



PRESS RELEASE

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ECE Marketplaces increases leasing performance in the shopping centers to 800,000 m² of leased space

Footfall in ECE centers in Germany up by nine percent

Shopping center operator ECE Marketplaces achieved a strong leasing performance in 2023 and once again increased the leased space in its centers. In total, ECE Marketplaces achieved a leasing performance of around 800,000 m² in the centers it manages and leases in 2023, an increase of almost 50 percent compared to the previous year. ECE concluded a total of around 2,600 lease contracts in 2023.

Footfall in ECE's shopping centers also developed positively in 2023, with an overall increase of 7.4% at all centers compared to the previous year, and a plus of 8.7% in Germany.

At the same time, the terms of the lease contracts concluded have also increased significantly again, as the number of lease contracts with a contract duration of six to more than ten years increased by more than 60 percent compared to the previous year. The average size of space per rental unit also increased again by 12%, as retailers are often looking for larger spaces or are expanding their existing rental space.

"The strong leasing performance and the further significant increase in leases space in our centers, as well as the increased lease durations, are a clear sign that retailers continue to see bricks-and-mortar retail as very relevant and have great confidence in the performance of shopping centers and are therefore investing strongly in their store portfolio," says Joanna Fisher, CEO of ECE Marketplaces.

The retailers with whom numerous lease contracts were concluded or extended in 2023 include well-known concepts such as H&M, Only, New Yorker, Rituals, TK Maxx or the brands of the Inditex Group such as Zara, Pull&Bear, Bershka, and – with its German premiere in an ECE center – Stradivarius as well as new concepts or concepts represented in the centers for the first time, such as the non-food discounter Pepco or the tattoo studio chain Glorious Art.

Further contracts were also concluded in the gastronomy sector, with casual dining concepts such as Alex, L'Osteria and The Ash, and in the growing non-retail segment, for example with the serviced apartment operator Limehome, the medical services operator CSL Plasma, the innovative education center Tumo, and the spa concept MyWellness, which optimally complement the existing retail mix.

About ECE Marketplaces

ECE Marketplaces is a leading service provider in Europe for the management of shopping centers and offers comprehensive expertise and more than 55 years of experience in the professional operation and marketing of shopping centers as well as their continuous development into lively marketplaces and attractive urban districts.

As part of the internationally active real estate and investment company ECE Group, ECE Marketplaces manages around 200 shopping centers – including 40 shopping centers in international markets and more than 50 retail parks under the management of MEC METRO-ECE Centermanagement – with 20,000 shops on a total sales area of approx. 7 million m² as well as around 160 car parks. For the owners of the centers, the ECE experts offer all related services from a single source – from asset and property management and leasing, mall marketing, and facility management to comprehensive financing, architecture and construction services.

Through continuous investments in digitization, customer service, and the extensive retail, non-retail, dining, and entertainment options offered at the centers, ECE is continuously developing and enhancing its shopping portfolio together with the investors. More information at: www.ece.com

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