ROMANIA : MACRO OUTLOOK

Running out of patience

Ciprian Dascalu Vlad Ionita
Economy Romania - Analyses and Forecasts | Erste Group Bank AG
September 15, 2026

Spot Rates as of: September 15, 2026
Note: Information on past performance is not a reliable indicator for future performance.
Forecasts are not a reliable indicator for future performance.

Recession, inflation, uncertainty … what next?

Political instability weighs on Romania's credibility to deliver on fiscal consolidation, stabilizing the debt trajectory and thus its rating. The current account balance remains another major weakness for Romania. Moody's warned in an issuer comment in August that the failure to reach a political agreement on the public wage law 'has negative consequences for Romania's sovereign credit profile' and that the importance of the 2027 budget bill for the credit rating increased. The next rating review is due October 2 from S&P.

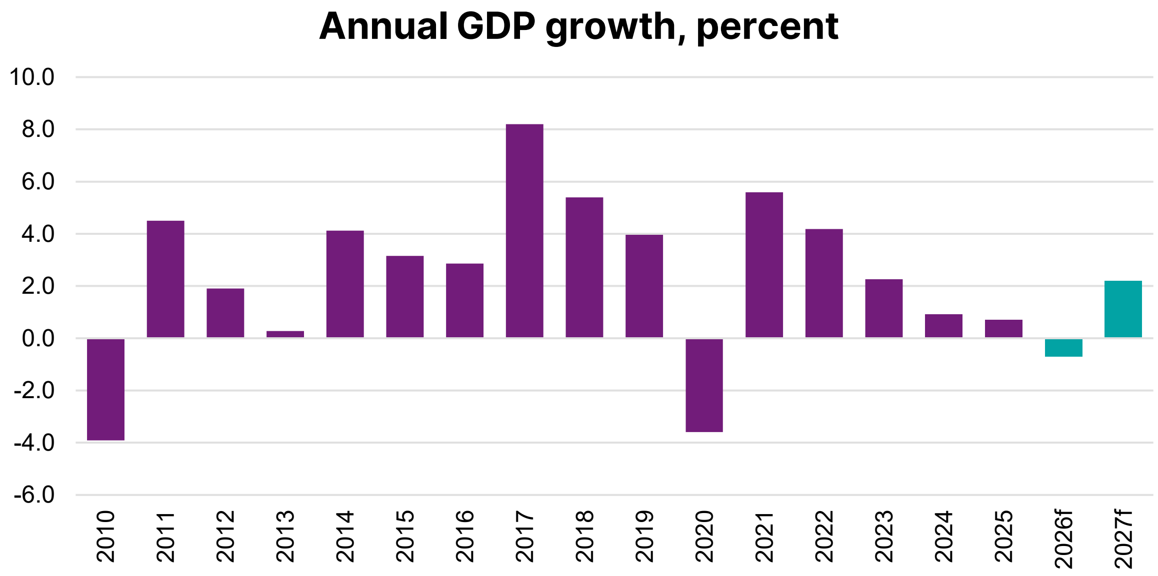
Romania appears to be moving out of a recession, although near-term momentum remains weak. We see activity staying soft through 2H26, followed by a gradual recovery towards potential in 2027. After subdued growth in 2025, we forecast a mild contraction in 2026, at around -0.7%, mainly due to weak consumer demand, partly offset by EU-backed investment. Inflation decelerated to 6.2% y/y in August on statistical base effects and is projected to reach 6.4% y/y by year-end. The NBR is expected to leave the policy rate unchanged at 6.50% throughout 2026, while government bond yields should settle around 7.0%.

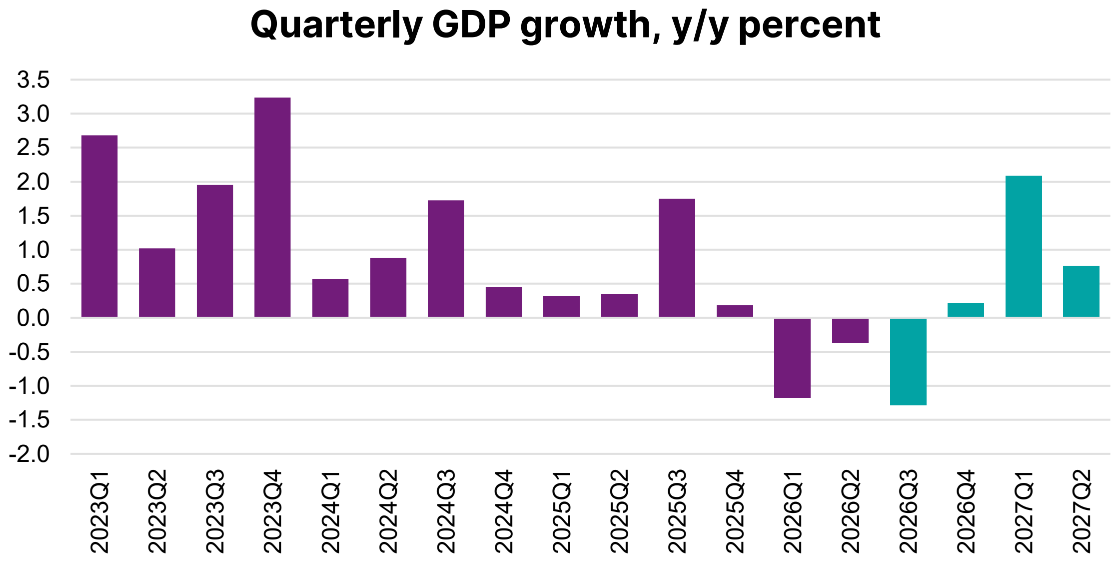
Overall, the outlook is shaped by fragile domestic demand, persistently high inflation, and elevated political and fiscal uncertainties. Investment decisions will depend heavily on credible policy frameworks that can reduce uncertainty and help restore consumer confidence. Preserving the IG sovereign credit rating depends on restoring policymaking coherence to reduce the risk of fiscal slippage and eventually cap the upward trend in the debt-to-GDP ratio.

The expectations are that a new fully-functional government is soon to be installed.

Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research

Marginally deeper recession in 2026, revised to -0.7%



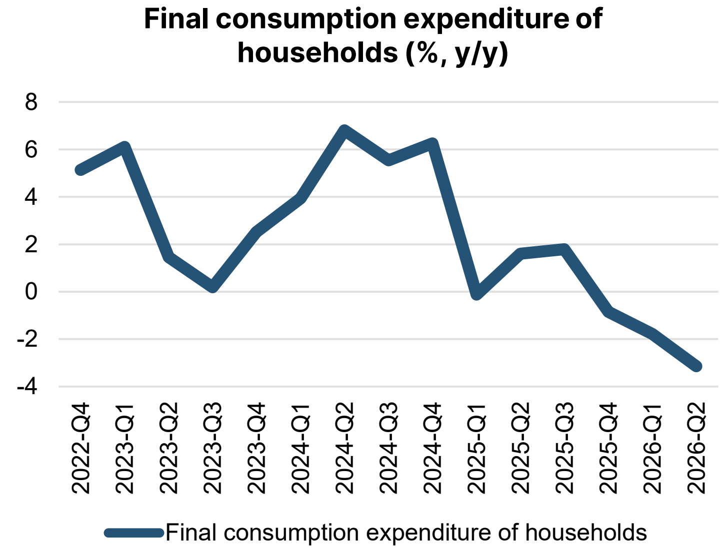


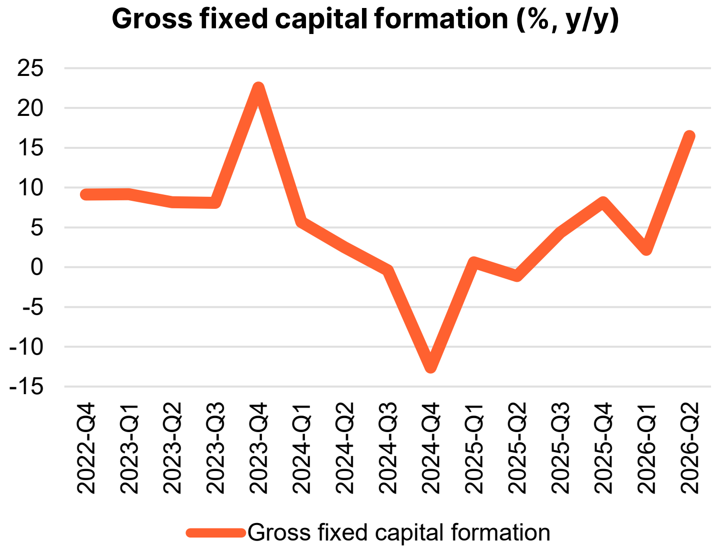
The release of the GDP breakdown data for 2Q26 brought no major revisions. The economy stagnated in quarterly terms in 2Q26 and contracted by 0.4% compared with the same period last year. In the first half of 2026, GDP was down 0.7% compared with the same period last year. From the demand side, investment was the sole positive contributor to growth in the second quarter, with all other components acting as a drag. We continue to expect a recession in 2026, with real GDP projected to contract by 0.7%, revised down from our previous forecast of -0.3%. The adjustment reflects somewhat underwhelming developments in the first half of the year. Consumption is expected to remain subdued this year, as indicated by high-frequency data, with elevated inflation keeping real wage growth in negative territory throughout the year. Some partial relief may come in the second half. By contrast, investment activity should remain strong, particularly in the third quarter, supported by substantial EU funds available to Romania in 2026. Net exports would likely make a negative contribution this year. In 2027, we see economic growth moving towards potential and we estimate it at +2.2%.

