

CEE Market Insights

Central bank meetings in focus

This week in CEE

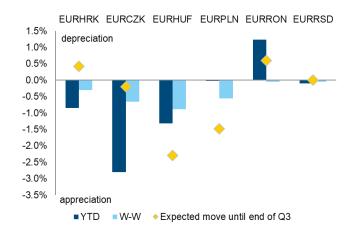
The first week of August will put two regional central banks into the limelight. The Czech central bank meeting on Thursday should bring a 25bp rate hike, lifting the key rate up to 0.75%, as justified by the inflation outlook, as well as improved pandemic situation. After that, we expect that one more hike may materialize in the rest of the year, which is a more cautious approach compared to the currently more optimistic CNB rhetoric. Romanian central bank will meet on Friday and is likely to keep its key rate at 1.25%. The subsequent press release is unlikely to include any outright commitment to consistent tight liquidity management, which may remain rather a function of FX weakening pressures. Moreover, Romania, Hungary, Czechia and Slovakia will publish their June retail sales prints which are likely to be somewhat milder than before, courtesy of the waning base effect. Nonetheless, favorable economic development and lifted restrictions should have supported retail trade, which may have reached a growth pace of 2.5% y/y in Hungary and as much as 16.4% y/y in Romania. June industrial production was still affected by the lower base from last year to some extent. Thus, we may expect double-digit year-on-year dynamics in Czechia (11.4% y/y) and Hungary (17.5% y/y). However, supply-side constraints likely affected the monthly development of industry.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HU: PPI	RO: PPI	HU, RO, SK: Retail sales	CZ: Central bank, retail sales	RO: Central bank
SK: Current acc	ount	HR: PPI	rotali dalioo	CZ: Industry, trade balance
				HU: Industry

RO: 2030 Bonds RS: 2032 Bonds RO: Bills, 2027 Bonds

HU: Bills

FX market



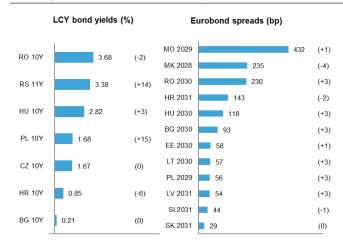
Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

FX market developments

Fed Chair Powell's comments and the somewhat weaker than expected 2Q21 GDP growth affected the US dollar, which depreciated and moved toward 1.19 vs. the EUR. While the FOMC kept interest rates unchanged and maintained asset purchases at USD 120bn a month, Chairman Powell said that there was still some way to go to meet the conditions for tapering. The weaker US dollar supported CEE currencies, which appreciated across the board. Although the Hungarian central bank delivered a higher than expected interest rate hike (30bp vs. the expected 15bp), the forint did not react visibly and is closely following the USD development. All in all, the faster pace of monetary tightening should support the EURHUF in moving toward our medium-term forecast of 350. Ahead of this week's MPC meeting in Czechia, the koruna strengthened and returned to our quarter-end

forecast at 25.5 vs. the EUR. Markets are currently pricing in two interest rate hikes in 2H21. We remain more cautious and, besides this week's hike, the CNB could in our view raise the key rate one more time, conditional on a favorable pandemic situation. However, if the CNB is more aggressive, the koruna will most likely appreciate stronger than currently expected.

LCY yields, Eurobond spreads



Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

Bond market developments

Following last week's more aggressive than expected monetary tightening in Hungary, we revised our interest rate outlook and expect the Hungarian central bank to deliver a 30bp hike at each of the two meetings in August and September. Thus, the key rate would land at 1.8% and the MNB would end the current tightening cycle. The August MPC meeting (due August 24) could not only deliver another 30bp hike, it could result in a change of QE guidance, as the threshold of HUF 3000bn might soon be reached. While the 10Y German Bund remained locked at -0.45% throughout the week, we have seen quite substantial increases on the long ends of LCY curves in CEE. The Polish 10Y yield jumped by an additional 20bp to 1.75%, while the 11Y Serbian paper went up by 15bp to almost 3.4%. Surprisingly high inflation for July pushed market expectations for rate hikes marginally up in Poland and a 10bp hike is priced in by the end of the year. The Polish NBP announced the date of its next QE auction, which should take place on August 18. Elsewhere, the Romanian MinFin plans to tap the local currency market with RON 3.7bn in August.

In case you missed

HU: Central bank surprised markets with 30bp hike to 1.2%.

CZ: 2Q21 GDP growth disappointed.

PL: Upward revision of FY21 and FY22 inflation forecast.

SI: Inflation accelerated in July, jumping to 2.0% y/y.

HR: Solid retail sales and industrial production prints in June.

RS: Retail and industry continued to recovery in June.

HU: Fitch left Hungary's rating unchanged at BBB with a stable outlook.

