategic goals and limits will depend of the development of the situation on domestic and foreign financial markets in terms of the minimization of expenditure on state debt service and financial risk management.

This publication is also available on the following website:

www.mfcr.cz/statedebt

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