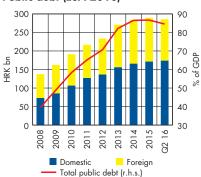




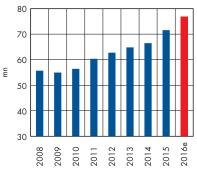
Closer to a Stable Government

Public debt (ESA 2010)



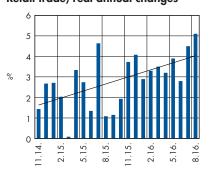
Sources: CNB, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Number of tourist nights



Sources: CBS, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Retail trade, real annual changes



Sources: CBS, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

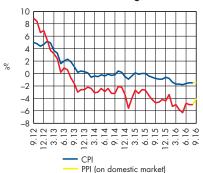
Last week was full of positive economic releases, but also an indication that this week Croatia will get a **new Government** with a stable majority in the Parliament. Namely, the HDZ announced that after a month of negotiation with MOST and other smaller political parties and minorities they have a stable majority in the Parliament (at least 85 MPs out of 151). The latter is particularly important in light of the much needed continuation of fiscal consolidation and structural changes, which could be carried out in the expansion phase of business cycle more smoothly. We can expect that Mr. Plenkovic (the HDZ leader) will be the new Prime Minister, while some of the Ministers, like the one of Finance, will remain on their position thus ensuring that the focus on reforms and growth-friendly fiscal continuation is maintained.

The latest CNB data confirmed improved fiscal metrics. Strongly supported by economic recovery on the one side and political deadlock on the other (as revenue expansion was capped), public debt stabilized while general government deficit dropped below 3% in H12016. At the end of June public debt decreased for over HRK 3.9 bn (-1.3% ytd), primarily as a result of lower foreign liabilities. With the amount of HRK 285.7 bn the share of public debt in GDP fell to 84.5% (2.2 pp lower in comparison to the end of 2015). A stronger inflow of budget funds through tax revenues is affected by tourism especially, which in the first eight months reported an 8.2%yoy increase of nights, while the number of arrivals rose by 7.1%yoy. Given the structure of accommodation facilities (during the peak tourist season half of total accommodation facilities refer to private accommodation), disposable income of households increased. Therefore, we were not surprised with the latest real retail trade turnover figure for August, which delivered 5.1% yoy growth. This is the biggest annual rate since the last quarter of 2007. Towards the end of the year the positive trends are expected to continue, supported also by the deflationary environment, which exerts a positive impact on disposable income and personal consumption, as the biggest component of GDP. The latter is expected to be confirmed by the upcoming CPI and PPI data for September, which could continue with a series of negative growth rates at 1.6%yoy and 4.0%yoy respectively. However, amid the improved household consumption and tourism over the whole 2016, imports also increased thus mitigating the positive impact of exports of services and goods. Therefore, structural weaknesses, low competitiveness and, consequently, high import dependence are still our reality and should not be ignored. These weaknesses can be inferred clearly from the recent merchandise trade data for the first seven months. Import of goods grew stronger than exports (2.7%yoy vs. 2.4%yoy) thus deepening the trade balance deficit.

As for **financial markets**, it was a rather quiet week. Daily HRK liquidity surplus remained reduced at around HRK 3.5bn but without any stronger impact, especially on the longer-end of the curve. As we see a return of HRK liquidity after the pension pay-outs, we do not exclude even small downward pressures on the **MM rates** (up to 3 months).

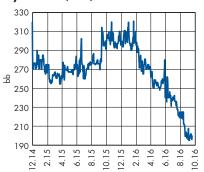


CPI and PPI, annual changes



Sources: CBS, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

5-year CDS (USD)



Sources: Bloomberg, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

EUR/HRK remained stable, hovering around 7.50 kuna per euro. Seasonal mild depreciation pressures on the domestic currency are expected to continue, thus in the week ahead EUR/HRK could oscillate within the range 7.50 – 7.53 kuna per euro. Coming closer to the end of year, EUR/HRK should face a slight upward movement supported by import activity. Still, we see some risks that the forecasted level of 7.60 might fall short. Namely, HRK continues to find support in FCY inflows from prolonged tourist season,, demand for HRK loans, solid performance in fiscal and C/A outcome and eventually in the banks' net positive international position.

Lack of **bonds**, and the consequent low liquidity, should be the main feature of the local bond market, even until the end of the year. Prices will, therefore, remain relatively high and yields low, supported further by ample HRK surplus. The new sovereign bond issuance should not be expected before the first quarter of 2017, at least according to the rhetoric of the current and future Minister of Finance. But then, due to the relatively demanding (re)financing needs in H12017 (pure HRK bond and USD Eurobond are maturing in the amount of HRK 5.5bn and USD 1.5bn, respectively), we expect an active state role on the primary market, both on the local and foreign financial markets. Eurobonds are likely to follow regional developments, whereby the Croatian risk premium is now supported by economic recovery, improved fiscal metrics and entry into a more stable political environment.

