

CEE Market Insights

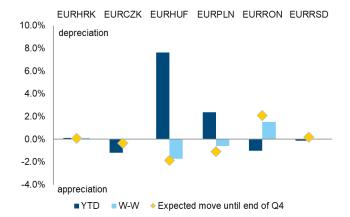
Inflation continuing its upward drive

This week in CEE

Inflation figures across the region will be in the spotlight this week as many countries will publish their August prints. We expect consumer price growth to have accelerated somewhat all over CEE, with CPI prints ranging between 12.6% y/y in Croatia to 17.7% y/y in Czechia. The key drivers should remain the same – namely, food and energy prices; but domestic inflationary pressures are also likely to have remained a visible contributor to consumer price growth. Price pressures remain elevated also on the production side and we expect this trend to be confirmed in Czechia for its August PPI. Moreover, Romania will publish its industrial production figure for July which should show a decline of 5% y/y, as suggested by ESI manufacturing survey. Poland will release its trade balance for July, whereas Romania should publish the current account balance for the same month. Finally, July wage growth will be out in Romania and Slovakia.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
CZ, RO, RS: CPI	PL: Trade balance	RO: Industry	PL: CPI	HR: CPI	
RO: Wages	RO: Current account	SK: CPI		CZ: PPI	
	SK: Wages				
RO: 2036 Bonds	HU: T-bills	CZ: Bonds	RO: 2027 Bonds		
	SI: T-bills		RO: T-bills		
			CZ: T-bill		

FX market



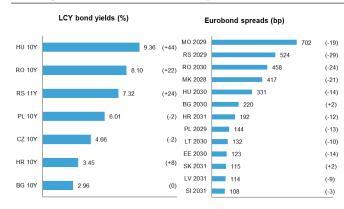
Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

FX market developments

Last week was all about the central banks. The ECB raised all three key interest rates by 75bp, bringing the deposit rate to 0.75% and the main refinancing rate to 1.25%. The move is seen as frontloading the shift to monetary policy that will ensure a return of inflation to the 2% target. Further rate hikes are to be expected, but data dependent. The ECB also suspended the 2- tier interest rate for deposits at the ECB, and revised its GDP forecasts downwards and inflation ones upwards. National Bank of Poland raised its key rate by 25bp to 6.75%, as expected. Of interest was the comment from the central bank that a stronger zloty would help lower inflation and that it may intervene in the FX market. Governor Glapinski said the NBP will consider no hike or a 25bp increase in October. He also echoed his earlier view that if inflation eases, cuts could begin in 4Q23. The Serbian central bank opted for a 50bp hike, lifting the key

rate to 3.5%. We expect to see the key rate reach 4.5% by year-end, with more hikes in 1Q23. The euro has firmed above 1 vs. USD. The zloty also appreciated mildly to 4.70 vs. EUR, whereas the move was more pronounced for the forint that firmed by 1.6% w/w to 396 vs. EUR on Friday (but lost a bit early today). The HUF's move reflects, inter alia, news that the Hungarian Prime Minister signed a decree to establish an independent anti-corruption agency aimed at safeguarding EU money. This is a key step to unfreezing EU funds for the country. Moreover, there is a non-rate setting meeting of the Hungarian MNB on Tuesday, which could provide some more details on already announced liquidity measures.

LCY yields, Eurobond spreads



Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

Bond market developments

In general, CEE bond markets followed the increases in yields on major markets, which came along with the 75bp rate hike delivered by the ECB last week. CZGBs and POLGBs were rather outliers, as their yields stagnated or even declined. The latter was caused by fading monetary tightening in Poland, as was apparent from the modest 25bp rate hike and indications that a hike at the October meeting cannot be taken for granted. Conversely, 10Y yields on HGBs jumped another 44bp w/w, with a more pronounced increase in the 1-3Y segment (70-100bp w/w). Investors are eagerly awaiting more details from the central bank on discount bills and long-term deposit increases, with the former being an attractive alternative to short-term government securities. This week, Czechia, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia will issue their T-bills. On top of that, Romania will reopen ROMGBs 2027 and 2036, Czechia will issue two T-bonds (fixed coupon & floater) and Hungary will conduct its regular set of auctions.

