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Weekly Report Romania

19 May 2014





All rating agencies give Romania the investment grade

Macroeconomics: GDP rose by 3.8% YoY in Q1 2014 (Page 3 - 5)

Q1 flash GDP growth rate was estimated at 3.8% YoY and 0.1% QoQ respectively. Again, Romania scored the highest annual growth rate in the EU, just like in Q4 2013. The quarterly pace is somehow disappointing, considering that the published monthly business cycle indicators had a strong evolution in Q1, except for constructions. The sectors that could be suspected to have contributed negatively are constructions and agriculture. Construction activity suffered in the past 4 months (until March) when the annual rhythms stood in the negative territory, especially due to the civil engineering component (infrastructure works) and scarce public spending. The CA deficit widened to 1.3% of GDP according to our calculation, from 1.1% in December 2013. In Q1 2014, the most noticeable impact comes from the doubling of the income balance deficit to EUR 1.5 bn versus Q1 2013, especially the FDI income where net outflows rose nearly 4 times compared to the similar period last year, as businesses recorded improved results.

FX market: The leu enjoys the positive momentum (Page 6 - 7)

As expected, the GDP data and the S&P report delivered the foreseen news: GDP growth rate came out higher than predicted by the Reuters consensus and S&P raised the country's sovereign rating to investment grade. This puts Romania more on foreign investors' radar even if the Q1 balance of payments data shows that portfolio investments slowed down significantly on a 12M rolling basis in March. However, the recent fall in bond yields could be connected to higher portfolio inflows in April – May and in line with the appreciation witnessed by the leu in recent months. While the momentum for the leu could continue in the short term, the appreciation potential is limited. The Fed is expected to exit its ultra-easy monetary policy around in October 2014. Presidential election (November) fever is another source of volatility. The S&P wrote in its press release that the dynamics of the political scene remains a "rating weakness", despite not having caused problems recently.

Fixed income markets: Treasury sold bonds at yields 40 -50 bps lower than in April (Page 8 - 9)

The government securities' yield curve continued to drop last week as well, losing from 9 to 16 bps. The improved liquidity conditions and the much awaited S&P rating decision contributed to the price gain, but expectations of an easier ECB monetary policy in June, following a base rate cut could have helped bond prices in Emerging Europe as well. Also, the inclusion of another ISIN in the JP Morgan bond index is likely to support bond prices in the short term. The S&P raised Romania's short and long term FCY and LCY rating to 'BBB-/A-3' from 'BB+/B'. At the moment, all rating agencies put Romania in the investment grade category.

Money markets: Core 2 adjusted inflation was negative in the past 7M (Page 10)

In April, headline inflation stood at 1.2% YoY against market expectations for 1.5%YoY. Core 2 adjusted inflation (CPI excluding administered prices, volatile food items, alcohold and tobacco) was -0.1% YoY and it has been in the negative territory for the past 7M. The Central Bank expects it to maintain negative until the end of the first semester and climb to 1.8% YoY until the end of the year. This data reemphasizes the opportunity of further easing, expected to come in the form of reserve ratio cut. All money market rates are currently well below the base rate of 3.5% but the fact that net government issuance is positive this month and probably in June as well will help reduce liquidity to some extent.

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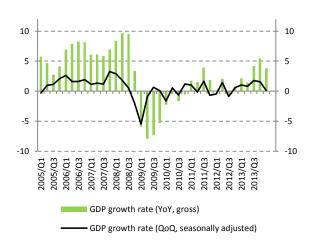
Macroeconomics: GDP rose by 3.8% YoY in Q1 2014

	PERIOD	INDICATOR	FACT	CONSENSUS	PRIOR
12 May	March	Exports (y-o-y, %)	11.8		12.0
12 May	March	Imports (y-o-y,%)	9.9		14.0
12 May	March	Consumer price index (y-o-y,%)	1.2	1.5	1.0
12 May	March	Industrial Production Index (y-o-y, %)	10.7		8.9
15 May	Q1 2014	Flash GDP growth rate (YoY, %)	3.8	3.1	5.2
16 May	March	CA balance (EUR mn, YTD)	-261		-282
19 May -23 M	May	no data			

Q1 flash GDP growth rate was estimated at 3.8% YoY and 0.1% QoQ respectively. Again, Romania scored the highest annual growth rate in the EU, just like in Q4 2013. The quarterly pace is somehow disappointing, considering that the published monthly business cycle indicators had a strong evolution in Q1, except for constructions. The sectors that could be suspected to have contributed negatively are constructions and agriculture and their cumulated weight in GDP was nearly 14% in 2013. In case of agriculture, the base effect was the driver, considering that the quarterly seasonally adjusted data released by the Institute of Statistics showed that most of the growth in value added happened in Q4 2013 when value added exceeed by 35% the average of the previous 3 quarters. The detailed GDP data will be published on 6th June.

