

CEE MARKET INSIGHTS

Data releases by the year-end. 2026 events to watch

This week in CEE

We look at the calendar and events until the end of the year in this edition of Insights. Just before Christmas Eve, Poland will publish retail sales growth in November along with unemployment. Slovakia will release producer prices and Serbia real wage growth in October. The following week, before New Year's Eve, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia will publish retail sales growth in November. Croatia and Serbia will show industry performance as well. The end of the month is also typically the time to release flash inflation and before year-end we will get to see December inflation in Slovenia and Poland.

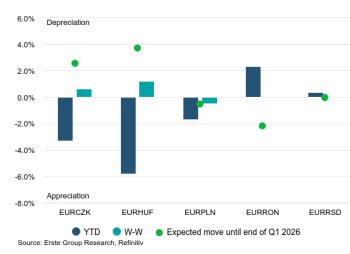
At the end of the year, it is also worth checking the Special Report titled "Events worth watching" in 2026, which provides a list with key developments next year across the region. The report goes beyond the traditional economic forecasts and peaks on the events of importance that may affect the economic prospects of the countries. Hungary will be in the spotlight, with parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2026.

The next edition of Insights will be published on Monday, January 12.

| 22 December | 23 Decemebr | 24 December | 29 December | 30 December | 31 December |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SK: Producer Prices | HU: Current Account | RS: Wages | SI: Retail sales | RO: Unemployment | PL: Inflation |
| PL: Retail sales | PL: Unemployment | | | SI: Inflation | HR: Current account, Industry |
| | | | | HR: Retail sales | |
| | | | | RS: Industry, Retail sales, Trade | |

RO: 2034 Bonds HU: T-Bills

FX market



FX market developments

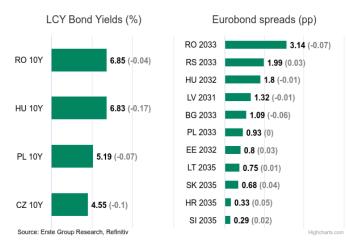
Over the last week, the Czech koruna and the Hungarian forint have weakened against the euro, while the Polish zloty strengthened more visibly. In the case of Hungary, the EURHUF moved slightly above 390 in reaction to the change of the central bank's communique. The Hungarian central bank kept the policy rate flat at 6.5%, but the dovish bias has become quite apparent. We will also analyze our forecast in the light of the shift in the central bank's stance and we cannot exclude adjustment. The Czech central also left the key policy rate flat at 3.5%. The Czech central bank, on the other hand, sounded relatively hawkish in the statement referring to elevated inflationary pressures and need for tight monetary conditions. Finally, Serbia's central bank has been active on the FX market to maintain the stability of the EURRSD.

Summarizing performance throughout 2025, CEE currencies have strengthened against the euro. The Hungarian forint outperformed, appreciating roughly 6% since the beginning of the year. Only the Romanian leu



weakened, and we believe that 5.05–5.10 is broadly the new comfort range for the central bank.

LCY yields, Eurobond spreads



Bond market developments

As As the year draws to a close, we provide a summary of the performance of CEE LCY government bonds in 2025. Compared to the beginning of the year, yields on 10Y CZGBs and HGBs rose by 45bp and 20bp, respectively, mainly due to central banks adopting a more hawkish stance and effectively halting discussions on further rate cuts. Nevertheless, both Czech and Hungarian bonds outperformed German Bunds, where 10Y yields increased by 50bp. Additionally, the Czech koruna and Hungarian forint appreciated against the euro by 3.4% and 6%, respectively. Romania's 10Y yields declined by 50bp since the start of the year, supported by the adoption of a massive fiscal consolidation package, even though monetary easing was delayed. Polish bonds clearly outperformed their regional peers, with 10Y yields falling by 70bp, further boosted by an additional 1.5% currency appreciation vs. the euro. In January, we will publish our new Bond Market Report, summarizing the outlook for bond supply and yield developments in CEE for 2026.

In case you missed

CEE Special Report | Events worth watching in 2026 Easing real wage growth in CEE Labor costs grew above EU average in 3Q25

CZ: CNB decision to keep rates unchanged was unanimous

HU: MNB: relevant change of the tone

SK: Christmas Is Coming: Food Prices Declined in November RO: Industrial output remained in green territory in October

