

# Iran Business Forecast Report Q2 2014

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# **Abstracts**

#### **Core Views**

Recent improvements in relations with the West bode well for the country's economy. That said, uncertainty over the outcome of negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme will ensure that risks to the outlook remain elevated.

The economy will return to growth in 2014, as improving relations with the West and better macroeconomic management, coupled with low base effects, will lead to an improved outlook for exports and increased business and consumer confidence.

Despite recent improvements, the Iranian rial will remain volatile in open market transactions over the coming quarters.

#### **Major Forecast Changes**

We have revised our real GDP growth forecasts this quarter, and are projecting the economy to expand by 2.8% in real terms in 2014, up from our previous forecast of 2.4% growth. We expect macroeconomic management to improve following the victory of moderate cleric Hassad Rouhani in presidential elections in June 2013, which will contribute to accelerating growth over the medium term.

### **Key Risks To Outlook**

A breakdown in negotiations over the country's nuclear programme could prompt us to revise our real GDP growth forecasts downward and our inflation forecasts upward.

Higher global energy prices may lead to upside risk to our growth forecasts and downside risk to our fiscal deficit forecasts.



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Interim Nuclear Deal: Key Implications

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Although Iran's Islamic regime has proved resilient in the face of tremendous domestic and external pressure, we believe that it cannot continue indefinitely. Consequently, we expect to see a 'regime change' by the next decade, either through gradual reform or a popular uprising.

#### **CHAPTER 2: ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

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We project Iran's economy to expand by 2.8% and 3.4% in real terms in 2014 and 2015 respectively, from our estimate of a 3.5% contraction in 2013. Improving relations with



the West and better macroeconomic management, coupled with low base effects, will lead to an improved outlook for exports and increased business and consumer confidence. That said, the macroeconomic outlook will remain highly susceptible by developments in negotiations on the nuclear programme.

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We see Iran's current account surplus narrowing gradually over the coming years as import growth outpaces export growth. The outlook for the financial account in 2014 is uncertain, with FDI inflows and capital outflows highly susceptible to developments in nuclear talks.

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Inflation Declining In 2014

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