Upcoming releases in CEE

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Date	Time	Country	Indicator	Period	Survey	Erste Est.	Prev.	Comment
02.Aug		SK	Current Account Balance (monthly)	Jun			-113	
	9:00	HU	PPI (y/y)	Jun			11,24%	
03.Aug	8:00	RO	PPI (y/y)	Jun			10,39%	
04.Aug	8:00	RO	Retail Sales (y/y)	Jun		16,40%	39,70%	We expect slowdown in annual retail sales expansion, due to large statistical base effects, as in June-July 2020, economy gradually opened post-lockdown.
	9:00	HU	Retail Sales (y/y)	Jun		2,50%	5,8%	Fading of base effect implies continued slowdown of yearly rate.
	9:00	sĸ	Retail Sales (y/y)	Jun		7,0%	11,50%	Liting of restrictions has stimulated economic activity and sales in stores of all \boldsymbol{k} inds.
	11:00	HR	PPI (y/y)	Jul			7,20%	
05.Aug	9:00	CZ	Retail Sales (y/y)	Jun	5,50%	5,4%	8,10%	Retail sales still positively affected by sound domestic demand.
	14:30	CZ	Central Bank Rate	Aug	0,75%	0,75%	0,5%	CNB will probably hike again, mainly due to high inflation and improved pandemic situation.
06.Aug		CZ	Industrial Production (y/y)	Jun	8,20%	11,40%	25,30%	Y/y figure influenced by base effect. In m/m terms, production grew, mainly due to solid foreign demand.
		cz	Trade Balance	Jun	18,5	25,1	16,3	Sound development of foreign demand stands behind high surplus in foreign trade. However, increase in oil prices and improving domestic demand mitigate overall figure. No rate change expected. Subsequent press release is unlikely to
		RO	Central Bank Rate	Aug	1,25%	1,25%	1,25%	not rate change expected. Subsequent press release is unlikely to include any outright commitment to consistent light liquidity management, which is likely to remain rather function of FX weakening pressures. Updated NBR forecast should be released week ater.
	9:00	HU	Industrial Production (y/y)	Jun		17,50%	40,20%	week ater. Industry probably declined on monthly level, as supply-side constraints remained. Still, double-digit yearly index is due to low base.
	12:00	RS	PPI (y/y)	Jul			9,30%	

Source: Erste Group Resarch

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Forecasts

Real GDP growth (%)

Government bond yields								
	current	2021Q3	2021Q4	2022Q1	2022Q2			
Croatia 10Y	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6			
spread (bps)	97	67	64	67	62			
Czechia 10Y	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9			
spread (bps)	212	190	191	193	196			
Hungary 10Y	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1			
spread (bps)	327	311	315	311	309			
Poland 10Y	1.7	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10			
spread (bps)	213	197	204	207	212			
Romania10Y	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5			
spread (bps)	412	362	359	357	357			
Slovakia 10Y	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3			
spread (bps)	34	32	34	32	32			
Slovenia 10Y	-0.10	0.15	0.15	0.25	0.35			
spread (bps)	36	32	29	32	37			
Serbia 5Y	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1			
spread (bps)	262	247	234	217	212			
DE10Y*	-0.5	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.0			
* Spreads based	* Spreads based on Bloomberg consensus forecast							

3M Money Market Rate									
	current	2021Q3	2021Q4	2022Q1	2022Q2				
Czechia	0.76	0.78	0.87	1.13	1.39				
Hungary	1.35	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85				
Poland	0.21	0.21	0.35	0.35	0.60				
Romania	1.52	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55				
Serbia	0.87	0.85	0.83	0.83	0.83				
Eurozone	-0.54	-0.54	-0.54	-0.54	-0.54				

	2019	2020	2021f	2022f			
Croatia	2.9	-8.0	5.0	5.5			
Czechia	3.0	-5.8	3.7	4.3			
Hungary	4.6	-5.0	6.9	4.1			
Poland	4.7	-2.7	4.8	5.4			
Romania	4.1	-3.9	6.7	4.5			
Serbia	4.2	-1.0	6.0	4.0			
Slovakia	2.5	-4.8	4.2	4.8			
Slovenia	3.2	-5.5	5.0	4.8			
CEE8 avg	4.0	-4.0	5.2	4.8			
Public debt (% of GDP)							
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T UDITO GODE	2019	2020	2021f	2022f			
Croatia	•		2021f 87.2	2022f 84.3			
	2019	2020					
Croatia	2019 72.8	2020 88.7	87.2	84.3			
Croatia Czechia	2019 72.8 31.2	2020 88.7 38.1	87.2 44.4	84.3 46.8			
Croatia Czechia Hungary	2019 72.8 31.2 65.5	2020 88.7 38.1 80.4	87.2 44.4 77.7	84.3 46.8 76.0			
Croatia Czechia Hungary Poland	2019 72.8 31.2 65.5 45.6	2020 88.7 38.1 80.4 57.5	87.2 44.4 77.7 57.0	84.3 46.8 76.0 55.0			
Croatia Czechia Hungary Poland Romania	2019 72.8 31.2 65.5 45.6 35.3	2020 88.7 38.1 80.4 57.5 47.3	87.2 44.4 77.7 57.0 49.6	84.3 46.8 76.0 55.0 50.8			
Croatia Czechia Hungary Poland Romania Serbia	2019 72.8 31.2 65.5 45.6 35.3 52.1	2020 88.7 38.1 80.4 57.5 47.3 57.4	87.2 44.4 77.7 57.0 49.6 59.1	84.3 46.8 76.0 55.0 50.8 58.4			
Croatia Czechia Hungary Poland Romania Serbia Slovakia	2019 72.8 31.2 65.5 45.6 35.3 52.1 48.2	2020 88.7 38.1 80.4 57.5 47.3 57.4 60.3	87.2 44.4 77.7 57.0 49.6 59.1 63.0	84.3 46.8 76.0 55.0 50.8 58.4 62.8			

Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

FX					
	current	2021Q3	2021Q4	2022Q1	2022Q2
EURHRK	7.50	7.53	7.53	7.53	7.48
EURCZK	25.50	25.45	25.25	25.14	24.98
EURHUF	358.27	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
EURPLN	4.57	4.50	4.48	4.45	4.42
EURRON	4.92	4.94	4.98	4.99	5.03
EURRSD	117.57	117.50	117.60	117.55	117.50
EURUSD	1.19	1.18	1.20	1.20	1.20

Key Interest Rate							
	current 2	2021Q32	021Q42	022Q12	022Q2		
Croatia	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05		
Czechia	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.25		
Hungary	1.20	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80		
Poland	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.50		
Romania	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25		
Serbia	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		
Eurozone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		

	2019	2020	2021f	2022f
Croatia	0.8	0.1	1.7	1.6
Czechia	2.8	3.2	3.1	2.4
Hungary	3.4	3.3	4.3	3.3
Poland	2.3	3.4	4.4	3.9
Romania	3.8	2.7	3.7	3.0
Serbia	1.9	1.6	2.5	2.7
Slovakia	2.7	1.9	2.4	2.8
Slovenia	1.6	0.0	1.3	1.5
CEE8 avg	2.7	2.8	3.6	3.2

C/A (%GDP)				
	2019	2020	2021f	2022f
Croatia	2.8	-0.8	0.6	0.4
Czechia	0.3	3.6	0.7	0.3
Hungary	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	0.1
Poland	0.5	3.5	1.6	0.9
Romania	-4.9	-5.2	-5.9	-5.4
Serbia	-6.9	-4.3	-3.5	-3.6
Slovakia	-2.7	-2.7	-1.6	-0.9
Slovenia	5.6	7.1	6.3	5.5
CEE8 avg	-0.7	1.0	-0.2	-0.5

Umanus I accus				
Unemploym	2019	2020	2021f	2022f
Croatia	66	7.5	7.5	6.7
Czechia	2.0	2.6	3.3	2.7
Hungary	3.4	4.2	4.2	3.8
nungary Poland	5.4 5.4	5.9	4.∠ 6.1	5.9
Polano Romania	3.9	5.9 5.0	5.9	6.1
		0.0		
Serbia	10.4	9.0	8.9	8.5
Slovakia	5.8	6.7	7.0	6.0
Slovenia	4.4	5.0	5.0	4.8
CEE8 avg	4.6	5.2	5.6	5.3
Budget Bala				
Budget Bala	nce (%GI 2019	DP) 2020	2021f	2022
Budget Bala Croatia			2021f -4.2	2022
	2019	2020		
Croatia	2019 0.3	2020 -7.4	-4.2	-3.0
Croatia Czechia	2019 0.3 0.3	2020 -7.4 -6.1	-4.2 -7.2	-3.0 -3.5
Croatia Czechia Hungary	2019 0.3 0.3 -2.1	2020 -7.4 -6.1 -8.1	-4.2 -7.2 -7.1	-3.0 -3.5 -5.5
Croatia Czechia Hungary Poland	2019 0.3 0.3 -2.1 -0.7	2020 -7.4 -6.1 -8.1 -7.0	-4.2 -7.2 -7.1 -4.5	-3.0 -3.5 -5.5 -3.2
Croatia Czechia Hungary Poland Romania	2019 0.3 0.3 -2.1 -0.7 -4.4	2020 -7.4 -6.1 -8.1 -7.0 -9.2	-4.2 -7.2 -7.1 -4.5 -7.8	-3.0 -3.5 -5.5 -3.2 -5.4
Croatia Czechia Hungary Poland Romania Serbia	2019 0.3 0.3 -2.1 -0.7 -4.4 -0.2	2020 -7.4 -6.1 -8.1 -7.0 -9.2 -8.0	-4.2 -7.2 -7.1 -4.5 -7.8 -6.5	-3.0 -3.5 -5.5 -3.2 -5.4 -3.0

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