Economic analyst: Zrinka Živković Matijević (+385 61 74 338), Raiffeisenbank Austria d.d., Zagreb

Croatia

	2014	2015	2016e	2017f	2018f
Nominal GDP (EUR bn)	43.0	43.9	45.1	46.8	48.5
Real GDP (% yoy)	-0.4	1.6	2.3	2.5	2.0
GDP per capita (EUR at PPP)	16,100	16,900	17,100	17,400	17,700
Household consumption (real, % yoy)	-0.7	1.2	2.8	2.5	1.5
Gross fixed capital formation (real, % yoy)	-3.6	1.6	3.8	4.5	3.5
Industrial output (% yoy)	1.2	2.6	4.8	4.2	3.8
Producer prices (avg, % yoy)	-2.7	-3.9	-4.8	0.5	2.4
Consumer prices (avg, % yoy)	-0.2	-0.5	-1.2	1.3	2.2
Unemployment rate (avg, %)	17.3	16.3	14.9	14.2	13.7
General budget balance (% of GDP)	-5.5	-3.2	-2.7	-2.9	-2.8
Public debt (% of GDP)	86.5	86.7	86.5	85.8	85.2
Trade balance (% of GDP)	-14.8	-14.9	-14.3	-13.6	-12.5
Current account balance (% of GDP)	0.9	5.2	2.0	2.1	2.1
Net foreign direct investment (% of GDP)	6.7	0.3	3.3	4.1	3.7
Official FX reserves (EUR bn)	12.7	13.8	13.5	13.0	13.6
Gross foreign debt (% of GDP)	108.5	103.7	97.8	96.2	95.1
EUR/LCY (eop)	7.66	7.64	7.60	7.65	7.65

Data as of 3 October 2016 9:06 AM CEST Source: Thomson Reuters, RBI/Raiffeisen RESEARCH



New contract for ĐĐ Holding

Trading comment

Stock indices of the Zagreb Stock Exchange CROBEX and CROBEX10 continued with positive momentum and closed the week at 2.6% and 3.2%, respectively. Regular shares turnover was somewhat lower, HRK 9 mn on average daily. Among CROBEX constituents, shares of Atlantska plovidba posted the highest increase during the week while shares of Belje had the sharpest drop. Between sector indices the best performance was recorded by index of construction shares and the index of transport shares lost the most. Shares of Valamar Riviera recorded the highest turnover followed by shares of Hrvatski Telekom and preferred shares of Adris. Leading regional indices had mostly positive performance led by Hungarian BUX.

Company news

Duro Daković Special Vehicles, the member company of **DD Holding**, contracted with a French client production of special cistern wagons worth HRK 54 mn. The wagons are planned to be delivered at the end of first and during the second quarter of 2017. ACI informed about business results in first 8 months of 2016. The company realized revenues in the amount of HRK 135 mn, out of which daily berths revenues amounted to HRK 43 mn (+9% yoy) while annual berths revenues amounted to HRK 64.8 mn and montly berths HRK 6.3 mn.

In this week

We expect continuation of the positive sentiment on ZSE.

Financial analyst Ana Turudić

ĐĐ Holding (3 m.)



Sources: ZSE, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Adris Grupa (P) (3 m.)



1w %

0.66

0.53

0.03

0.00

-0.24

-0.73

-0.76

-1.23

-1.38

-2.67-5.19

Price on* 7.10.2016

47

381

800

24

124

521

575

429 73

26

3

Sources: ZSE, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Market performance

Index	lw %	ytd %	Value on*
			7.10.2016
BUX (HU)	3.05	19.1 <i>7</i>	28,507
WIG30 (PL)	2.63	-2.26	2,029
CROBEX (HR)	2.61	1 <i>7</i> .90	1,992
PX (CZ)	2.56	<i>–</i> 7.38	886
NTX (SEE,CE,EE)	1.99	-1.69	943
SOFIX (BG)	0.58	10.11	508
MICEX (RU)	0.11	12.42	1,980
BELEX15 (RS)	0.00	-1.21	636
BETI (RO)	-0.01	-0.97	6,936
ATX (AT)	-0.48	-0.13	2,394
SBITOP (SI)	-0.58	5.92	737
SASX10 (BH)	-4.29	-0.96	692

^{*} as at 16:30 CET. Source: Bloomberg, Economic RESEARCH/RBA * as at 16:30 CET. Source: ZSE, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Top/Flop - CROBEX index

Share	lw %	Price on*	Share
		7.10.2016	
Atlantska Plov.	11.04	200	Luka Rijeka
Adris Grupa (P)	9.71	480	Podravka
Zagrebačka Banka	6.00	52	Imperial
Dalekovod	5.82	14	Sunčani Hvar
Ledo	4.65	11,250	Uljanik Plovidba
Valamar Riviera	2.94	35	OT-Optima T.
AD Plastik	2.56	140	Kraš
Končar El	1.92	690	Luka Ploče
Ericsson NT	1.58	1,160	Arenaturist
Đuro Đaković H.	1.48	52	Tankerska NG
Atlantic Grupa	1.09	879	Belje
HT	0.80	165	



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Abbreviations

bp - basis points GDP - Gross Domestic Product kn, HRK - Kuna CERP – Restructuring and Sale Center HBOR - Croatian Bank for MF - Ministry of Finance DZS - Croatian Bureau of Statistics Reconstruction and RBA – Raiffeisenbank Austria d.d. ECB - European Central Bank Development USD - Dollar EUR – Euro HNB – Croatian National Bank FED - Federal Reserve System IMF - International Monetary Fund

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Investment banking services	0	2	0	0	0	0
% all IB services	0%	29%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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