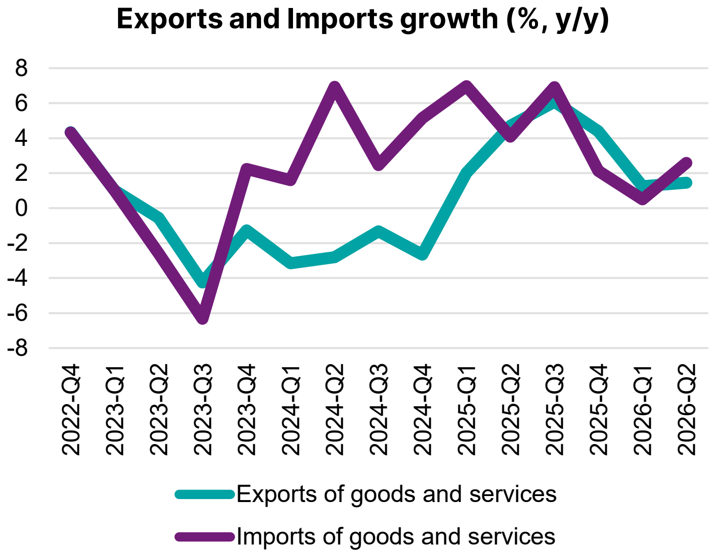
Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research

September 15, 2026

Economic growth structure – Strong investment activity in 1H26



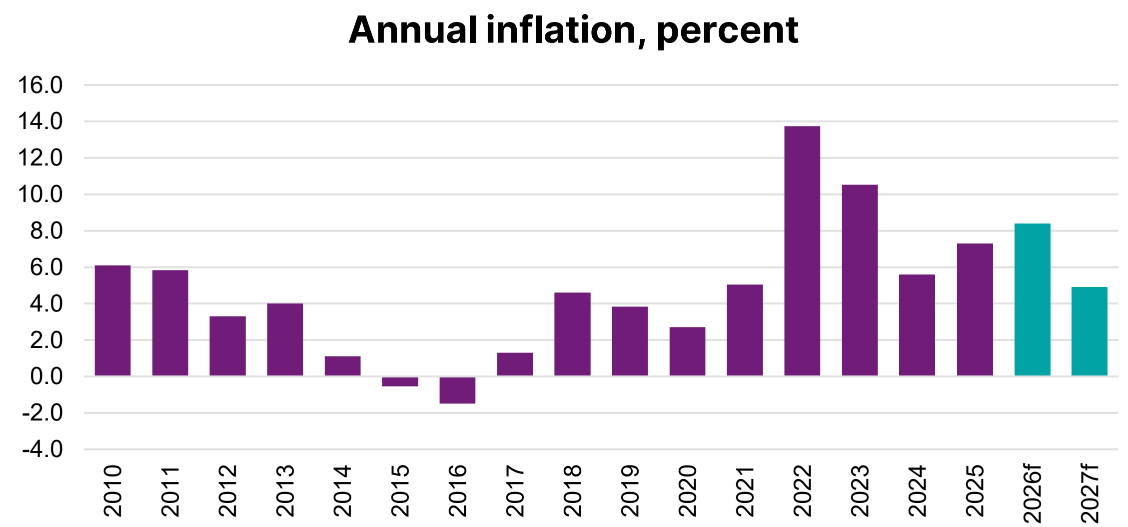


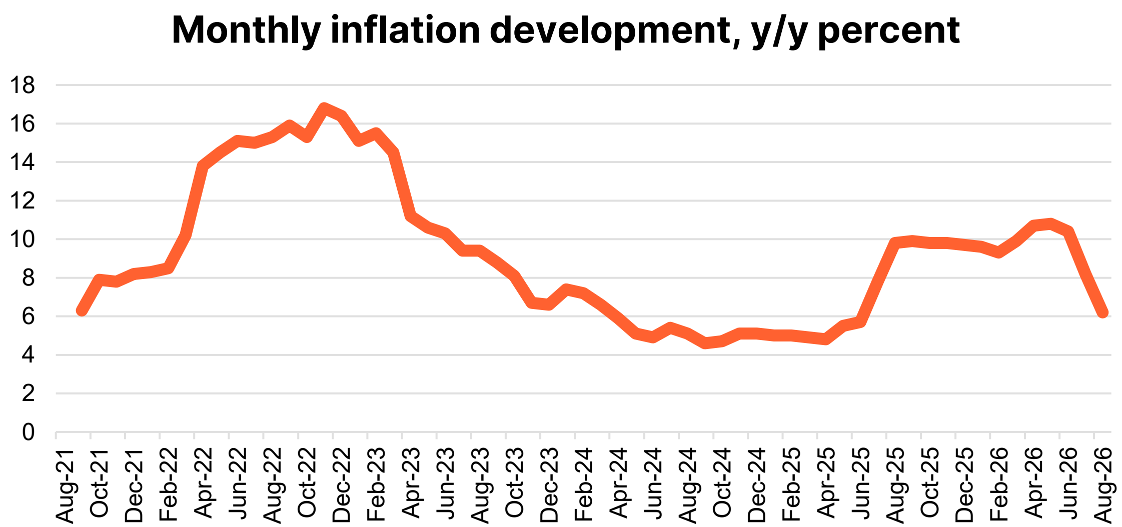


On the supply side, agriculture had a +0.1pp contribution to the -0.4% annual GDP dynamic in 2Q26. Industry subtracted -0.7pp, while construction was the strongest contributor with +0.9pp. Services had a significant negative contribution of -1.2pp, with some positive momentum coming only from entertainment activities. Net taxes added 0.5pp. The story remains generally the same for 1H26. On the demand side, private consumption subtracted 2.0pp from the -0.4% annual GDP outcome in 2Q26, while public consumption was neutral. Inventories also made a significant negative contribution of -2.0pp, while net exports subtracted 0.5pp. By contrast, gross fixed capital formation added 4.1pp. The picture looks similar for 1H26. The demand-side structure is broadly in line with our expectations and confirms the signals seen in high-frequency data. Strong investment, supported by state infrastructure projects with the help of EU funds, contrasted with weak consumption, which was affected by negative real wage growth. We expect a moderate recovery in consumption in the second half of the year, which should improve the full-year performance, although private consumption is still likely to contract in 2026 as a whole.

Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research

Flat inflation profile into year-end with upside risks

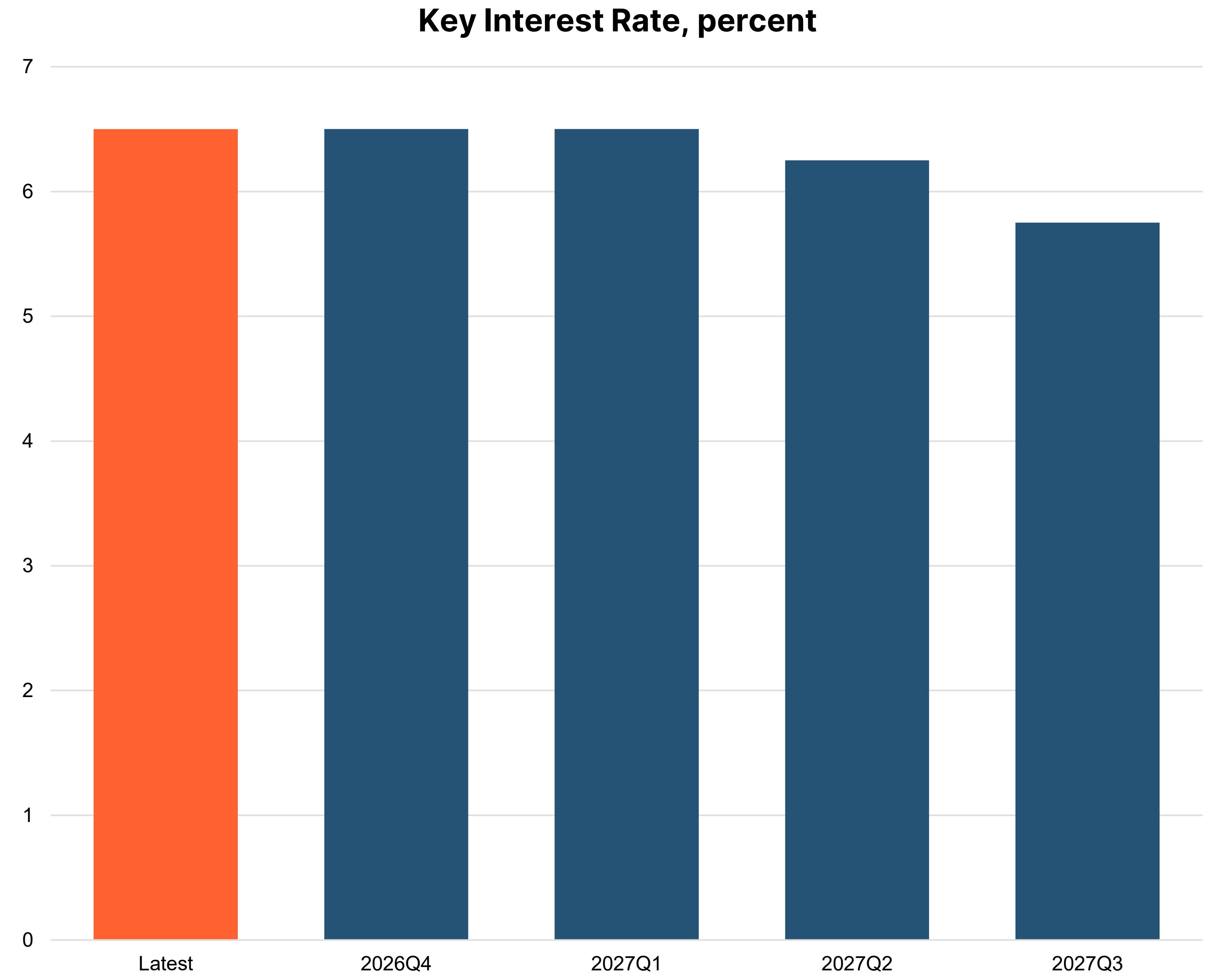




August CPI came in at 6.2% y/y, decelerating sharply from 8.2% in July. Core inflation likewise decelerated sharply, falling to 6.2% y/y from 8.2% in the previous month. Before the August print, we expected year-end inflation to reach 6.9% y/y. Considering the August data, we adjusted downward our year-end forecast to 6.4%. We continue, however, to see the balance of risks tilted to the upside. Global oil prices remain inflationary, while the severe drought and conditions in the electricity market are likely to be reflected in upcoming CPI readings. Non-core components have been highly volatile recently and should remain a major source of uncertainty. We continue to expect inflation to stay above the NBR's target band in 2027 and forecast annual inflation at 4.3% at end-2027. The NBR governor said that a rate cut discussion could begin early next year provided that inflation falls below the key rate level. Hence, a February rate cut might be in play. However, given the current macroeconomic environment, the risks surrounding the inflation outlook remain tilted to the upside, and we currently see a May cut as the more likely outcome. Weak economic growth will also be a relevant factor. Inflation likely peaked at 10.9% y/y in May this year and is expected to follow a relatively flat path through year-end before decelerating further in 2027.

Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research

Monetary policy



The NBR has held the key rate at 6.50% since August 2024, and we expect it to remain on hold this year. Policymakers are likely to debate cutting rates early next year if the depressed demand starts to weigh on inflationary pressure, offsetting supply-side uncertainties, while FX depreciation pressures remain muted.

We see the key rate remaining at 6.50% until May 2027. At the August press conference, the NBR governor provided quite clear forward guidance, saying that discussions on rate cuts may begin early next year, once inflation falls below the key rate level. Weak economic growth also limits the scope for a rate hike, as long as inflation does not significantly overshoot current expectations.

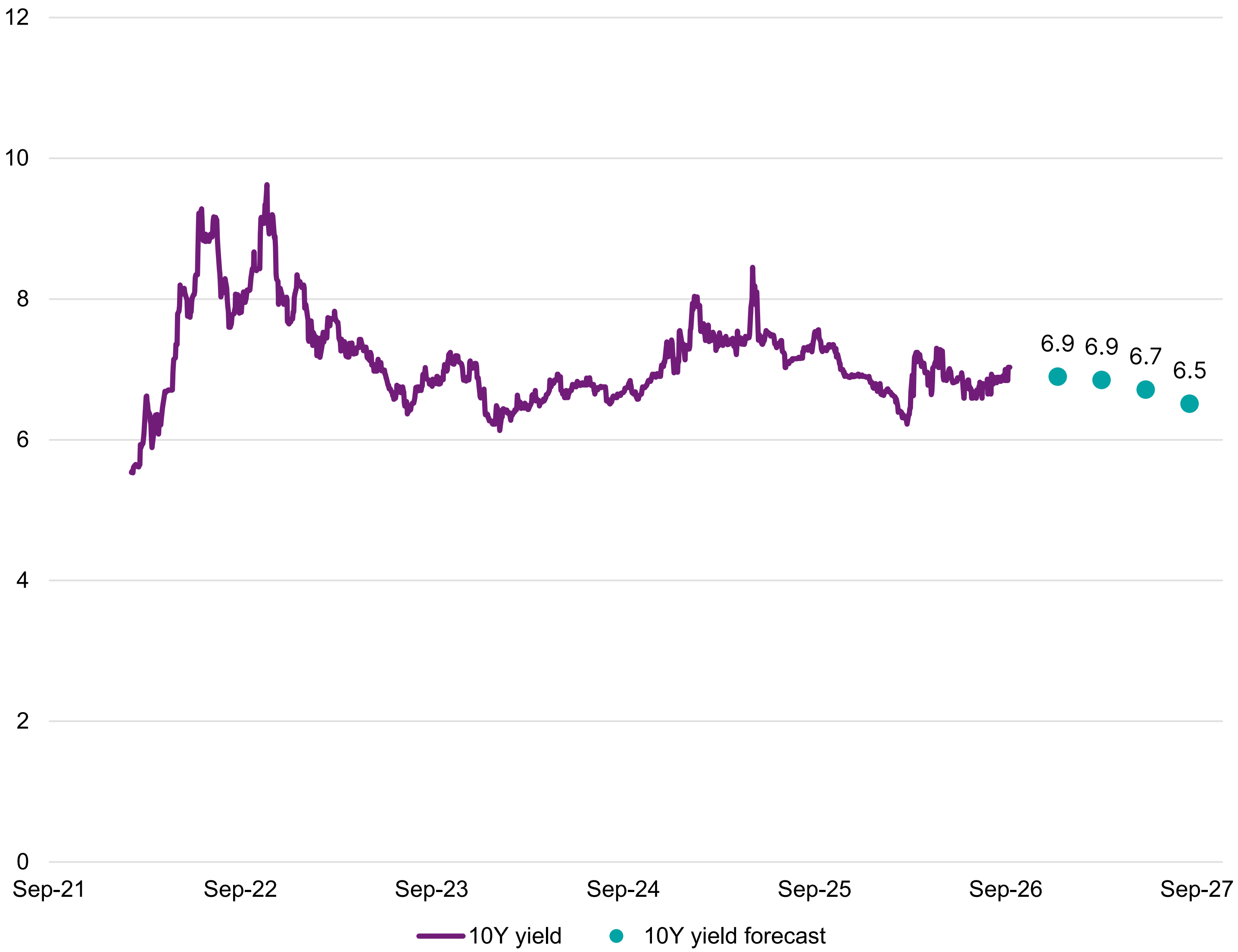
With the neutral real rate estimated at 1.75%, we expect the key rate to fall to 5.25% and the deposit facility rate to 4.25% by end-2027.

Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research

Yields and spreads

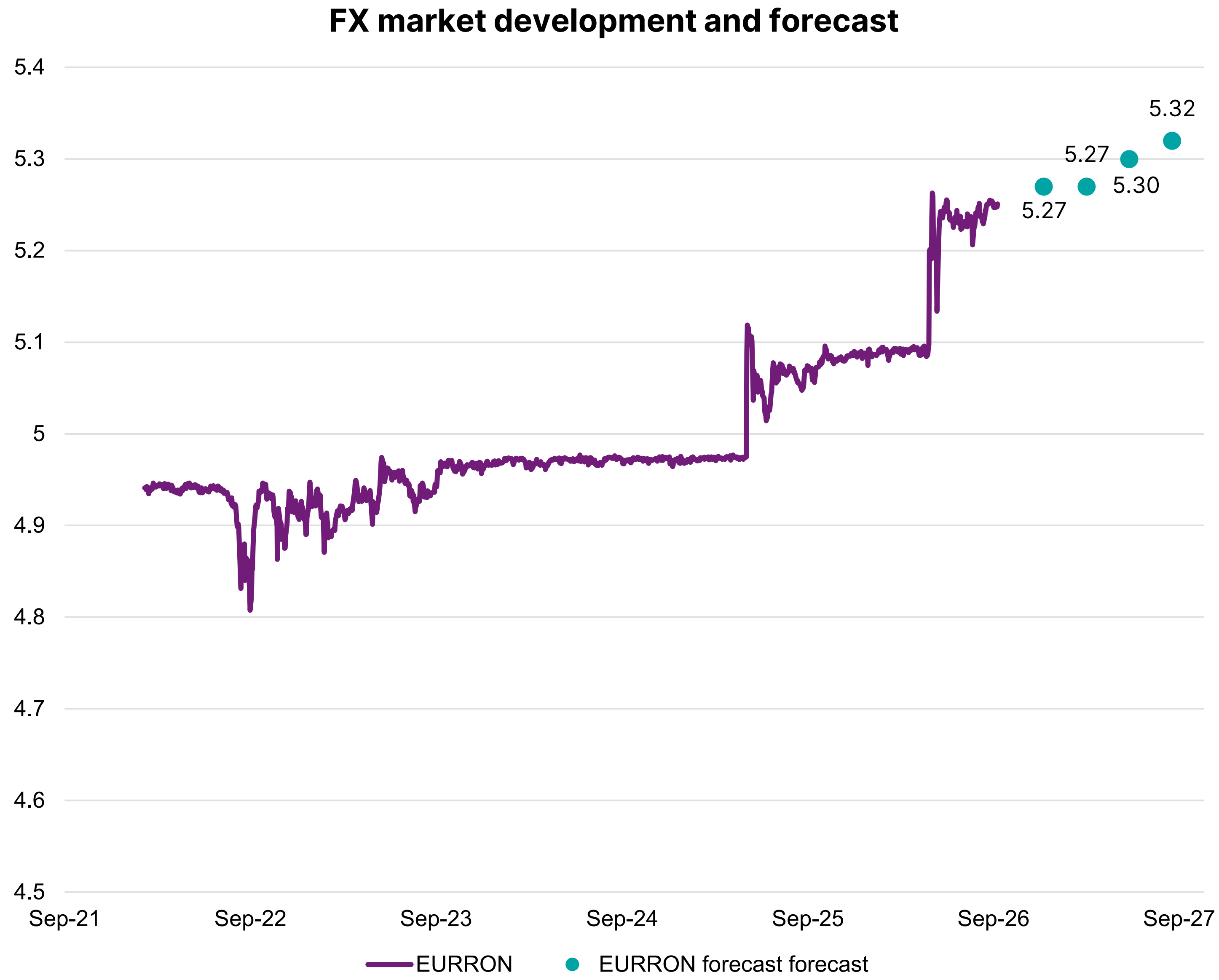
Favorable budget execution so far this year has acted as an anchor for RON sovereign yields in an otherwise volatile environment marked by geopolitical uncertainty and domestic political stalemate. Despite lingering political uncertainty, 10-year yields have stabilized jus above 7.0%. We expect 10-year yields to remain broadly stable around current levels through year-end, followed by a gradual downward trend in 2027, in line with the expected NBR policy path. The inauguration of a fully functioning government with a fiscal consolidation commitment could temporarily push yields lower. Fiscal outlook remains a key driver and the 2027 state budget bill should be closely scrutinized by market participants.