In case you missed

CZ: Industrial production slightly decreased in July

HU: Inflation accelerated further in August; industry remained surprisingly resilient in July and retail stayed stable

SK: GDP in 2Q revised slightly to the upside

SK: Industrial production fell in July and retail sales growth weakened, whereas negative trade balance softened

RS: Key rate lifted by 50bp to 3.5%

RO: We revise up 2022 GDP growth forecast to 6.0% from 5.1%; sentiment indicates weaker retail sales ahead

RO: We published the latest Macroeconomic Outlook: End of summer blues for the economy

EA: The <u>ECB raised all three key interest rates by 75bp</u>, bringing the deposit rate to 0.75% and the main refinancing rate to 1.25%.

Upcoming releases in CEE

Date	Time	Country	Indicator	Period	Survey	Erste Est.	Prev.	Pre Comment
12. Sep	8:00	RO	CPI (y/y)	Aug	15.16%	15.1%	15.0%	Core inflation expected to inch up to 11.0% from 10.4% previously, driving headline higher.
	8:00	RO	CPI (m/m)	Aug		0.3%	0.9%	Lower oil prices and stronger RON (lower phone bills) offsetting to some extent higher Core (processed food and services) prices.
	8:00	RO	Wages (y/y)	Jul		14.5%	12.3%	
	9:00	cz	CPI (y/y)	Aug	17.58%	17.7%	17.5%	We expect a peak in inflation close to 19 % in the 3Q/4Q turn. Energy prices have become the most important contributor. On the other hand, demand-driven proinflationary factors have been weakening.
	9:00	cz	CPI (m/m)	Aug	0.73%	0.8%	1.3%	Food and energy prices stem behind another increase in price level.
	12:00	RS	CPI (y/y)	Aug	13.11%	13.2%	12.8%	We expect inflation increased 1.3% m/m thus pushing inflation above 13%.
	12:00	RS	CPI (m/m)	Aug			1.0%	
13. Sep		RO	Current Account Balance (monthly)	Jul			-12298	
	9:00	sĸ	Wages (y/y)	Jul			-3.2%	
	14:00	PL	Trade Balance	Jul	3448		-849	
14. Sep	8:00	RO	Industrial Production (y/y)	Jul		-5.0%	-3.7%	Lower production trend observed in recent months reported by the managers in manufacturing for ESI survey.
	9:00	SK	CPI (y/y)	Aug		14.1%	13.6%	The most significant contributor is food prices, accounting for almost 4.9pp from the inflation growth; followed by energy prices with a contribution of 2.6pp. Inflationary pressures remain broadbased pulled by energy, resulting in price increases in a lot of product groups.
	9:00	sĸ	CPI (m/m)	Aug		0.8%	0.80%	Month-on-month drivers remain food prices and higher price tags in services. CPI is expected to be pushed up also by imputed rentals.
15. Sep	10:00	PL	CPI (y/y)	Aug F			16.1%	
	10:00	PL	CPI (m/m)	Aug F			0.8%	
16. Sep	9:00	cz	PPI (y/y)	Aug	26.13%	25.7%	26.8%	PPI inflation has been gradually slowing down, mainly due to the base effect and lower oil prices.
	11:00	HR	CPI (y/y)	Aug			12.3%	
	11:00	HR	CPI (m/m)	Aug			0.4%	

