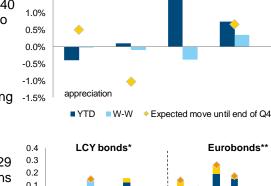
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CEE Market Insights

Market outlook

The dollar strength was not too positive for CEE currencies last week. The zloty already had most of its fall the week earlier after it became official that the ECJ will release its ruling on FX mortgages on October 3 this week. We upped our EURPLN forecast to 4.36 for the year-end on the news. We also increased our forecast for the EURHUF to 330-340 (from 325-335 envisaged earlier) after the MNB decided to increase surplus liquidity at its rate-setting meeting last week. The koruna continues to stay weak, even after the last meeting minutes (again) revealed the CNB bank board's hawkish bias. We have our CZK forecast under revision, but still see some appreciation of the koruna going -1.5% forward.



EURHRK

depreciation

3.0%

2.5%

2.0%

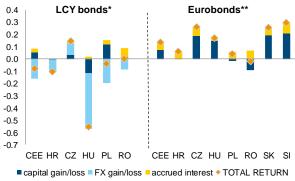
1.5%

EURCZK

EURHUF

EURPLN

Yields and rates moved little last week in CEE. The Romanian market could see two successful 2024 and 2029 government bond auctions after three consecutive auctions were scrapped earlier, although demand did not really skyrocket. Political and fiscal issues are still in the limelight in Romania. Meanwhile, the NBS seems to need to increasingly intervene on the Serbian dinar market, which underlines the risk that another rate cut could be in the cards already at the next monetary meeting. While this is not our baseline yet, we are watching how much the NBS needs to intervene in the coming weeks.



Looking ahead this week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HU: Wages, PPI HR, RS: Industry HR, RS, SI: Retail	CZ: Final 2Q GDP CZ, HU, PL: PMI PL: Flash CPI	PL: Policy rate RO: PPI HU: Trade	RO: Policy Rate HU, RO, SK: Retail	

We will see retail sales growth figures in almost all CEE countries this week, and we expect a series of solid prints, as the tight labor market supports high levels of spending. Apart from that, industrial output will be published in Croatia and Serbia. Will it show similar weakness as in Poland last week or continue to recover? Furthermore, two central bank meetings are scheduled this week. Poland will hold its rate-setting meeting on Wednesday, with Romania set for the following day. Both central banks are expected to keep their policy rates unchanged. In Poland, prior to the MPC meeting, the flash CPI for September will be published. If our expectations for inflation to ease marginally are confirmed, there are more arguments to preserve the status quo and reject any motions for policy change, especially as inflation was above the target for the last couple of months. In Slovenia, inflation should remain in a tight band around 2%. On Friday, Moody's will publish its rating assessment of Czechia; a rating upgrade to Aa3 from A1 cannot be ruled out. The country's public debt ratio has been shrinking, while the country has been sitting on a positive outlook for more than a year.

In case you missed it last week...

- CZ: CNB opted for stability of rates after discussion on monetary tightening
- HU: Central bank continued dovish rhetoric, underlining downward risks to inflation despite weak forint
- RS: Fitch upgraded Serbia to BB+ with stable outlook
- SK: Moody's changed the Slovak rating outlook to stable from positive and affirmed the rating at A2
- PL: Fitch affirmed Polish rating at A-, outlook remains stable

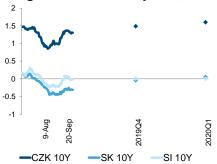
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YTD change on FX market

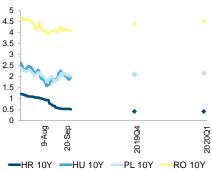


Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

10Y government bond yields, %



Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research



Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

On global markets:

The EURUSD should closely follow important US macro releases this week. The ISM index will be watched for whether it recovers above the 50 points mark. Labor market data will give markets indications on whether the consumer should remain the backbone of the US economy. In addition, markets will be following events around a possible impeachment procedure for President Trump.