10Y yield development and forecast



Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research
September 15, 2026

FX market



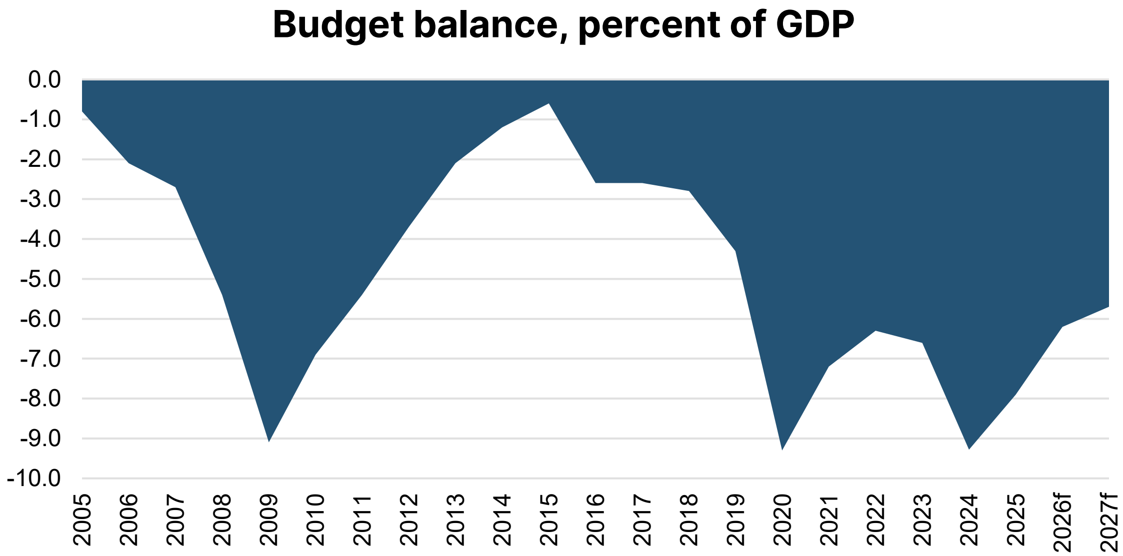
The EUR/RON exchange rate spiked amid political turmoil, briefly reaching a new all-time high just below 5.30 in early May. The pair has since stabilized. At the August press conference, the NBR governor restated that the EUR/RON is close to equilibrium at current levels, while noting that the central bank can tolerate larger flexibility given its substantial FX reserves. He stressed that FX stability hinges on fiscal consolidation and political stability.

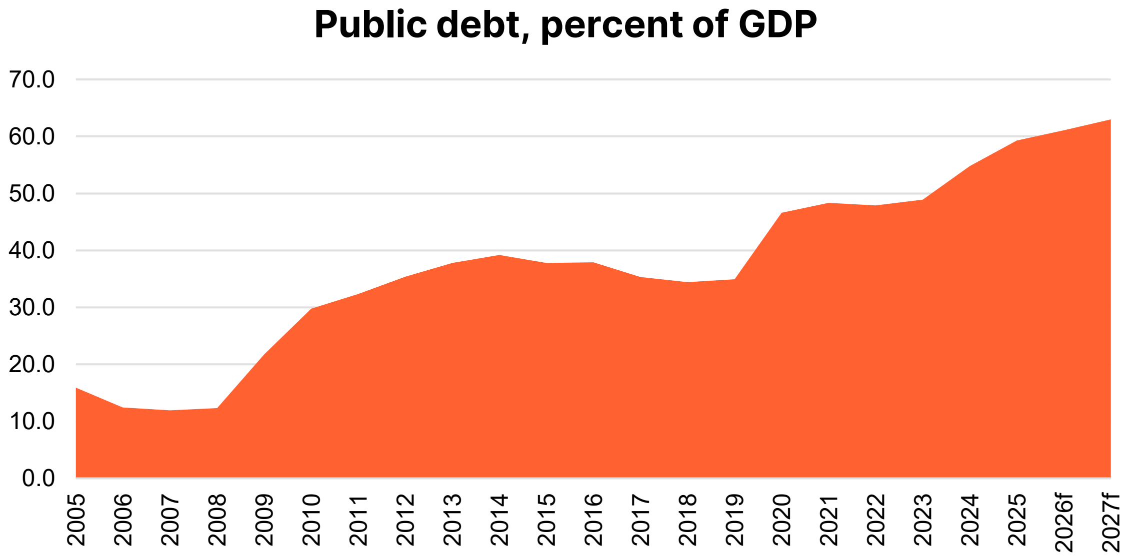
From a macroeconomic perspective, our models suggest the domestic currency remains somewhat overvalued at current levels, although the gap has narrowed significantly after the recent correction.

The FX pass-through to consumer prices is estimated at around 0.3 percentage points. Hence, it is a very important factor in the NBR reaction function.

Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research

Fiscal consolidation - most important topic in Romania





Romania closed 2025 with an ESA budget deficit of 7.9%, a significant improvement from 9.3% in 2024. The government targets a deficit of 6.2% for 2026 and, based on budget execution in the first seven months, the target appears well within reach. The adjustment package approved in August 2025 proved sufficient to realign the fiscal trajectory in 2026, although additional measures may be needed in 2027 and beyond if progress on tax collection and spending efficiency stalls. The incoming government is likely to adhere to the approved 2026 budget, but its medium-term fiscal agenda remains uncertain. Based on official statements, Romania will likely manage to absorb above 90% of the available RRF funds. The 6th and final payment request should be submitted by the end of September. A credible 2027 budget consistent with the consolidation plan agreed with the EC would be welcomed by both investors and rating agencies. Rating agencies continue to flag concerns about the political support required for medium-term fiscal adjustment. Romania has a negative outlook from all three major agencies and remains on the verge of non-investment-grade status. Fitch and Moody's recently affirmed Romania's investment-grade ratings but maintained their negative outlooks. S&P is scheduled to publish its review on October 2, when we expect a similar outcome. Assuming a gradual reduction in the deficit, the debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to continue rising and peak at around 68% in 2029.

Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research

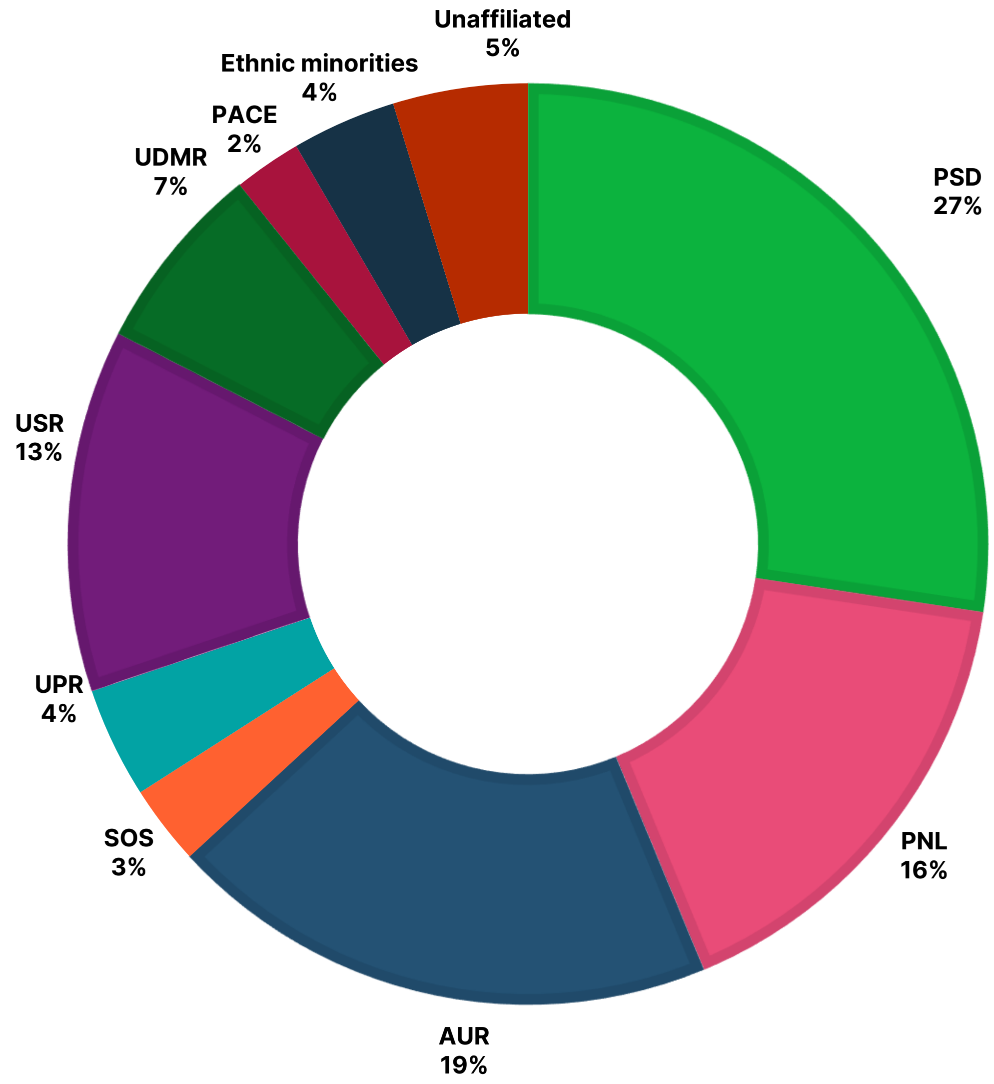
Political landscape

A no-confidence motion initiated by the Social Democrats (PSD), far-right (AUR), and several smaller parliamentary factions passed in early May. Since then, the political backdrop has remained deadlocked.

The president is expected to designate a new PM as the decision-making process appears to be blocked, affecting the government function outside of the approved budget envelope and increasing the social anxiety. The most likely scenario seems a PSD-led government with an 'independent' Prime Minister. The new government would face a difficult task to achieve the medium-term fiscal consolidation targets with a minimum growth-negative impact. A government without a stable majority support in the Parliament is prone to political concessions.

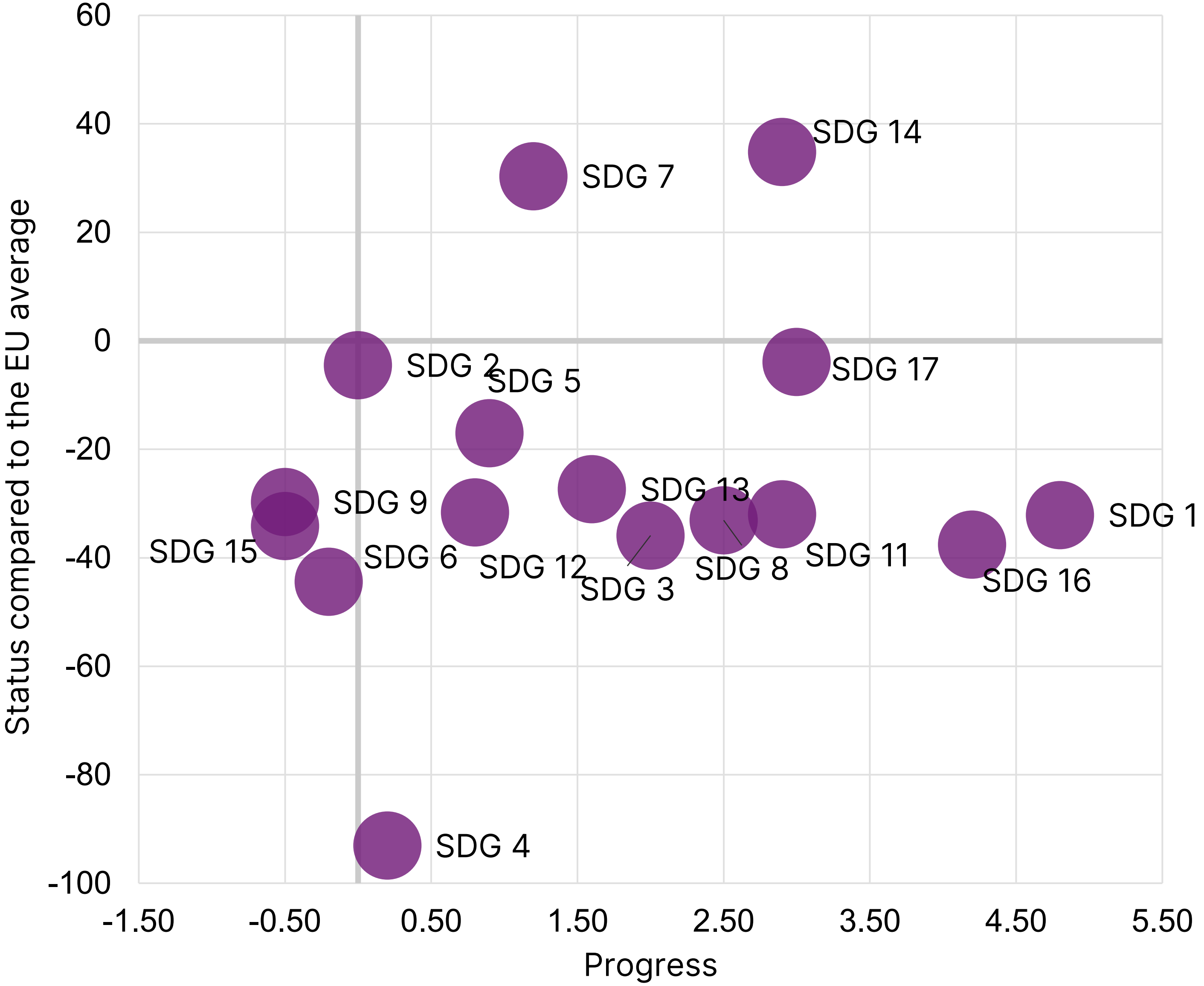
Moody's warned in an issuer comment in August that the failure to reach a political agreement on the public wage law 'has negative consequences for Romania's sovereign credit profile' and that the importance of the 2027 budget bill for the credit rating increased. The next rating review is due October 2 from S&P.

Parliament structure



Source: Romanian Parliament, Erste Group Research

Social Development Goals



Romania performs better than the EU average and is making progress in two Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) areas: Affordable and Clean Energy and Life Below Water. While it shows improvement across most other SDGs, it starts from a weaker position relative to the EU. Notable gains have been recorded in Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, No Poverty, Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Partnership for the Goals, where its performance stands out positively. By contrast, Clean Water and Sanitation, Life on Land, and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure remain areas of weak performance, with outcomes below the EU average and diverging from SDG targets. Quality Education also remains a key challenge, although some modest progress has been made. Closing these gaps will require Romania to implement substantial reforms across its economy and society, particularly in the context of its OECD accession efforts.

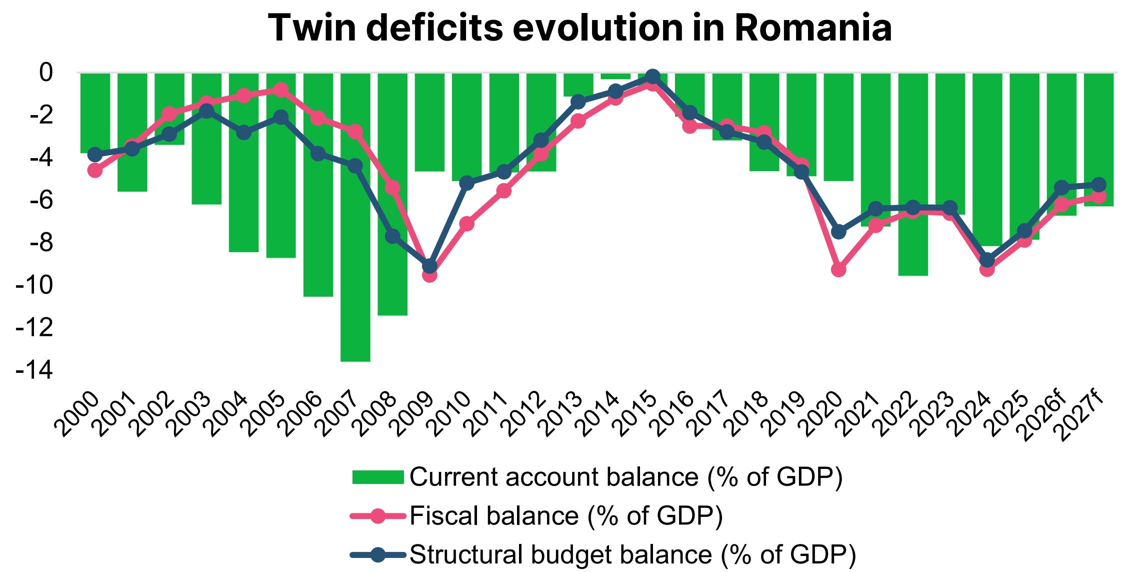
Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research