Source: Erste Group Resarch

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Forecasts

Government bond yields							
	current	2022Q4	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3		
Croatia 10Y	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4		
spread (bps)	126	224	224	216	211		
Czechia 10Y	4.6	3.8	3.6	3.4	335.0		
spread (bps)	290	254	230	207	33371		
Hungary 10Y	9.4	8.2	8.1	7.3	6.9		
spread (bps)	761	692	682	601	565		
Poland 10Y	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0		
spread (bps)	426	484	482	465	468		
Romania10Y	8.1	8.8	8.5	8.3	8.0		
spread (bps)	635	749	724	691	671		
Slovakia 10Y	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.0		
spread (bps)	106	144	159	156	171		
Slovenia 10Y	2.72	2.60	2.70	2.70	2.70		
spread (bps)	98	134	144	136	141		
Serbia 5Y	6.4	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.5		
spread (bps)	469	554	564	526	521		
DE10Y*	1.74	1.26	1.26	1.34	1.29		
* Spreads based on Bloomberg consensus forecast							

3M Money Market Rate						
SWI WOTICY I		2022Q4	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	
Czechia	7.26	7.09	6.06	5.29	4.52	
Hungary	12.85	13.95	13.95	10.95	9.95	
Poland	7.15	7.80	7.75	7.75	6.80	
Romania	7.92	9.05	8.25	7.75	7.25	
Serbia	3.20	3.83	4.46	4.46	4.46	
Eurozone	0.93	1.97	1.97	1.97	1.97	

- 1000								
Real GDP gro	Real GDP growth (%)							
	2020	2021	2022f	2023f				
Croatia	-8.1	10.2	5.5	2.1				
Czechia	-5.5	3.5	2.3	0.9				
Hungary	-4.7	7.1	5.0	0.9				
Poland	-2.2	5.9	4.2	3.1				
Romania	-3.7	5.9	6.0	2.7				
Serbia	-0.9	7.4	3.5	3.0				
Slovakia	-4.4	3.0	1.8	1.5				
Slovenia	-4.2	8.1	4.7	1.9				
CEE8 avg	-3.7	5.7	4.2	2.3				
Public debt (% of GDP	')						
	2020	2021	2022f	2023f				
Croatia	87.3	79.8	71.0	68.0				
Czechia	37.7	41.9	43.4	44.3				
Hungary	79.6	76.8	73.8	71.4				
Poland	57.1	53.8	55.0	52.0				
Romania	47.2	48.8	48.3	49.1				
Serbia	57.0	56.5	51.9	51.0				
Slovakia	59.7	63.1	63.3	62.7				
Slovenia	79.8	74.7	73.0	72.8				
CEE8 avg	56.9	55.9	55.7	54.1				

Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

FX					
	current	2022Q4	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3
EURHRK	7.52	7.53	7.53	7.53	7.53
EURCZK	24.55	24.50	24.36	24.29	24.21
EURHUF	397.01	390.00	385.00	380.00	380.00
EURPLN	4.70	4.65	4.62	4.57	4.52
EURRON	4.90	5.00	5.02	5.05	5.07
EURRSD	117.30	117.60	117.60	117.60	117.60
EURUSD	1.01	1.05	1.10	1.10	1.13

Key Interest Rate							
	current	2022Q4	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3		
Croatia	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05		
Czechia	7.00	7.00	6.00	5.25	4.50		
Hungary	11.75	13.75	13.75	10.75	9.75		
Poland	6.75	7.50	7.50	7.50	6.50		
Romania	5.50	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25		
Serbia	3.50	4.00	4.50	4.50	4.50		
Eurozone	1.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25		

Average inflation (%)							
	2020	2021	2022f	2023f			
Croatia	0.1	2.6	10.5	6.5			
Czechia	3.2	3.8	15.9	8.0			
Hungary	3.3	5.1	14.3	13.3			
Poland	3.4	5.1	13.9	10.2			
Romania	2.7	5.0	12.9	9.3			
Serbia	1.6	4.0	11.4	8.6			
Slovakia	1.9	3.2	12.2	9.0			
Slovenia	0.0	1.9	9.3	5.3			
CEE8 avg	2.8	4.5	13.6	9.6			
C/A (%GDP)							
	2020	2021	2022f	2023f			
Croatia	-0.1	3.4	1.5	0.4			
Czechia	2.0	-0.8	-1.2	0.5			

