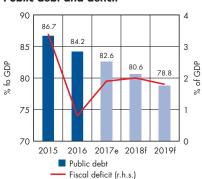
June 19th, 2017

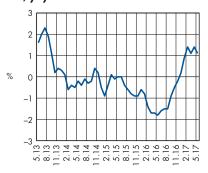


Public debt and deficit



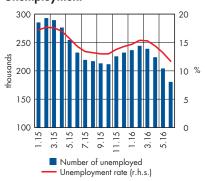
Sources: CNB, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

CPI, yoy



Sources: CBS, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Unemployment



Sources: CBS, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Officially out of Excessive Deficit Procedure

After Croatia avoided the snap elections with successful Government reshuffling (but with a really slim majority) and Agrokor satisfied its (re)financing needs by receiving a credit line from the local and international financial institutions, it could be said that the situation calmed down (at least for now). Although the Government of PM Plenkovic will survive, we obviously have to grow accustomed to a new political environment in Croatia that could be described as political volatility. Still, this would not be a problem if the business environment was characterized by a strong rule of law. Thus, it is not known how much and to what extent the Government stability will affect the strengthening of institutions and the implementation of all the crucial reforms needed for sustainable growth, development and smooth business.

The positive but widely expected news came from the Council of the EU who accepted the EC recommendation to abrogate the **Excessive Deficit Procedure** (EDP) for Croatia as it has brought budget deficit to 0.8% of GDP in 2016 while the public debt fell for the first time in eight years by, 2.5 pp to 84.2% of GDP. Croatia had been in the EDP since January 2014, when the EU Council gave it until the end of 2016 to cut the budget deficit to 2.7%.

Although the fiscal statistics for the first months of 2017 are missing, the continuation of positive economic indicators suggests that revenues should be at least consistent with the planned figures. In terms of 2017 fiscal forecast we stick to our cautious stance and expect fiscal deficit to deepen this year, mainly due to the increase on the expenditure side. Still, it should remain at levels below 2% of GDP, with the surplus in primary balance for the third year in a row. Therefore, a further decline of public debt to GDP ratio might be expected.

Although public finances seem to be improved significantly, in the Spring forecast the EC warned that the structural balance is forecast to deteriorate in 2017, and again in 2018 thus pointing to the vulnerability of public finances and the necessity to continue with reforms in the public sector (administration, education, health, etc.).

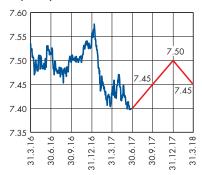
In terms of economic releases, it was a very poor week and only the consumer price index, released at the end of the week, is worth mentioning. As expected, the **CPI figures** confirmed the return of (imported) inflation, marking the sixth consecutive month of the positive growth rate. However, the reported figures of 1.1% yoy fell below expectations whereas the inflationary pressures are driven by food and transport prices that rose 2.6% and 2.7%, respectively. In comparison to April CPI decreased by 0.2% on average.

The upcoming week is reserved for the **labour market** figures. In line with the usual seasonal movements, we expect the declining trend in unemployment and the increasing one in wages to be confirmed. Wage growth in April particularly applies to net salary, which predominantly resulted from changes in the taxation of income, and it will be somewhat offset by the positive inflation rate. The May registered unemployment rate is projected to fall below 12%.



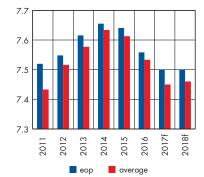
Market Comment/Outlook

EUR/HRK, mid-rate



Sources: CNB, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

EUR/HRK, mid rate



Sources: CNB, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

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Local **financial markets** remained relatively calm over the last week. The slight strengthening of the kuna against the euro continued, so the mid-rate fell below the HRK 7.40 for the euro – levels last seen in September 2012. In addition to the usual seasonal HRK appreciations ahead of the main tourist season and FCY inflows from investments and exports, we do not exclude that expectations regarding the new credit line of Agrokor is creating additional pressure on EUR/HRK. This week we might see a continuation of the slight but persistent HRK appreciation pressures, within the trading range between 7.38 and 7.42 kuna per euro. As the central bank remains fully committed to the FX stability, we should not exclude even one more FX intervention. MM rates will remain subdued amidst the extremely high HRK liquidity in the financial system, and therefore, there is no HRK demand from banking sectors on the regular repo auctions.

As expected, the local bond market reported barely any liveliness due to the shortened working week but also due to the fact that it was very narrow and poorly liquid. Still, the focus was on the longer end of the HRK curve and yields reported a slight decline. Similar trends might be expected over the next week. Investors are still waiting for the MoF information about the local issuance that should take place by the end of year.

