

Monthly Forecasts – Slovakia – December

Major economic indicators

Analyst:

Katarína Muchová +421 2 4862 4762 <u>muchova.katarina @slsp.sk</u> The Statistical Office will publish the final estimate for 3Q15 GDP tomorrow. We expect that it will be the same as the flash 3Q15 GDP growth estimate, which stands at 3.6% y/y. Seasonally adjusted quarterly growth would thus reach 0.9% q/q. Data for the third quarter released up to now have been mostly positive: industrial production (despite August's slowdown, the 3Q15 average stands at 6.2% y/y), retail sales picked up and labour market improvement progressed further. On the other hand, foreign trade performance could have been significantly better. We expect domestic demand – household consumption and investment – to have retained its position as the engine of growth, aided by the improving labour market and EU funds utilisation.

Foreign trade performance has been rather lukewarm in the previous months and we do not expect a substantial deviation from this trend in October. Eurozone's economic recovery is still fragile and currently also exposed to the slowdown from China. We expect foreign trade balance at around EUR 326 mil. in October, which is a more cautious estimate than the market consensus and still below last year's level.

Industrial production returned to dynamic growth in September, growing at 7.2% y/y. We expect industrial production growth to have remained at a similar, albeit slightly lower, level in October and our forecast stands at 6.4% y/y. Our forecast is more cautious mainly due to perceived volatility of industrial sentiment as well as volatile performance of the German industrial sector (as Germany remains Slovakia's main trading partner).

Low oil prices coupled with the ensuing lower energy prices are still the main reason for the lack of inflationary pressures in the Euro Area. Flash estimate shows that annual inflation in the Eurozone remained at 0.1% y/y in November, unchanged from October. Slovak deflation deepened in October to -0.6% y/y (CPI). However, oil and energy price effects are starting to wane a bit. **We expect a slight improvement in November, whereby annual CPI inflation could reach -0.4% and harmonised inflation could stand at -0.3%.** Core inflation is expected at 0.1% y/y.

Producer price decrease is expected to continue at a rate close to the October one. **We expect producer prices to have fallen by 5.3% y/y in November.**

Date	Indicator		Time period	Our forecast	Min	Market average	Max	Previous	A year ago
4 Dec	GDP growth	% y/y	3Q15	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.4	2.4
4 Dec	GDP growth	% q/q	3Q15	0.9	-	-	-	0.9	0.7
9 Dec	Foreign trade balance	mil. Eur	Oct 15	326	250	331.2	420	303	470
10 Dec	Industrial production	% y/y	Oct 15	6.4	-	-	-	7.2	3.1
14 Dec	Core inflation	% y/y	Nov 15	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.3
14 Dec	Headline inflation	% y/y	Nov 15	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	0.0
16 Dec	Harmonised inflation	% y/y	Nov 15	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.5	0.0
18 Dec	Producer prices	% y/y	Nov 15	-5.3	-	-	-	-5.0	-2.9

Source: NBS, Reuters, SLSP

Erste Group Research

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