CEE currencies:

The appreciation of the US dollar against the euro did not do much good for regional currencies, which mostly fell last week. The Polish zloty already saw most of its decline the week earlier when it was announced that the ECJ will have its ruling on FX mortgages published on October 3 this week. We actually revised our EURPLN forecast after the news already last week, assuming 4.36 at this year-end. If the ECJ ruling is positive for creditors, the Polish banking sector might be exposed to high losses, as banks will need to convert FX loans into Polish zloty, with risks of this being indexed to the LIBOR. The Hungarian forint fell the most in the region, fuelled also by the somewhat dovish decision from the central bank to increase the range of the targeted liquidity surplus by HUF 100bn. We upped our forecast for the EURHUF after this decision; we now see the currency pair trading within 330-340 in the coming months vs. our 325-335 range envisaged earlier. The Czech koruna was an outlier from the weakening, due to the somewhat hawkish tone of meeting minutes. The minutes revealed that central bankers were rather thinking about a hike as an alternative to keeping rates on hold and not thinking about easing at all. The single-day appreciation of the CZK was short-lived, however. We currently have our EURCZK forecast under revision, given the persistent weakness of the koruna. However, as the CNB's approach indicates that, in the event of a calmer international setup, the bank board could incline towards tightening, we continue to believe that the CZK should strengthen from current levels.

CEE rates and yields:

Yields did not move much last week, and rates also showed minor changes. Tension was high on the Romanian bond market, however, waiting for how successful bond auctions will be after the rejection of all bids at three consecutive bond auctions amid low demand. While demand did not really skyrocket, 2024 and 2029 bonds were sold as planned, concluding September with five completed and three rejected auctions by Romania. The political situation remains turbulent, with the chances of a no-confidence motion being successful or failing quite similar. A presidential election is also slowly approaching, while the budget is also very generous for next year, making it next to impossible to keep the deficit in check in the absence of some corrective measures for 2020. While parliamentary elections are also looming in Poland, the only real question is the margin of victory for the currently governing PiS party, leaving investors in a more comfortable mood as far as bonds are concerned. As for Serbia, the central bank again had to resort to interventions on the RSD market in clear evidence of the intensifying pressure on the dinar towards appreciation. If tensions continue to mount, risks of another monetary easing (already at the next meeting, due in two weeks) would increase.

CEE Market Insights | Fixed Income | Central and Eastern Europe 30 September 2019

Calendar

Date	Time	Country	Indicator	Period	Survey	Erste Est.	Prev.	Comment
		HR	Current Account Balance	2Q			-2203.2	
		RO	Unemployment Rate	Aug			3.9%	
	9:00	HU	Wages (y/y)	Jul			10.6%	
	9:00	HU	PPI (y/y)	Aug			0.3%	
	10:30	SI	CPI (y/y)	Sep		2.3%	2.3%	September inflation to remain in tight band around 2% mark
30.Sep	10:30	SI	Retail Sales (y/y)	Aug			6.3%	
	11:00	HR	Industrial Production (y/y)	Aug		2.7%	3%	Industrial production expected to maintain similar recovery pattern in August.
	11:00	HR	Retail Sales (y/y)	Aug		3.9%	3.6%	Retail trade seen as maintaining positive footprint.
	12:00	RS	Industrial Production (y/y)	Aug		2.5%	3.7%	We see gradual recovery of industrial production after completed modernization of NIS oil refinery.
	12:00	RS	Retail Sales (y/y)	Aug		9.4%	9.3%	We expect another solid print, boosted by ongoing wage hikes and cheap credit funding.
	12:00	RS	Trade Balance	Aug			-630.3	
	9:00	cz	GDP (y/y)	2Q F	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	GDP driven by households and government consumption. Contribution of net exports should be close to zero.
	9:00	PL	PMI	Sep	47.30		48.8	
01. Oct	9:00	HU	PMI	Sep			52.6	
	9:30	CZ	PMI	Sep	43.70		44.9	
	10:00	PL	CPI (y/y)	Sep P	2.8%	2.7%	2.9%	Headline inflation to marginally ease due to lower food prices.
		PL	Target Rate	Oct 2	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	Policy rate to remain stable despite risks of higher inflation.
02. Oct	8:00	RO	PPI (y/y)	Aug			6.18%	
	9:00	HU	Trade Balance	Jul F			276.45	
		RO	Target Rate	Oct 3	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	Flat monetary policy rate along with strict control of money market liquidity.
	8:00	RO	Retail Sales (y/y)	Aug		8.2%	7.9%	Retail sales helped by rising wages and pensions.
03. Oct	9:00	HU	Retail Sales (y/y)	Aug			6.4%	
	9:00	sĸ	Retail Sales (y/y)	Aug			-0.9%	
4. Oct			No releases scheduled					

Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters

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Forecasts

Government b	ond yield	ds									
	current 2	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q22	2020Q3						
Croatia 10Y	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4						
spread (bps)	109	80	80	80	70						
Czechia 10Y	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	FX					
spread (bps)	189	188	200	208	204		current	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3
Hungary 10Y	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	EURHRK	7.41	7.42	7.42	7.38	7.40
spread (bps)	251	249	255	261	255	forwards		7.41	7.41	7.41	7.41
Poland 10Y	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	EURCZK	25.85	25.50	25.34	25.04	24.86
spread (bps)	258	250	255	260	250	forwards		25.98	26.12	26.27	26.42
Romania10Y	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	EURHUF	336.12	334.00	335.00	335.00	335.00
spread (bps)	466	480	490	490	490	forwards		336.64	337.00	337.49	338.20
Slovakia 10Y	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	EURPLN	4.39	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.34
pread (bps)	27	35	45	50	50	forwards		4.41	4.44	4.46	4.49
Slovenia 10Y	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	EURRON	4.75	4.77	4.79	4.82	4.85
pread (bps)	56	40	40	40	30	forwards		4.79	4.83	4.88	4.92
Serbia 5Y	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.5	EURRSD	117.54	118.00	118.00	117.70	117.70
pread (bps)	326	340	330	310	280	forwards		-	-	-	-
E10Y	-0.6	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	EURUSD	1.09	1.10	1.12	1.15	1.15
BM Money Mar	ket Rate	!				Key Interest	Rate				
	current 2	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q22	2020Q3		current	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3
roatia	0.47	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	Croatia	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
zechia	2.16	2.13	2.12	2.12	2.12	Czechia	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
lungary	0.21	0.26	0.28	0.29	0.30	Hungary	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Poland	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	Poland	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
omania	3.07	3.00	2.90	2.90	3.20	Romania	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
erbia	1.97	2.00	1.90	1.80	1.70	Serbia	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
urozone	-0.41	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	Eurozone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Real GDP grov		0046	0040′	10000		Average infl		0046	00401	00001	
0	2017	2018	2019f	2020f		0	2017	2018	2019f	2020f	
Croatia	2.9	2.6	3.2	2.5		Croatia	1.1	1.5	1.0	1.0	
Czechia	4.5	2.9	2.6	2.7		Czechia	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.2	
Hungary	4.1	4.9	4.6	3.3		Hungary	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.3	

Hungary	4.1	4.9	4.6	3.3					
Poland	4.8	5.1	4.4	3.8					
Romania	7.0	4.1	4.5	3.8					
Serbia	2.0	4.3	3.3	3.5					
Slovakia	3.2	4.1	2.5	2.3					
Slovenia	4.8	4.1	3.0	2.7					
CEE8 avg	4.7	4.3	3.9	3.4					
Public debt (% of GDP)									
	2017	2018	2019f	2020f					
Croatia	77.8	74.6	71.3	69.3					
Czechia	34.6	32.7	31.0	30.1					
Hungary	73.4	70.8	68.2	66.2					
Poland	50.6	48.9	48.0	46.5					
Romania	35.2	35.0	34.5	36.0					
Serbia	59.3	53.6	50.4	47.9					
Slovakia	50.9	48.9	48.2	47.4					
Slovenia	74.1	70.4	66.2	62.8					
CEE8 avg	50.3	48.4	46.9	45.8					