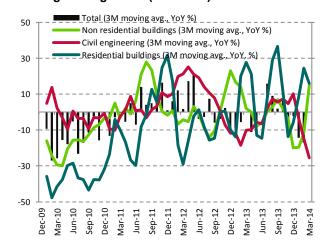
Construction activity suffered in the past 4 months when the annual rhythms stood in the negative territory, especially due to the civil engineering component (infrastructure works). **Public spending continued to be scarce in Q1 2014** and it is hurting constructions. The early signs are not too good either, considering the changes needed to accomodate the promised decrease of 5 pp of social contributions and that the easiest place to cut has proved to be public investments so far. Otherwise, **the good signals come from the residential buildings** which have shown a healthy rhytm in the past 4M (+21%YoY/ month). In March, the non residential buildings production shoot up as well (+46% YoY) which is encouraging as businesses are expanding their productive capacity.

Again, Romania tops in term of GDP growth rate in Europe (+3.8%YoY)



Source: NIS

Construction activity dragged down still by weak civil engineering works (-20% YoY)



Source:NIS

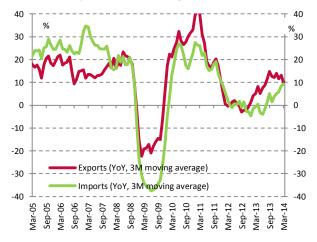


The CA deficit widened to 1.3% of GDP according to our calculation, from 1.1% in December 2013. During Q1 2014, the deficit stood at EUR 261 mn compared to a small surplus in Q1 2013. Most noticeable impact comes from the doubling of the income balance deficit to EUR 1.5 bn compared to Q1 2013, especially the foreign direct investments income where net outflows rose nearly 4 times compared to the similar period last year, as businesses recorded improved results. In what concerns the trade gap, we are looking at a surplus of EUR 198 mn. However, we noticed that imports pace caught up with exports in February and March, so expect the trade gap to start widening, in line with increased domestic consumption.

The 12M rolling data shows that FDI rose at 20% YoY. During the first 3M only, they stood at EUR 583 mn. In the same period, portfolio investments reached EUR 858 mn, significantly lower than in Q1 2013 when due to inflows to the bond market, they jumped to EUR 3.2 bn.

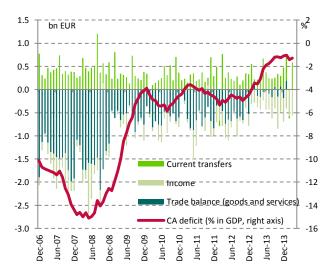
In Q1 2014, FOB exports rose by 10.1% YoY (euro figures) and CIF imports by 9.6% YoY. 71% of exports went to the EU. The machines and transport equipent component makes 42.5% of the exports and other manufactured goods weigh 32.5%.

