

Czech Republic Business Forecast Report Q3 2014

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Abstracts

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Core Views

Consumer price inflation in the Czech Republic accelerated to 0.4% y-o-y in May, from 0.1% in April, in line with our expectation that the economic rebound underway in Q114 should feed through to stronger inflationary pressures. Signs that the remaining slack in the labour market is declining and that demand-side inflationary pressures are now picking up are already evident in the May headline inflation outturn, as well as in wage growth, which accelerated markedly in Q114. We expect the ruling coalition in the Czech Republic comprising the centre-left CSSD and the populist ANO 11 party to remain stable for the duration of their term in power until 2018. However, declining support for the ruling CSSD party reflects a broad-based public disaffection with the political establishment as well as general suspicion towards the party's pro-EU stance. We reiterate our view that the country will continue to post modest current account deficits for the foreseeable future. The country's status as a regional safe haven will ensure that stable financial inflows continue to cover the country's external financing needs.

Major Forecast Changes

Following the Czech Statistical Office's recent upward revision of the Q114 real GDP growth for the Czech Republic – to 2.5% from 2.1%, we have revised slightly upward our real GDP growth forecast – to 1.8% for 2014 from 1.6% previously. Nevertheless, we reiterate our view that growth will slow in H214, as we expect a slowdown in German export growth in H214 to chip away at the momentum behind the export-led recovery in the Czech Republic.



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CHAPTER 2: ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

SWOT Analysis BMI Economic Risk Ratings Economic Activity Momentum Behind Export-Led Recovery To Wane We have slightly revised upward our forecast for real GDP growth in the Czech Republic for 2014 - to 1.8% from 1.6% previously due to a slightly more robust export-led recovery than we previously expected. Nevertheless, our forecast remains below Bloomberg consensus for 2014, as we expect the momentum behind the rebound to lose some steam in H214. Table: Economic Activity



Monetary Policy No Further Easing In 2014 We maintain that inflation in the Czech Republic is already bottoming out and poised for gradual acceleration in H214. With inflation likely to return back within the Czech National Bank (CNB)'s target and the economic recovery on track, we see no major incentives for the CNB to ease further this year. Table: Monetary Policy Table: Current Account Balance Of Payments Modest Current Account Deficits Ahead The Czech Republic will post modest current account deficits for the foreseeable future, as the country's trade surpluses will be offset by its structural income deficits. We expect these shortfalls to be covered by ample financial account inflows as the country's safe haven status will ensure high demand for Czech real and financial assets. **Fiscal Policy** Fiscal Sustainability In Place In light of the new Czech government's plans to ramp up social spending, we expect the budget deficit to moderately expand in 2014-

2015 - TO 1.5% OF GDP AND 1.7%, RESPECTIVELY, FROM 1.3% IN 2013. WE EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET DEFICITS TO REMAIN BELOW THE EU

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