Average inflati Croatia Czechia Hungary Poland Romania	on (%) 2017 1.1 2.5 2.4 2.0	2018 1.5 2.1 2.8	2019f 1.0 2.6 3.3	2020f 1.0 2.2
Czechia Hungary Poland Romania	1.1 2.5 2.4	1.5 2.1 2.8	1.0	1.0
Czechia Hungary Poland Romania	2.5 2.4	2.1 2.8	2.6	
Hungary Poland Romania	2.4	2.8		2.2
Poland Romania			2.2	
Romania	2.0		3.3	3.3
		1.6	2.3	2.9
	1.3	4.6	3.9	3.3
Serbia	3.2	2.0	2.2	1.8
Slovakia	1.3	2.5	2.6	2.3
Slovenia	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.1
CEE8 avg	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.7
C/A (%GDP)	0047	0040	00406	00001
	2017	2018	2019f	2020f
Croatia	3.7	2.6	1.5	0.1
Czechia	1.7	0.3	0.4	0.5
Hungary	2.3	-0.5	-0.9	-0.1
Poland	0.2	-0.7	-0.5	-0.7
Romania	-3.2	-4.5	-4.8	-5.2
Serbia	-5.2	-5.2	-6.9	-6.6
Slovakia	-2.0	-2.5	-2.8	-1.6
Slovenia	6.1	5.7	5.0	4.1
	0.1	-1.0	-1.2	-1.2

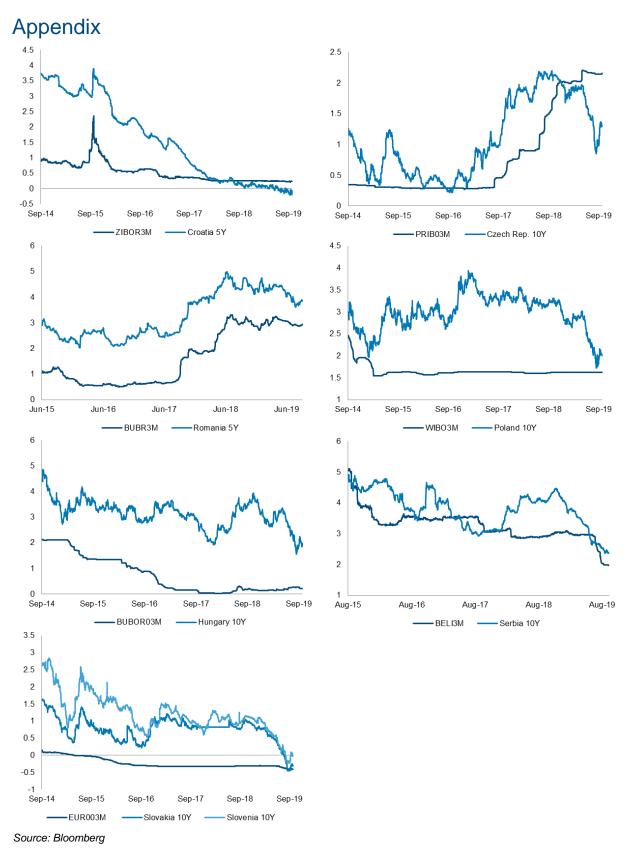
Unemployment (%)							
	2017	2018	2019f	2020f			
Croatia	11.3	8.4	6.8	5.8			
Czechia	2.9	2.3	2.1	2.4			
Hungary	4.2	3.7	3.4	3.4			
Poland	7.3	6.1	5.6	5.8			
Romania	4.9	4.2	3.8	4.0			
Serbia	13.5	12.7	10.7	9.8			
Slovakia	8.1	6.6	5.8	5.9			
Slovenia	6.6	5.2	4.0	3.6			
CEE8 avg	6.3	5.2	4.7	4.8			
Budget Balar	nce (%GD	P)					
	2017	2018	2019f	2020f			

Budget Balance (%GDP)							
	2017	2018	2019f	2020f			
Croatia	0.8	0.2	0.0	-0.5			
Czechia	1.6	0.9	0.6	0.3			
Hungary	-2.2	-2.2	-1.8	-1.4			
Poland	-1.5	-0.4	-0.7	-0.5			
Romania	-2.7	-3.0	-3.0	-4.0			
Serbia	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.0			
Slovakia	-0.8	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7			
Slovenia	0.0	0.0	0.7	8.0			
CEE8 avg	-1.0	-0.7	-0.9	-1.0			

Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

Note:*Information on past performance is not a reliable indicator for future performance. Forecasts are not a reliable indicator for future performance.

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