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Upcoming releases in CEE

| Upcom | ing rei | eases in CE | E | | |
|---------|---------|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Date | Time | Country | Indicator | Period E | rste Est. Prev. |
| 22. Dec | 9:00 | SK | PPI (y/y) | Nov | 1.2% |
| | 10:00 | PL | Retail Sales (y/y) | Nov | 5.5% |
| 23. Dec | 8:30 | ни | Current Account Balance (quarterly) | 3Q | 1391.40 |
| | 10:00 | PL | Unemployment Rate | Nov | 5.6% |
| 24. Dec | | RS | Wages (y/y) | Oct | 10.5% |
| 29. Dec | 10:30 | SI | Retail Sales (y/y) | Nov | 2.2% |
| 30. Dec | | RO | Unemployment Rate | Nov | 5.9% |
| | 10:30 | SI | CPI (y/y) | Dec | 2.3% |
| | 10:30 | SI | CPI (m/m) | Dec | |
| | 11:00 | HR | Retail Sales (y/y) | Nov | 4.1% |
| | 12:00 | RS | Industrial Production (y/y) | Nov | -2.3% |
| | 12:00 | RS | Retail Sales (y/y) | Nov | 7.4% |
| | 12:00 | RS | Trade Balance | Nov | -691.40 |
| 31. Dec | | HR | Current Account Balance (quarterly) | 3Q | -1947.88 |
| | 10:00 | PL | CPI (y/y) | Dec P | 2.5% |
| | 10:00 | PL | CPI (m/m) | Dec P | 0.1% |
| | 11:00 | HR | Industrial Production (y/y) | Nov | 5.5% |

Source: Erste Group Resarch Note: Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results



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Forecasts

| LCY Government bond yields | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| | Friday's close | 2026Q1 | 2026Q2 | 2026Q3 | 2026Q4 | | |
| Czechia 10Y | 4.52 | 4.27 | 4.16 | 4.11 | 4.04 | | |
| Hungary 10Y | 6.78 | 6.81 | 6.71 | 6.70 | 6.62 | | |
| Poland 10Y | 5.12 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.90 | 4.80 | | |
| Romania10Y | 6.82 | 6.80 | 6.70 | 6.60 | 6.50 | | |
| Serbia 10Y | 5.05 | 5.10 | 5.00 | 4.80 | 4.70 | | |

| Spreads vs. German Bunds (bps) | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| Croatia 10Y | 27.00 | 35.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | | | |
| Slovakia 10Y | 65.00 | 85.00 | 85.00 | 85.00 | 85.00 | | | |
| Slovenia 10Y | 27.00 | 35.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | | | |
| DE10Y yields | 2.91 | 2.70 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 3.00 | | | |

| 3M Money Mari | ket Rate | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Friday's close | 2026Q1 | 2026Q2 | 2026Q3 | 2026Q4 |
| Czechia | 3.53 | 3.56 | 3.56 | 3.57 | 3.57 |
| Hungary | 6.49 | 6.45 | 6.45 | 6.45 | 5.95 |
| Poland | 4.02 | 3.80 | 3.65 | 3.65 | 3.65 |
| Romania | 6.19 | 6.00 | 5.70 | 5.35 | 5.05 |
| Serbia | 4.68 | 4.68 | 4.47 | 4.26 | 4.05 |
| Eurozone | 2.00 | 2.01 | 2.02 | 2.02 | 2.03 |

| Real GDP growth (%) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| | 2024 | 2025f | 2026f | 2027f | | | |
| Croatia | 3.8 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.6 | | | |
| Czechia | 1.1 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.7 | | | |
| Hungary | 0.6 | 0.2 | 2.0 | 2.3 | | | |
| Poland | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.1 | | | |
| Romania | 0.9 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 3.0 | | | |
| Serbia | 3.9 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 4.5 | | | |
| Slovakia | 1.9 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 1.8 | | | |
| Slovenia | 1.7 | 0.9 | 2.1 | 2.3 | | | |
| CEE8 avg | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.9 | | | |

| Public debt (% of GDP) | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| | 2024 | 2025f | 2026f | 2027f | | | |
| Croatia | 57.4 | 56.5 | 56.3 | 56.5 | | | |
| Czechia | 43.3 | 44.2 | 44.8 | 44.4 | | | |
| Hungary | 73.5 | 74.4 | 75.1 | 74.4 | | | |
| Poland | 55.1 | 62.0 | 66.0 | 69.0 | | | |
| Romania | 54.8 | 59.2 | 61.1 | 63.0 | | | |
| Serbia | 46.7 | 43.8 | 43.9 | 43.5 | | | |
| Slovakia | 59.7 | 61.9 | 63.2 | 64.6 | | | |
| Slovenia | 66.6 | 66.2 | 65.6 | 64.8 | | | |
| CEE8 avg | 55.3 | 59.1 | 61.4 | 62.9 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

| FX | | | | | |
|--------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Friday's close | 2026Q1 | 2026Q2 | 2026Q3 | 2026Q4 |
| EURCZK | 24.29 | 24.31 | 24.26 | 24.19 | 24.10 |
| EURHUF | 386.27 | 385.00 | 385.00 | 385.00 | 385.00 |
| EURPLN | 4.20 | 4.25 | 4.30 | 4.30 | 4.25 |
| EURRON | 5.08 | 5.10 | 5.10 | 5.15 | 5.17 |
| EURRSD | 117.26 | 117.30 | 117.20 | 117.10 | 117.20 |
| EURUSD | 1.17 | 1.20 | 1.20 | 1.22 | 1.22 |
| | | | | | |