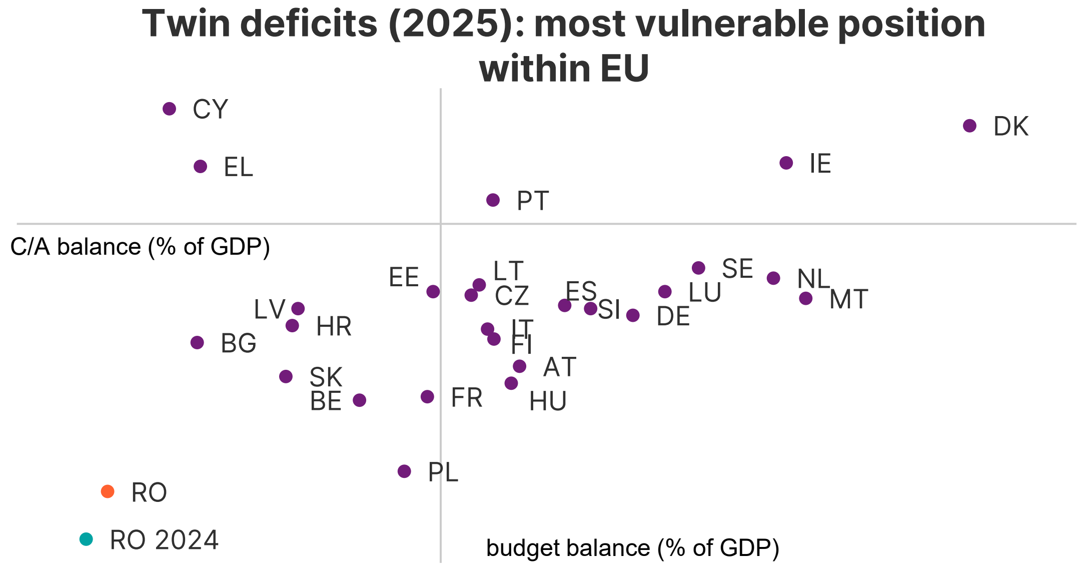
Romania’s never-ending twin deficits problem

From a macroeconomic perspective, one of Romania’s biggest problems remains the fiscal and current account deficits. Fiscal consolidation has been well underway over the past year, but it remains to be seen how much of it will be reflected in the correction of external shortfall. Empirical evidence suggests that a 1pp fiscal consolidation translates into about a 0.3pp contemporaneous adjustment in the current account.

ERSTE Group

Romania’s twin deficits: clear EU outlier under increasing scrutiny from rating agencies





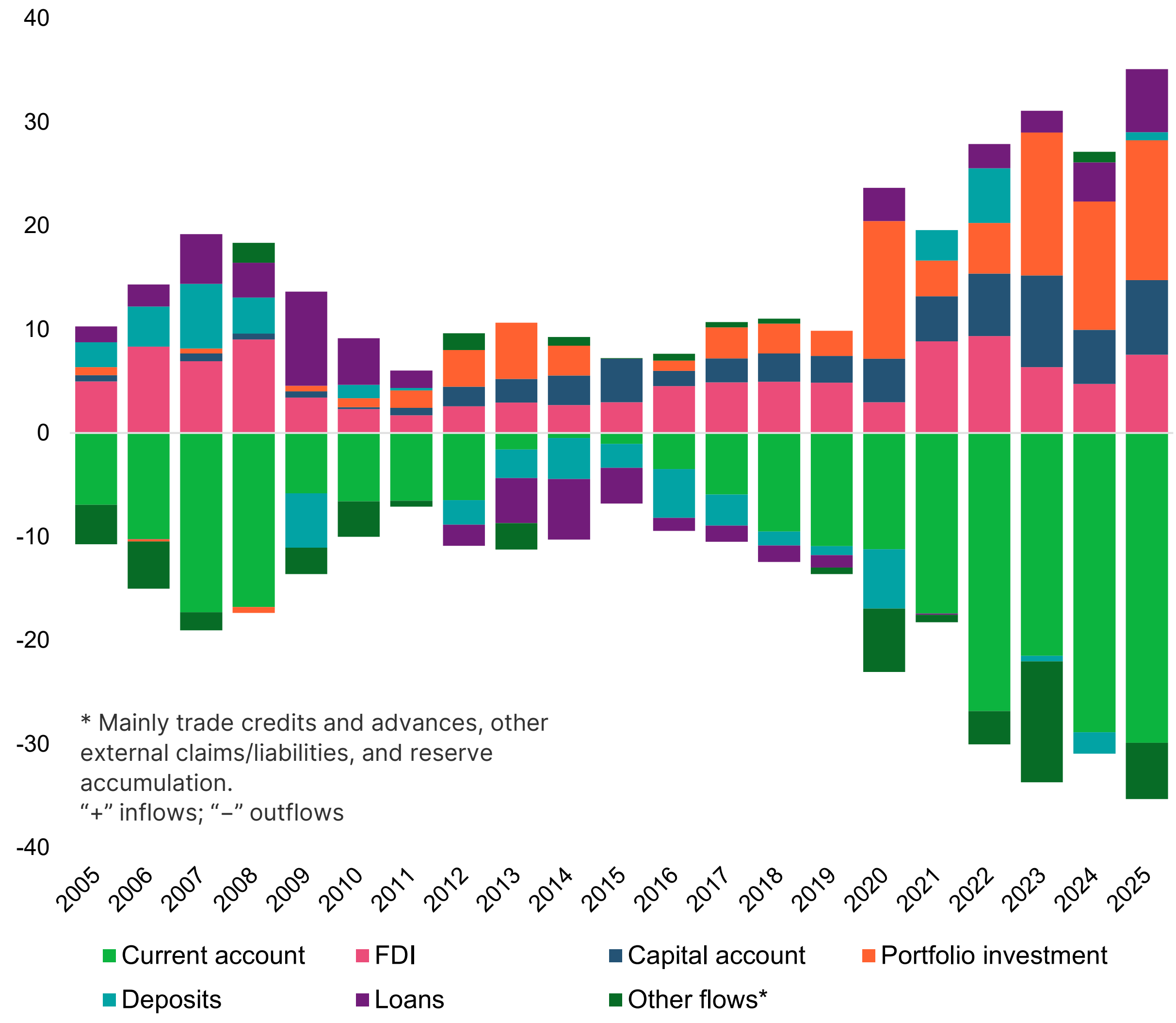
Romania faces a persistent twin deficits problem, characterized by a large budget gap alongside a significant current account deficit. Expansionary fiscal policies, poor tax collection, and strong domestic consumption have increased public borrowing and import demand, widening both imbalances. This situation makes the economy more vulnerable to higher financing costs, exchange-rate pressures, and shifts in investor confidence, highlighting the need for credible fiscal consolidation and measures to improve productivity and export competitiveness.

Romania stands out as a clear outlier within the European Union in terms of the size and persistence of its fiscal and external imbalances. This divergence has attracted increasing attention from the major rating agencies, which are closely monitoring the evolution of the budget gap, current account deficit, increasing external debt, public debt dynamics, and the credibility of the fiscal adjustment process. A failure to deliver a convincing consolidation path could therefore put additional pressure on Romania’s sovereign rating.

Source: AMECO, BCR Research

Romania’s CAD remains large as financing quality weakens

Financing of the Current Account Deficit (balance, EUR bln.)



Source: NBR, BCR Research

Romania’s current account deficit remained large in 2025, at around 7.9% of GDP, despite a slight improvement relative to the size of the economy. The financing mix became more favorable as foreign direct investment and capital-account inflows strengthened. Nevertheless, portfolio investment remained the largest source of financing, while borrowing also increased, leaving the external position dependent on continued access to market-based and debt-generating funding. This composition has important implications for external resilience. Capital-account inflows, largely associated with EU funds, provide valuable non-debt financing but depend on absorption capacity and cannot be treated as permanent. FDI is generally more stable, particularly when it takes the form of equity and reinvested earnings, whereas portfolio flows are more sensitive to changes in sovereign risk premia, interest rates and investor sentiment. Greater reliance on loans also contributes to external debt accumulation and raises future servicing and refinancing requirements. Developments in the first half of 2026 point to some deterioration in financing quality: the current account deficit was approximately 5% higher than a year earlier in nominal terms, while FDI weakened sharply. If this pattern persists, Romania may need to rely more heavily on portfolio inflows and borrowing to cover its external financing requirement.

