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What to watch next week

Local market movers

The key event of the forthcoming week is going to be the NBH's rate-setting meeting, but CSO is set to publish the most recent wage and unemployment statistics, too.

We do not expect the Monetary Council to change either the policy rate or the O/N depo rate, and no major announcements are expected regarding the unconventional toolkit, either.

The tone of the statement is likely to remain cautious, but it will be interesting to see how the NBH evaluates the recently released CPI and GDP figures (better than expected GDP, uptick in core inflation).

The statement is likely to focus on the inflation risks, and repeat that monetary stimulus will be provided via the unconventional toolkit targeting the medium and long-end

segment of the curve. As far as the short-end segment of the curve is concerned, the central bank is set to remain vigilant repeating that

- the time profile of the pandemic and the expected economic recovery may continue to result in volatile pricing patterns: therefore, exceptionally cautious approach is warranted in assessing more persistent inflationary effect,
- the increase in risk aversion vis-à-vis emerging markets continues to pose the greatest risk in terms of the outlook for inflation and
- the Bank will maintain the difference between the base rate and the one-week deposit rate as long as warranted by inflationary risks.

External developments

The February Ifo index will be released in the euro zone alongside with the most recent ESI. The indicators are likely to signal a cautious improvement regarding the macro economic outlook. US housing, income, consumption and durable goods orders figures may confirm that the economy has gained some momentum at the beginning of 2021.

Summary of recent macro and market developments

Q4 GDP surprised at the strong side

Flash Q4 GDP data surpassed even the most optimistic expectations. Despite the reintroduction of containment measures in November, the economy managed to post a positive quarterly growth rate (+1.1% q-o-q, swda). Unadjusted y-o-y growth came out at minus 3.7%, swda figures showed minus 4.3% rate of growth. FY 2020 GDP growth was minus 5.1%.

Detailed breakdown is not available yet, but high frequency indicators suggest that the industry and export sectors contributed positively to overall growth, the drag from construction might have been smaller than expected and some services subsectors may have performed better

than expected, too.

The release confirm that the economic damage of the second COVID wave and the reintroduction of containment measures was much less severe. This is due to the more targeted and selected nature of the measures, the much more supportive external demand backdrop and the fact that companies managed to adapt to the new norm on a micro level as well. These factors could partly offset the depressed performance of those segments that remained weighed down by the restriction measures (tourism, hospitality, entertainment).

The first quarter of 2021 will still be strongly affected by the pandemic, the recovery may start in Q2 and might gain further momentum in H2 when restrictions measures can be lifted more permanently in line with the progress of mass immunization. We have not changed our earlier 2021 GDP forecast, yet (+3.9%), but risks surrounding this forecast are skewed to the upside.

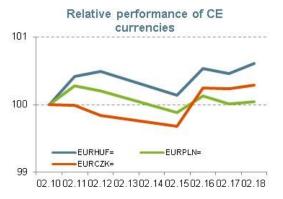
EUR/HUF stabilized below 360

Although the better than expected preliminary Q4 GDP data lent some support to the Hungarian currency at the beginning of the week, the strengthening trend was temporary, and the EUR/HUF spent the last couple of days in the 357-359 range. The external developments did not give a significant impulse in the regional comparison, the PLN/HUF and the CZK/HUF exchange rate also hardly changed compared to a week ago. Our views on the outlook for the domestic currency remain unchanged, we are not expecting a significant trend in any direction (the EUR/HUF range of 355-365 may remain the major course). The next major event to watch is going to be the NBH rate setting meeting scheduled for next Tuesday.









CE3 GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS								
	HU		PL		CZ		EU	
SPOT (bid)	yield (%)	spread (bp)	yield (%)	spread (bp)	yield (%)	spread (bp)	yield (%)	
1Y	0,59	122	0,13	76	0,31	94	-0,63	
3Y	1,30	202	0,31	103	0,91	163	-0,72	
5Y	1,60	224	0,72	136	1,21	185	-0,64	
10Y	2,43	279	1,36	172	1,57	193	-0,36	
60-DAY AVG	yield (%)	spread (bp)	yield (%)	spread (bp)	yield (%)	spread (bp)	yield (%)	
1Y	0,52	119	0,09	76	-0,13	54	-0,67	
3Y	1,05	181	0,15	92	0,49	125	-0,76	
5Y	1,52	225	0,49	122	0,84	157	-0,73	
10Y	2,30	283	1,29	182	1,31	184	-0,53	

Source: Reuters

Macroeconomic and market forecasts

EXCHANGE RATES, QUARTERLY AVERAGE								
2019 Q4 2020 Q2 2020 Q4 2021Q2 2021 Q4								
EUR/HUF	332	352	361	357	356			
CHF/HUF	303	331	335	322	317			
USD/HUF	300	320	303	303	306			
EUR/CHF	1,10	1,06	1,08	1,11	1,12			
EUR/USD	1,11	1,10	1,19	1,18	1,16			
GBP/USD	1,29	1,24	1,32	1,34	1,35			
GBP/HUF	386	397	399	406	414			

INTEREST RATE FORECASTS								
(eop)	2019.12	2020.06	2020.12	2021.06	2021.12			
NHB base rate	0,90%	0,75%	0,60%	0,60%	0,60%			
HU 3M BUBOR	0,16%	0,74%	0,75%	0,70%	0,65%			
Fed Funds rate	1,75%	0,25%	0,25%	0,25%	0,25%			
ECB refi rate	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%			
SNB 3M Libor target	-0,75%	-0,75%	-0,75%	-0,75%	-0,75%			