	2020	2021	2022f	2023f	
Croatia	-0.1	3.4	1.5	0.4	
Czechia	2.0	-0.8	-1.2	0.5	
Hungary	-1.1	-3.2	-7.9	-4.5	
Poland	2.9	-0.6	-1.3	-0.3	
Romania	-5.0	-7.0	-9.3	-7.5	
Serbia	-4.1	-4.4	-9.1	-9.1	
Slovakia	0.1	-2.0	-3.3	-2.0	
Slovenia	7.4	3.3	1.5	2.3	
CEE8 avg	0.7	-1.9	-3.5	-2.1	

Unemployme	ent (%)			
	2020	2021	2022f	2023f
Croatia	7.5	7.6	6.3	5.9
Czechia	2.6	2.9	2.6	3.3
Hungary	4.1	4.1	3.5	3.7
Poland	5.9	5.9	5.3	5.2
Romania	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.5
Serbia	9.7	11.0	9.5	9.0
Slovakia	6.7	6.8	6.4	6.2
Slovenia	5.0	4.8	4.3	4.1
CEE8 avg	5.4	5.4	4.9	5.0
Budget Bala	nce (%GI	OP)		
	2020	2021	2022f	2023f
Croatia	-7.4	-2.9	-2.5	-2.5
Czechia	-5.8	-5.9	-4.4	-3.1
Hungary	-7.8	-6.8	-4.9	-3.5
Poland	-6.9	-1.9	-3.9	-3.5
Romania	-9.3	-7.1	-6.7	-5.7
Serbia	-8.0	-4.1	-3.0	-3.0
Slovakia	-5.5	-6.2	-5.5	-4.0
01	-7.8	-5.2	-4.5	-3.5
Slovenia	-7.0	-5.2	-4.5	-3.5

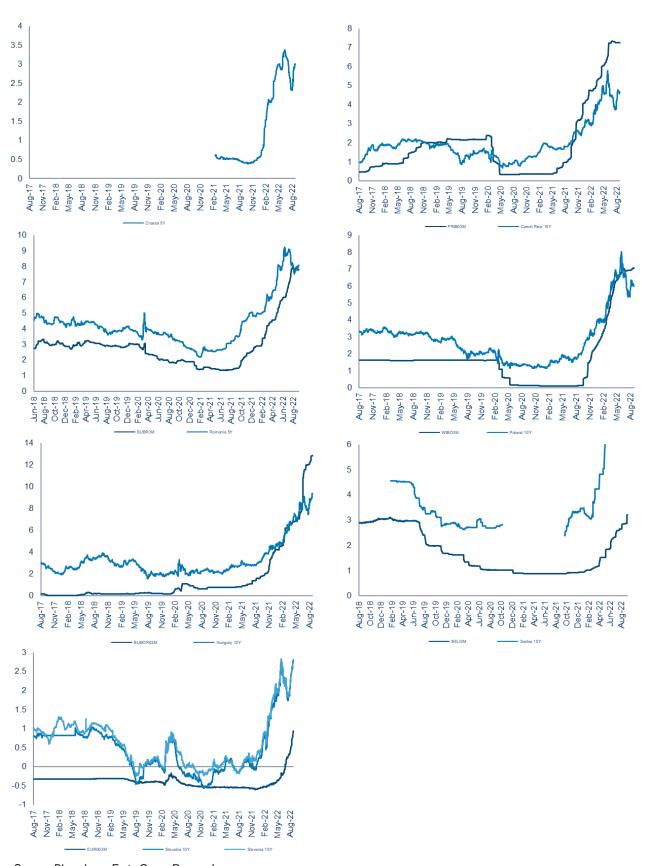
-6.2 -5.2 -4.4

Slovakia Slovenia CEE8 avg

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Appendix



Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

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Group Research

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Mate Jelić	+385 72 37 1443	Bernd Bollhof	+49 (0)30 8105800 5525
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