Quantifying relation between twin deficits

The results point to a clear relationship between fiscal policy and the external balance in the CEE economies included in the sample. A stronger cyclically adjusted budget balance is consistently associated with a stronger current account balance, with coefficients ranging from 0.13 to 0.34 across specifications. This supports the existence of a “twin deficits” relationship, whereby fiscal consolidation can contribute to external rebalancing. The lagged fiscal balance is also positive where included, suggesting that the impact of fiscal policy may extend beyond the current year. At the same time, the current account itself is highly persistent, with a lagged coefficient of around 0.5, indicating that external imbalances tend to carry over from one year to the next. Domestic demand factors also matter. Higher real GDP growth is associated with a weaker current account balance, likely reflecting stronger import demand during periods of rapid economic expansion. Similarly, higher private-sector investment is negatively associated with the current account, consistent with greater reliance on foreign savings and imported capital goods. Changes in the ULC-deflated REER also enter with a negative sign, suggesting that weaker cost competitiveness is linked to a deterioration in the external balance. Overall, the main relationships are robust across specifications, with the models explaining 59–76% of the variation in the current account balance.

Explanatory variables / Dependent variable: Current account balance	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Current account balance (t-1)			0.52***	0.51***
			[7.94]	[7.82]
Cyclically adjusted budget balance	0.27***	0.34***	0.21***	0.13*
	[7.2]	[3.09]	[3.44]	[1.73]
Cyclically adjusted budget balance (t-1)	0.29*			0.16*
	[1.91]			[1.86]
Δ Real GDP	-0.29***	-0.27***	-0.37***	-0.39***
	[-3.93]	[-3.67]	[-5.23]	[-5.95]
Δ REER (ULC deflated)	-0.09***	-0.09***	-0.05*	-0.46*
	[-4.7]	[-3.94]	[-1.93]	[-1.85]
GFCF – private sector	-0.66***	-0.62***	-0.28***	-0.28***
	[-6.99]	[-7.2]	[-3.39]	[-3.27]
R^2	0.65	0.59	0.75	0.76

*) p<0.10; **) p<0.05; ***) p<0.01; estimation sample 2000-2025; countries included in the panel: RO, HU, PL, CZ, EE, LV, LT,SI, SK

Note: Δ denotes the annual change in a given variable. t-statistics are reported in brackets.

Source: BCR Research estimates based on AMECO and Eurostat data.

The estimated equation takes the following form:

$$CA_{it} = \beta_1 \times \text{Cyclically adjusted budget balance}_{it} + \beta_2 \times \text{control variables}_{it} + \theta_t + \delta_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where:

CA_{it}– the **current account balance** (as a share of GDP) of country i in year t;

Cyclically adjusted budget balance$_{it}$– the **cyclically adjusted budget balance** (as a share of GDP) of country i in year t; where applicable, in some specifications this variable and CA is also included with a **lag**

Control variables$_{it}$– depending on the specification, the following variables are used alternatively: (i) **real GDP growth**; (ii) the **change in the real effective exchange rate (REER)**, ULC deflated; and (iii) **gross fixed capital formation in the private sector** (as a share of GDP);

θ_t, δ_i– **time and country fixed effects**;

ε_{it}– the **error term**

Romania: Forecasts

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026f	2027f
Percent									
Real GDP growth	4.0	-3.6	5.6	4.2	2.3	0.9	0.7	-0.7	2.2
Private consumption growth	3.0	-3.7	7.4	5.5	2.4	5.7	0.5	-1.0	2.1
Fixed capital formation growth	14.9	-0.5	4.0	5.4	12.3	-2.5	3.4	6.7	3.5
Inflation	3.8	2.7	5.1	13.7	10.5	5.6	7.3	8.4	4.9
Unemployment rate	4.9	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	6.1	6.4	5.8
Percent of GDP									
Budget balance	-4.3	-9.3	-7.2	-6.3	-6.6	-9.3	-7.9	-6.2	-5.7
Public debt	35.0	46.6	48.3	47.9	48.9	54.8	59.3	61.1	63.0
Current account balance	-4.8	-5.1	-7.2	-9.6	-6.7	-8.2	-7.9	-6.8	-6.2
EURLCY	4.78	4.87	4.95	4.95	4.97	4.97	5.10	5.27	5.35
Central bank policy rate	2.50	1.50	1.75	6.75	7.00	6.50	6.50	6.50	5.25
3M interbank offer rate	3.2	2.0	3.0	7.6	6.2	5.9	6.1	5.9	4.9
2Y Yield	3.6	2.5	4.2	7.0	6.1	7.0	6.3	6.4	5.6
5Y Yield	3.9	2.6	4.8	7.8	6.2	7.2	6.7	6.7	5.9
10Y Yield	4.4	3.0	5.1	8.2	6.2	7.4	6.7	6.9	6.1

	4Q25	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26f	4Q26f	1Q27f	2Q27f	3Q27f	4Q27f
				***average otherwise end of period**					
Real GDP growth*	0.2	-1.2	-0.4	-1.3	0.2	2.1	0.8	2.4	3.6
Inflation	9.7	9.9	10.4	6.4	6.4	5.4	5.0	4.5	4.3
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.7
Central bank policy rate	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.25	5.75	5.25
EURLCY	5.10	5.10	5.24	5.26	5.27	5.27	5.30	5.32	5.35
10Y Yield	6.70	7.10	6.67	7.00	6.90	6.85	6.72	6.52	6.14

Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research

Romania: Country overview

Official EU language: Romanian

Capital: Bucharest

Geographical size: 238 398 km2

Population: 19 067 576

GDP per capita: ~EUR 20 000, below the EU average

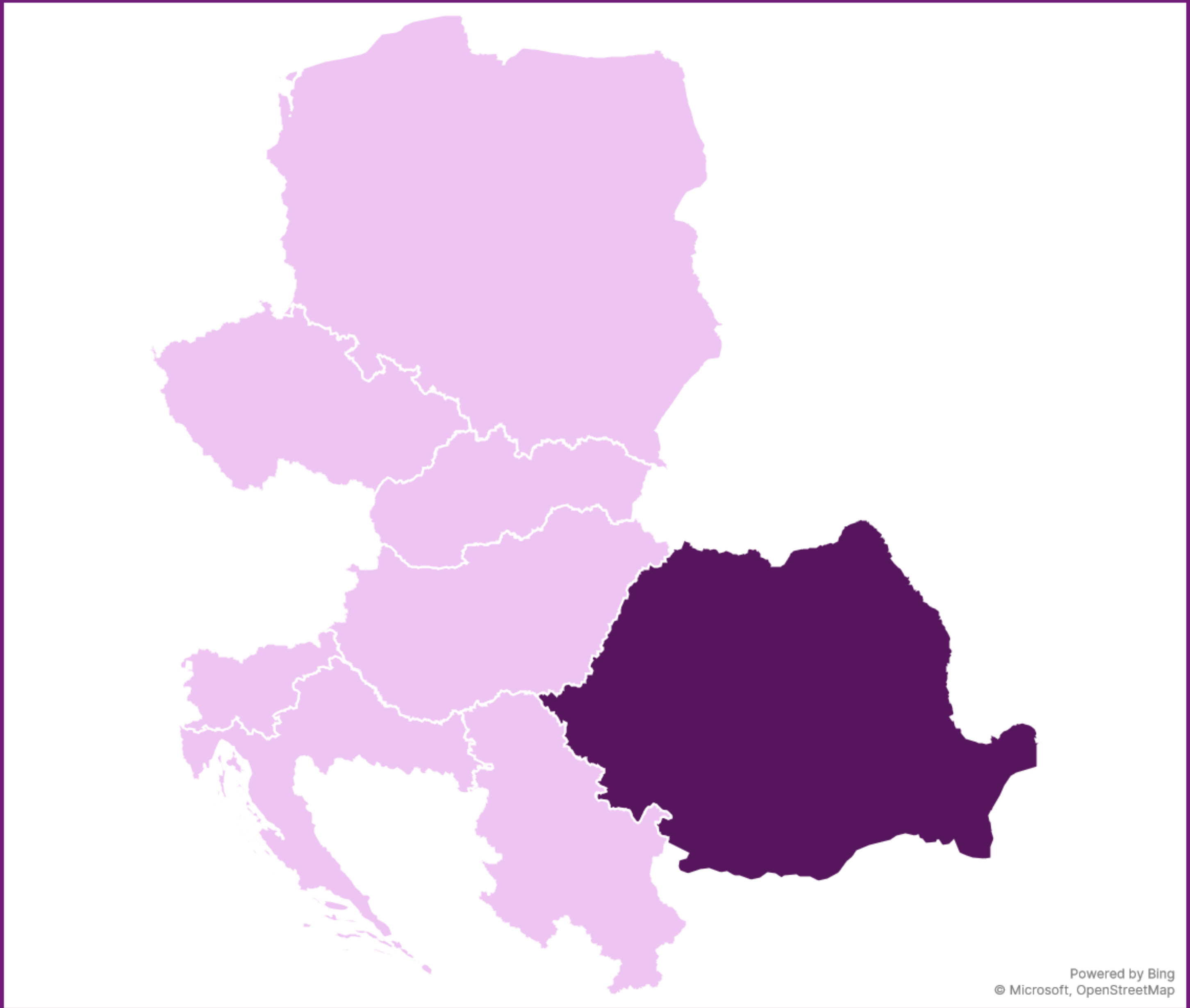
Currency: Romanian leu RON

Credit Ratings:

- **Moody's: Baa3, outlook negative**
- **S&P: BBB-, outlook negative**
- **Fitch: BBB-, outlook negative**