| Key Interest Rate (deposit facility in Eurozone) | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| | Friday's close | 2026Q1 | 2026Q2 | 2026Q3 | 2026Q4 | | |
| Czechia | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.50 | | |
| Hungary | 6.50 | 6.50 | 6.50 | 6.50 | 6.00 | | |
| Poland | 4.00 | 3.75 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.50 | | |
| Romania | 6.50 | 6.50 | 6.25 | 5.75 | 5.25 | | |
| Serbia | 5.75 | 5.75 | 5.50 | 5.25 | 5.00 | | |
| Eurozone | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | | |

| Average inflation (%) | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| | 2024 | 2025f | 2026f | 2027f | | | |
| Croatia | 3.0 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 2.6 | | | |
| Czechia | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | | | |
| Hungary | 3.7 | 4.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 | | | |
| Poland | 3.6 | 3.6 | 2.5 | 2.4 | | | |
| Romania | 5.6 | 7.3 | 6.5 | 3.0 | | | |
| Serbia | 4.6 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 3.8 | | | |
| Slovakia | 2.8 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 2.7 | | | |
| Slovenia | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 1.9 | | | |
| CEE8 ava | 3.6 | 4.1 | 3.4 | 2.6 | | | |

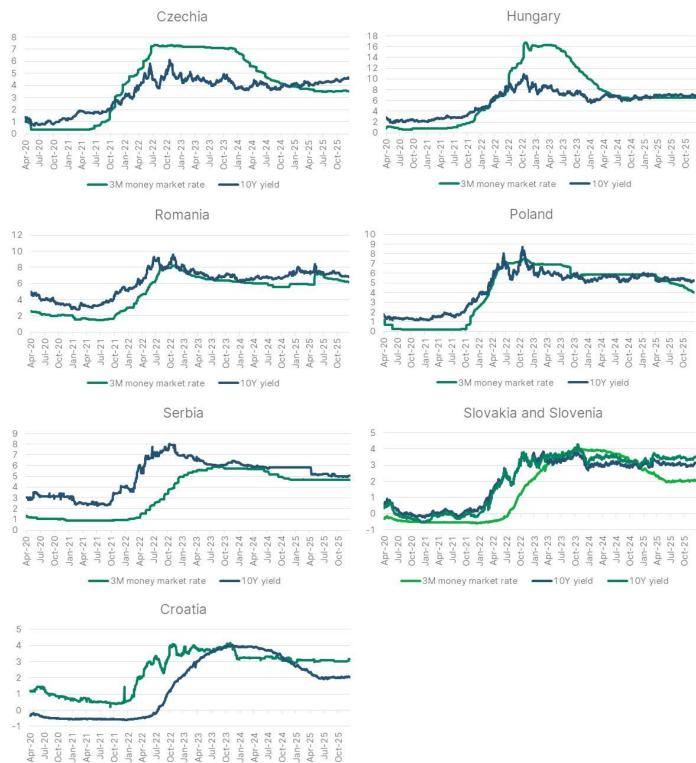
| C/A (%GDP) | | | | |
|------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2024 | 2025f | 2026f | 2027f |
| Croatia | -2.2 | -4.3 | -4.7 | -4.7 |
| Czechia | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| Hungary | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| Poland | 0.3 | -1.0 | -1.5 | -1.0 |
| Romania | -8.2 | -7.8 | -6.8 | -6.2 |
| Serbia | -4.7 | -4.7 | -5.7 | -5.2 |
| Slovakia | -4.6 | -4.1 | -4.0 | |
| Slovenia | 4.5 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 2.6 |
| CEE8 avg | -1.2 | -1.8 | -2.0 | -1.5 |

| Unemployment (%) | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| | 2024 | 2025f | 2026f | 2027f | | | |
| Croatia | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.7 | | | |
| Czechia | 2.7 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 3.5 | | | |
| Hungary | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.0 | | | |
| Poland | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.2 | | | |
| Romania | 5.5 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.5 | | | |
| Serbia | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.1 | | | |
| Slovakia | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 5.6 | | | |
| Slovenia | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.5 | | | |
| CEE8 avg | 4.8 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 | | | |

| Budget Balance (%GDP) | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| | 2024 | 2025f | 2026f | 2027f | | | |
| Croatia | -1.9 | -2.9 | -3.0 | -3.0 | | | |
| Czechia | -2.0 | -2.4 | -2.5 | -2.4 | | | |
| Hungary | -5.0 | -5.0 | -5.3 | -4.6 | | | |
| Poland | -6.5 | -7.1 | -6.8 | -6.0 | | | |
| Romania | -9.3 | -8.4 | -6.4 | -5.7 | | | |
| Serbia | -2.0 | -2.7 | -3.0 | -3.0 | | | |
| Slovakia | -5.5 | -4.8 | -4.3 | -4.0 | | | |
| Slovenia | -0.9 | -2.1 | -2.9 | -2.5 | | | |
| CEE8 avg | -5.4 | -5.7 | -5.3 | -4.8 | | | |



Appendix



Source: Bloomberg, Erste Group Research

3M money market rate





| Group Re | searcr |
|----------|--------|
|----------|--------|

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