		Unit	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*	2022*
GDP growth, y/y	- CIB forecast (*)	%	4,3	5,1	4,9	-5,1	3,9	4,0
GDP growth, y/y	- Market consensus	%	-	-	-	-6,0	4,4	4,6
Industrial production	on, y/y	%	4,6	3,5	5,6	-6,1	6,5	5,5
Trade balance		EUR mln	8078	5520	4334	5700	5400	5000
CPI, y/y, ave	rage - CIB forecast	%	2,4	2,8	3,4	3,3	3,5	3,1
CPI, y/y, average	- Market consensus	%	-	-	-	3,4	3,2	3,1
CPI, y/y, end o	f period - CIB forecast	%	2,1	2,7	4,0	2,7	3,3	3,2
CPI, y/y, end of peri	od - Market consensus	%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Budget balance / G								
(ESA, including one	-off revenues)	%	-2,2	-2,2	-1,6	-8,9	-6,5	-4,5
Unemployment rate	e (eop)	%	3,8	3,6	3,5	4,4	4,6	4,2

Macro diary

				Week 9	
				MONDAY 02/22/2021	
Country		Time		Data	Period Previous Forecast Result
HU		8:00	•	Economic sentiment index	February -16,3
DE		10:00		Ifo index	February 90,1 89,7
				TUESDAY 02/23/2021	
Country		Time		Data	Period Previous Forecast Result
HU		14:00		MNB interest rate decision	February 0,6% 0,6%
US		15:00		Case-Shiller house price index, y/y	December 9,49%
				AUKCIÓK	
					Amount Previous Forecast Result
HU		11:30		3M T-bill	HUF 15 bln 0,43%
				WEDNESDAY 02/24/2021	
Country		Time		Data	Period Previous Forecast Result
DE		8:00	•	Personal consumption, q/q	Q4 10,8%
US		16:00	•	New home sales, mln unit	January 0,842 0,860
				THURSDAY 02/25/2021	
Country		Time		Data	Period Previous Forecast Result
HU		9:00		Gross wages, y/y	December 8,6%
US		14:30		Durable goods orders, m/m	January 0,5% 1,3%
US	•	14:30	•	Initial jobless claims, thousands	weekly 861
US	•	14:30	F	GDP growth rate, q/q, 2nd estimate	Q4 33,4% 4,3%
				AUCTIONS	
HU		11:30		5Y T-bond	HUF 30 bln 1,56%
HU		11:30		10Y T-bond	HUF 30 bln 2,36%
HU		11:30		15Y T-bond	HUF 15 bln 2,75%
				FRIDAY 02/26/2021	
Country		Time		Data	Period Previous Forecast
HU		9:00		Unemployment rate	January 4,2%
US	•	14:30		Personal income, m/m	January 0,6% 9,7%
US		15:45	•	Chicago PMI	February 63,8 61

Week 8

			MONDAY 02/	15/2021
Country		Time	Data	Period Previous Forecast Result
EZ		11:00	Trade balance, final, EUR m	December 25,1 27,5
			TUESDAY 02/	16/2021
Country		Time	Data	Period Previous Forecast Result
HU	•	9:00	GDP growth, flash, y/y	Q4 -4,6% -3,7%
HU	•	9:00	GDP growth, flash, q/q	Q4 11,4% 1,1%
DE	•	11:00	ZEW index	February 61,8 62,3 71,2
EZ	•	11:00	GDP growth rate, q/q, 2nd estimate	Q4 12,5% -0,7% -0,6%
EZ	•	11:00	GDP growth rate, y/y, 2nd estimate	Q4 -4,4% -5,1% -5,0%
			AUKCIÓ	K
				Amount Previous Forecast Result
HU		11:30	3M T-bill	HUF 15 bln 0,43% 0,43%
			WEDNESDAY 0	2/17/2021
Country		Time	Data	Period Previous Forecast Result
US	r	14:30	PPI, y/y	January 0,8% 0,9% 1,7%
US	•	14:30	PPI, m/m	January 0,3% 0,5% 1,3%
US	•	14:30	Retail sales, m/m	January -0,7% 0,8% 5,3%
US	•	15:15	Capacity utilization	January 74,5% 74,9% 75,6%
			AUKCIÓ	•
				Amount Previous Forecast Result
HU		11:30	12M T-bill	HUF 15 bln 0,48% 0,52%
			THURSDAY 02	/18/2021
Country		Time	Data	Period Previous Forecast Result
US	•	14:30	Building permits, mln unit	January 1,709 1,668 1,881
US	•	14:30	Housing starts, mln unit	January 1,669 1,650 1,580
US	•	14:30	Initial jobless claims, thousands	weekly 793 760 861
			AUCTION	S
HU		11:30	5Y T-bond	HUF 30 bln 1,36% 1,56%
HU		11:30	10Y T-bond	HUF 20 bln 2,26% 2,36%
HU		11:30	20Y T-bond	HUF 10 bln 2,98% 3,15%
			FRIDAY 02/1	9/2021
Country		Time	Data	Period Previous Forecast
DE	r	8:00	PPI, y/y	January 0,2% 0,9%
DE	F	8:00	PPI, m/m	January 0,8% 1,4%
EZ	•	10:00	Manufacturing PMI, flash	February 54,8 54,6 57,7
EZ	•	10:00	Services PMI, flash	February 45,4 46 44,7
EZ	•	10:00	Composite PMI, flash	February 47,8 48,1
US	•	15:45	Manufacturing PMI, flash	February 59,2 59
US	•	15:45	Services PMI, flash	February 58,3 58
US	•	15:45	Composite PMI, flash	February 58,7
			Composite r Wi, ilasti	1 Oblidary 50,7

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