EU member state: since January 2007

Schengen: since January 2025



Source: Eurostat, Refinitiv, Erste Group Research
September 15, 2026

Follow #ErsteGroupResearch on LinkedIn

Ciprian Dascalu

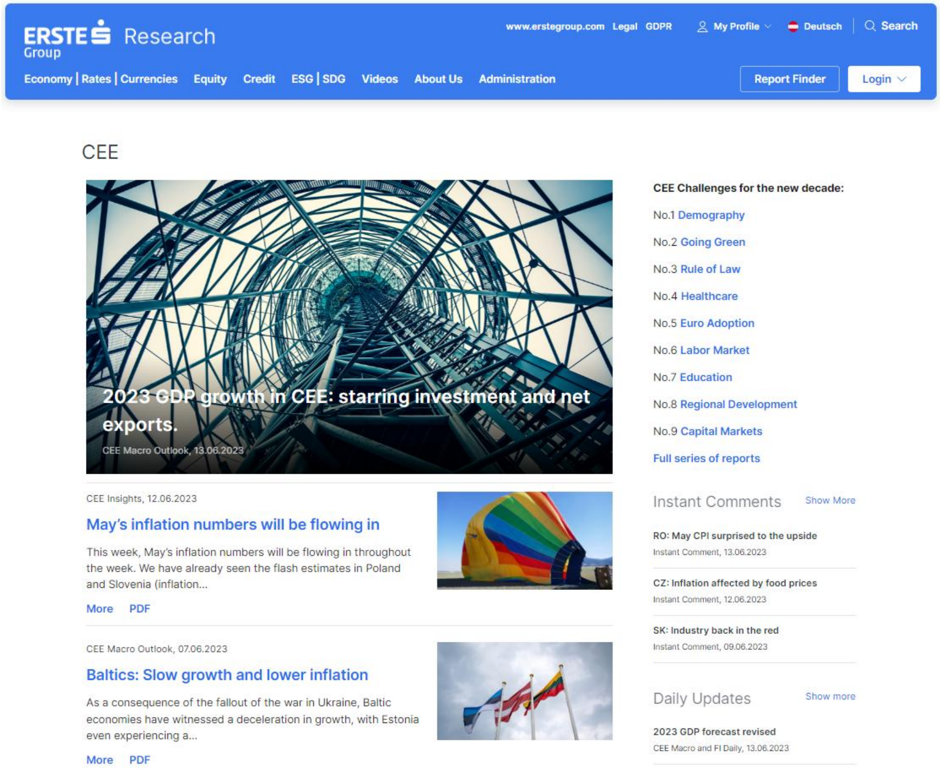
Vlad Nicolae Ionita

Give us feedback!

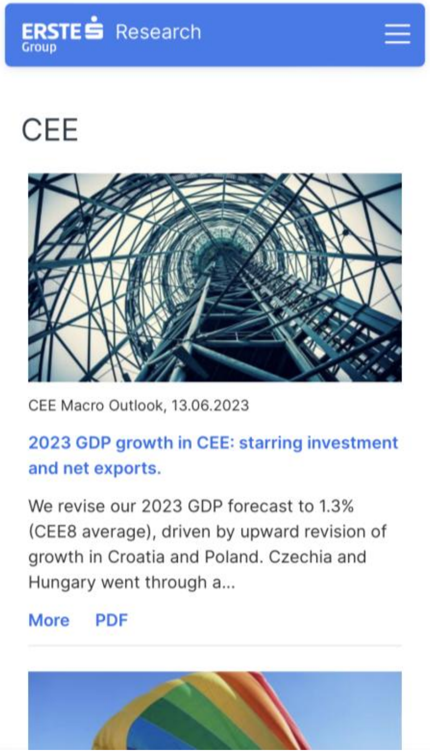
ERSTE Group

Macro reports & forecasts are publicly available on Erste Group‘s website and our mobile applications

Open in your **browser**



On your **mobile**



Scan our QR code

Visit our research page:
erstegroup.com/en/research

Contacts

Visit https://www.erstegroup.com/en/research

Erste Group Research (Vienna)

Fritz Mostböck, CEFA®, CESGA®
Head of Group Research
+43 5 0100 11902
friedrich.mostboeck@erstegroup.com

Juraj Kotian
Head of CEE Macro/ FI Research
+43 5 0100 17357
juraj.kotian@erstegroup.com

Henning Eßkuchen, CESGA®
Head of CEE Equity Research
+43 5 0100 19634
henning.esskuchen@erstegroup.com

Rainer Singer
Head of Major Markets & Credit Research
+43 5 0100 11909
rainer.singer@erstegroup.com

Local Research Offices

Bratislava
Slovenska Sporitelna
Head: Maria Valachyova
+421 (2) 4862 4158
valachyova.maria@slsp.sk

Budapest
Erste Bank Hungary
Head: Jozsef Miro
+36 (1) 235 5131
jozsef.miro@ersteinvestment.hu

Bucharest
Banca Comerciala Romana (BCR)
Head: Ciprian Dascalu
+40 3735 10 424
ciprian.dascalu@bcr.ro

Prague
Ceska Sporitelna
Head: David Navratil
+420 224 995 439
dnavratil@csas.cz

Warsaw
Erste Securities Polska / Erste Bank Polska
Heads: Piotr Bielski, Cezary Bernatek
+48 691 393 119, +48 22 257 5751
piotr.bielski@erste.pl
cezary.bernatek@erstegroup.com

Zagreb/ Belgrade
Erste Bank
Heads: Alen Kovac, Mladen Dodig
+385 72 37 1383, +381 1122 09178
akovac2@erstebank.com
mladen.dodig@erstebank.rs

Disclaimer

This publication was prepared by Erste Group Bank AG or any of its consolidated subsidiaries (together with consolidated subsidiaries "Erste Group") independently and objectively as general information. This publication serves interested investors as additional source of information and provides general information, information about product features or macroeconomic information without emphasizing product selling marketing statements. This publication does not constitute a marketing communication pursuant to Art. 36 (2) delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/565 as no direct buying incentives were included in this publication, which is of information character. This publication provides only other information without making any comment, value judgement or suggestion on its relevance to decisions which an investor may make and is therefore also no recommendation. Thus this publication does not constitute investment research pursuant to Art. 36 (1) delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/565. It has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and it is not subject to the prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research. The information only serves as non-binding and additional information and is based on the level of knowledge of the person in charge of drawing up the information on the respective date of its preparation. The content of the publication can be changed at any time without notice. This publication does not constitute or form part of, and should not be construed as, an offer, recommendation or invitation for a transaction in any financial instrument or connected financial instruments, and neither this publication nor anything contained herein shall form the basis of or be relied on in connection with or act as an inducement to enter into any contract or inclusion of a financial or connected financial instrument in a trading strategy. Information provided in this publication is based on publicly available sources which Erste Group considers as reliable, however, without verifying any such information by independent third persons. While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the facts stated herein are accurate and that the forecasts, opinions and expectations contained herein are fair and reasonable, Erste Group (including its representatives and employees) neither expressly nor tacitly makes any guarantee as to or assumes any liability for the up-to-dateness, completeness and correctness of the content of this publication. Erste Group may provide hyperlinks to websites of entities mentioned in this document. However, the inclusion of a link does not imply that Erste Group endorses, recommends or approves any material on the linked page or accessible from it. Neither a company of Erste Group nor any of its respective managing directors, supervisory board members, executive board members, directors, officers of other employees shall be in any way liable for any costs, losses or damages (including subsequent damages, indirect damages and loss of profit) howsoever arising from the use of or reliance on this publication. Any opinion, estimate or projection expressed in this publication reflects the current judgment of the author(s) on the date of publication of this document and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Erste Group. They are subject to change without prior notice. Erste Group has no obligation to update, modify or amend this publication or to otherwise notify a reader thereof in the event that any matter stated herein, or any opinion, projection, forecast or estimate set forth herein, changes or subsequently becomes inaccurate. The past performance of a financial or connected financial instrument is not indicative for future results. No assurance can be given that any financial instrument or connected financial instrument or issuer described herein would yield favorable investment results or that particular price levels may be reached. Forecasts in this publication are based on assumptions which are supported by objective data. However, the used forecasts are not indicative for future performance of financial instruments incl. connected financial instruments. Erste Group, principals or employees may have a long or short position or may transact in financial instrument(s) incl. connected financial instruments referred to herein or may trade in such financial instruments with other customers on a principal basis. Erste Group may act as a market maker in financial instruments, connected financial instruments or companies resp. issuers discussed herein and may also perform or seek to perform investment services for those companies resp. issuers. Erste Group may act upon or use the information or conclusion contained in this publication before it is distributed to other persons. This publication is subject to the copyright of Erste Group and may not be copied, distributed or partially or in total provided or transmitted to unauthorized recipients. By accepting this publication, a recipient hereof agrees to be bound by the foregoing restrictions.

Erste Group is not registered or certified as a credit agency in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on credit rating agencies (the Credit Rating Agencies Regulation). Any assessment of the issuers creditworthiness does not represent a credit rating pursuant to the Credit Rating Agencies Regulation. Interpretations and analysis of the current or future development of credit ratings are based upon existing credit rating documents only and shall not be considered as a credit rating itself.

Published by:

Erste Group Bank AG
Group Research
1100 Vienna, Austria, Am Belvedere 1
Head Office: Wien
Commercial Register No: FN 33209m
Commercial Court of Vienna

Erste Group Website: www.erstegroup.com