Zrinka Živković Matijević

HT's management of Optima prolonged

Trading comment

In the week behind, despite only four days of trading, total and average regular turnover with stocks on the ZSE was a bit higher than in previous week and the daily average amounted to HRL 7.8 mn. In addition, CROBEX moved up by 1% on the weekly level while shares of Viadukt were the best performer in the index. Likewise, CROBEXkonstrukt index was leading among sector indices of the ZSE. In the CEE region, stock indices mostly had losses led by MICEX.

Company news

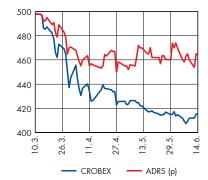
The temporary management of **OT-Optima Telekom** has been extended for a period of additional three years until July 10, 2021 for **Hrvatski Telekom** from the previously set deadline in 2018. Also, the competition agency conditionally approved market concentration of H1 Telekom and OT-Optima Telekom based on the merger agreement into Optima. **Adris** intends to buy back up to 400,000 common shares and up to 400,000 preferred shares. The price range for common shares is HRK 520.3 – HRK 575.1 and the range for preferred shares is HRK 432.1 – HRK 477.6. The book is opened from June 13, 11:00 until June 19, 12:00 (CET). **Croatia Osiguranje** published the guidance for 2017. Accordingly, they expect a slight increase of the market share in Croatia (+0.9pp yoy), a growth of premiums of 4% yoy, further improvement of the combined ratio to 97.7% and consequently higher net income of HRK 226 mn. Companies from **Agrokor** group informed that the audited sets of 2016 reports will be published at the end of July while the reports for the Q1 and Q2 2017 will be published at the end of August.

In this week

In this week we expect similar trading dynamics on ZSE to continue. Shares of INA go ex-dividend on Wednesday (DPS of HRK 15.2).

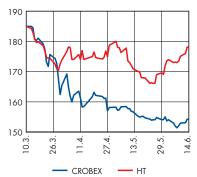
Nada Harambašić Nereau

Adris-P (3 m)



Sources: ZSE, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Hrvatski Telekom (3 m)



Sources: ZSE, Economic RESEARCH/RBA

Market performance

Index	lw %	ytd %	Value on*
			16.6.2017
SOFIX (BG)	1.37	16.83	685
CROBEX (HR)	0.98	-6.87	1,858
BUX (HU)	0.43	11.13	35,564
BETI (RO)	-0.43	19.67	8,478
SASX10 (BH)	-0.63	-10.65	617
WIG30 (PL)	-0.93	18.74	2,664
SBITOP (SI)	-1.00	9.29	784
BELEX15 (RS)	-1.16	-0.97	710
PX (CZ)	-1.72	7.50	991
NTX (SEE,CE,EE)	-1.94	18.61	1,200
ATX (AT)	-3.35	18.46	3,102
MICEX (RU)	-3.51	-18.61	1,81 <i>7</i>

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

Top/Flop - CROBEX index

Share	lw %	Price on*	Share		
		16.6.2017			
Viadukt	35.67	135	HT		
Dalekovod	7.58	24	Petrokemija		
Valamar Riviera	4.52	44	Podravka		
Ericsson NT	4.18	1,248	Zagrebačka burzo		
Uljanik Plovidba	4.08	130	Đuro Đaković Gru		
Arenaturist	3.33	465	AD Plastik		
Ingra	2.09	5	Končar El		
Luka Ploče	2.02	555	Kraš		
Atlantic Grupa	1.99	770	Maistra		
Zagrebačka Banka	1.77	46	OT-Optima T.		
Adris Grupa (P)	1.10	465	Atlantska Plov.		
* as at 16:30 CET.					

Source: ZSE, Economic RESEARCH/RBA





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Abbreviations

bp – basis points HBOR
CERP – Restructuring and Sale Center
DPS – Dividend per share

DZS – Croatian Bureau of Statistics ECB – European Central Bank

EUR – Euro

FED – Federal Reserve System GDP – Gross Domestic Product HBOR – Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development

HNB – Croatian National Bank IMF – International Monetary Fund

kn, HRK – Kuna

MF – Ministry of Finance pp – percentage points

Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 – quarters RBA – Raiffeisenbank Austria d.d.

s.a. -seasonally adjusted

USD - Dollar

WDA - working day adjusted

yoy - year-on-year

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"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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Investment banking services	0	0	0	0	0	0
% all IB services	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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