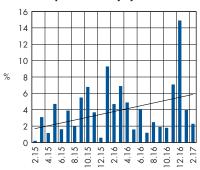


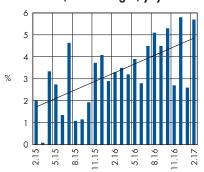
C/A Surplus fourth year in a row

Industrial production, yoy



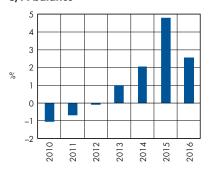
Sources: CBS, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Retail trade, real changes, yoy



Sources: CBS, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

C/A balance*



* revised statistics adjusted with EU standards Sources: CNB, Economic RESEARCH/RBA The week behind us was highlighted by a few important macroeconomic releases. As expected, the February **industrial production** continued with solid growth rates (2.3%yoy) thanks to stable foreign demand but also supported by recovery in domestic demand. Encouraging trends are supposed to continue and the main drivers of growth could come from energy and capital goods. The expected positive trend in rising foreign demand could continue during the months ahead thus supporting the Croatian exports of goods as well. Therefore, we anticipate that the upcoming data on exports of goods could continue with solid annual rates thus increasing the coverage of imports by exports above the 60% level. Nevertheless, the still persistent imports dependence is supposed to keep the relatively high deficit in **merchandise balance**.

Preliminary **retail trade** data point to a continuation of favourable trends: in February real annual retail trade growth rate accelerated to 5.7% thus confirming a positive trend that has been lasting since September 2014. Moreover, the forthcoming tourism figures (scheduled for release on Friday) could confirm excellent results in terms of the number of tourist arrivals and nights in February. In anticipation of the Easter holidays, we expect the tourist preseason to bring new record highs thus contributing to a better retail trade outcome and higher consumer optimism. A positive influence will also come from the new tax changes and increase in disposable income, which will be channelled through higher consumption partly. On the other hand, further real retail trade growth is expected to be mitigated by the inflation rate returning to a slightly positive territory.

A multiplicative positive contribution from tourism was also confirmed by the recently published data on **balance of payments**. According to the revised statistics adjusted with EU standards, for the whole 2016 a surplus in the current account (fourth year in a row) amounted to EUR 1,169 bn (2,6% of GDP). A deterioration recorded in the goods account, caused by a stronger growth of imports and better results of foreign companies (which thus increase expenses on the primary income account), were softened by an expected increase in the surplus on the services account. FCY receipts from tourism exceeded EUR 8,6 bn for 2016 (+8.5% yoy), which is nominally an all-time high, while in 2017 we expect the positive trends to continue, but at a more moderate pace.

As regards the **money market**, the persistent high daily excess of liquidity (above HRK 17 bn) keeps interest rates low. Therefore, in such circumstances, we were not surprised by the zero interest among banks in the regular weekly reverse repo auction. On the local **bond market**, the trading volume increased and prices mostly recorded a drop on the weekly level, so we expect uncertainties on the market could continue due to the situation related to the Agrokor concern.

As for the **FX market**, after somewhat more pronounced depreciation pressures on the domestic currency (mostly driven by a higher FCY demand by the corporate and banking sectors), we expect a calmer week with EUR/HRK trading range between 7.43–7.46 kuna per euro.

Tomislava Ujević



CROBEX nosedived 5.9%

Viadukt (3 m)



Sources: ZSE, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Ledo (3 m)



Sources: ZSE, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Trading comment

Equity indices of Zagreb Stock Exchange posted a strong plunge and CROBEX lost 5.9% wow. Weekly losses were also posted by all sector indices, led by CROBEXnutris. The turnovers were much higher than in the week before, on average HRK 38 mn daily. **Ledo** was the most traded share with total turnover of HRK 43 mn and a weekly slump of almost 30%. Among CROBEX constituents **Viadukt** lost as much as 47% after the news on account blockade was announced, while **Atlantska Plovidba** and **Luka Ploče** were the only shares with a weekly gain. Regional equity indices had mostly negative performance on a weekly level.

Company news

Tehnika informed about new contract related to construction of commercial buildings in Sweden. The value of the contract was not disclosed. **Liburnia Riviera Hoteli** announced the business plan for the period from 2016 to 2020. The investments related to upgrade of capacities are planned in the amount of HRK 289.2 mn with the EBITDA margin target of 42.8% in 2020e. Moreover, the management says that key requirement for the realisation of the plan is the appropriate amendment of the current spatial plans documentation in the area where certain hotels are situated.

In this week

The movements on ZSE are likely to be influenced by news related to crisis in Agrokor.

Ana Turudić

Market performance

marker performance							
Index	lw %	ytd %	Value on*				
			31.3.2017				
BETI (RO)	1.08	13.86	8,067				
ATX (AT)	0.12	8.19	2,833				
PX (CZ)	-0.01	6.60	982				
NTX (SEE,CE,EE)	-0.72	10.17	1,115				
SOFIX (BG)	-0.88	8.11	634				
BUX (HU)	-1.24	-0.94	31,701				
SASX10 (BH)	-1.73	-11.47	611				
WIG30 (PL)	-1.78	12.86	2,532				
BELEX15 (RS)	-1.82	2.11	733				
MICEX (RU)	-1.95	-10.42	2,000				
SBITOP (SI)	-2.15	7.96	775				
CROBEX (HR) * as at 16:30 CET.	-5.87	-0.30	1,989				

Source: Bloomberg, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Top/Flop - CROBEX index

Share	lw %	Price on*	Share	lw %	Price on*
		31.3.2017			31.3.2017
Atlantska Plov.	4.53	415	Dalekovod	-4.86	23
Luka Ploče	1.76	550	Maistra	-5.12	296
Petrokemija	0.00	15	Ingra	-6.96	4
HT	-0.41	174	Zagrebačka Banka	<i>-7</i> .19	60
Končar El	-1.25	790	OT-Optima T.	-8.16	3
Podravka	-1.70	359	Atlantic Grupa	-8.99	810
Valamar Riviera	-1.83	43	Kraš	-9.61	470
Ericsson NT	-2.57	1,364	Vupik	-9.71	34
Uljanik Plovidba	-2.75	177	Đuro Đaković Grupa	-13.3 <i>7</i>	39
Arenaturist	-3.00	485	Belje	-16.96	17
Zagrebačka burza	-3.22	18	Ledo	-29.86	5,120
AD Plastik	-3.61	155	Viadukt	-47.10	164
Adris Grupa (P)	-3.72	471			

* as at 16:30 CET.

Source: ZSE, Economic RESEARCH/RBA



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Abbreviations

bp - basis points HBOR - Croatian Bank for - percentage points CERP – Restructuring and Sale Center Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 – quarters Reconstruction and DZS - Croatian Bureau of Statistics Development RBA – Raiffeisenbank Austria d.d. ECB – European Central Bank HNB - Croatian National Bank USD - Dollar EUR – Euro FED – Federal Reserve System IMF - International Monetary Fund yoy - year-on-year kn, HRK - Kuna GDP - Gross Domestic Product MF - Ministry of Finance

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"Hold": for stocks for which we expect a positive return up to 15% (up to 20% for stocks with high volatility risk / up to 10% for stocks with low volatility risk) over next 12 months.

"Reduce": expected negative return up to -10% over next 12 months.

"Sell": for stock with expected negative return by more than -10% u over next 12 months.

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	Buy	Hold	Reduce	Sell	Suspended	Under review
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% of all recommendations	0%	86%	14%	0%	0%	0%
Investment banking services	0	1	0	0	0	0
% all IB services	0%	29%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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