Trade activity remained strong in March



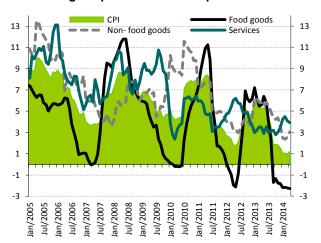
Source: NIS

The CA deficit stood at 1.3% in March



Source: NBR

Inflation edged up to 1.2% YoY in April



Source: NIS



Macroeconomic forecast

Main macroeconomic indicators			Fact					Fo	recast
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nominal GDP (EUR mn)	124,729	139,765	118,196	124,328	131,327	131,747	142,395	147,487	156,675
Real GDP	6.3%	7.3%	-6.6%	-1.1%	2.3%	0.6%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%
Households consumption expenditure	12.0%	9.0%	-10.4%	-0.2%	1.6%	1.1%	1.3%	2.2%	2.9%
Government consumption	2.5%	6.2%	9.5%	-13.7%	-3.0%	0.7%	-1.7%	2.9%	2.7%
Gross fixed capital formation	30.3%	15.6%	-28.1%	-1.8%	7.7%	3.8%	-3.3%	2.2%	6.8%
Exports	7.8%	8.3%	-6.4%	13.2%	11.6%	-1.5%	13.5%	9.4%	6.6%
Imports	27.3%	7.9%	-20.5%	11.1%	10.5%	-0.2%	2.4%	8.3%	6.5%
Consumer prices (avg.)	4.8%	7.8%	5.6%	6.1%	5.8%	3.3%	4.0%	2.2%	2.9%
Budget Balance (GDP%, ESA 95)	-2.9%	-5.7%	-9.0%	-6.8%	-5.5%	-3.0%	-2.3%	-2.8%	-2.5%
Public debt (GDP %)	12.8%	13.4%	23.6%	30.5%	34.7%	38.0%	38.4%	39.4%	39.8%
CA balance (% GDP)	-13.4%	-11.6%	-4.2%	-4.4%	-4.5%	-4.4%	-1.1%	-2.0%	-2.0%
CA balance (bn EUR)	-16.8	-16.2	-4.9	-5.5	-5.9	-5.8	-1.5	-2.9	-3.1
Unemployment	6.4%	5.8%	6.9%	7.3%	7.4%	7.0%	7.3%	7.0%	6.8%
Nominal wage growth	21.8%	26.1%	4.8%	3.1%	4.1%	4.6%	5.0%	4.6%	5.4%
Real wage growth	14.7%	16.5%	-1.5%	-3.7%	-1.9%	1.2%	1.0%	2.4%	2.4%
Key interest rate (avg.)	7.5%	9.7%	9.1%	6.5%	6.2%	5.3%	4.8%	3.5%	3.5%
Key interest rate (e.o.p.)	7.5%	10.3%	8.0%	6.3%	6.0%	5.3%	4.0%	3.5%	3.5%
EUR/RON (avg.)	3.34	3.68	4.24	4.21	4.24	4.46	4.41	4.48	4.45
EUR/RON (e.o.p.)	3.61	3.99	4.23	4.28	4.32	4.43	4.46	4.44	4.45

	1Q 2013	2Q 2013	3Q 2013	4Q 2013	1Q 2014	2Q 2014 F	3Q 2014 F	4Q 2014 F	1Q 2015 F
EUR/RON (end of period)	4.39	9 4.48	4.46	4.46	4.46	4.48	4.46	4.44	4.43
Central Bank Rate (%)	5.25	5.25	4.50	4.00	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
3-Month Robor (%)	5.35	4.45	3.65	2.58	2.97	3.33	3.3	3.21	3.31
Ten-Year Bond (%, mid yield, NBR fixing)	5.64	5.45	5.16	5.28	5.27	5.00	5.43	5.50	5.35

Source: Eurostat, NIS, NBR, OTP Research

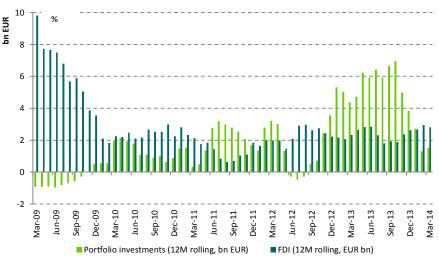


FX markets: The leu enjoys the positive momentum

As expected, the GDP data and the S&P report delivered the foreseen news: GDP growth rate came out higher than predicted by the Reuters consensus and S&P raised the country's sovereign rating to investment grade. This puts Romania more on foreign investors' radar even if the Q1 balance of payments data shows that portfolio investments slowed down significantly on a 12M rolling basis in March. However, the recent fall in bond yields could be connected to higher portfolio inflows in April - May and in line with the appreciation witnessed by the leu in recent months.

While the momentum for the leu could continue in the short term, the appreciation potential is limited. Already in March, we witnessed a widening of the current account deficit compared to December 2014. Looking forward, the Fed is expected to exit its ultra-easy monetary policy around in October 2014 generating a negative impact on emerging market assets. Presidential election (November) fever is another source of volatility. In fact, at the recent rating upgrade, the S&P wrote in its press release that the dynamics of the political scene remains a "rating weakness", despite not having caused problems recently.

FDI are slowly stepping up, but portfolio investments slowed down



Source: NBR

The leu stagnated around the 4.43 level



Source: Reuters

Date: 16.05.2014

		F	X BID		
	Value	W	eekly chg. (%)	ΥT	D chg. (%)
EURRON	4.43	1	-0.07	1	-0.32
USDRON	3.23	⇑	0.48	${\bf \hat{T}}$	-3.94
CHFRON	3.62	₽	-0.15	$\hat{\mathbf{T}}$	-1.46
RONJPY	3.18	⇧	0.74	$\hat{\mathbf{T}}$	-17.91
RONPLN	1.06	1	-0.26	1	-2.87
100HUFRON	1.45	₽	-0.60	${\bf \hat{T}}$	-5.04
RONCZK	0.16	₽	-0.37	$\hat{\mathbf{T}}$	-8.93
RONRUB	0.09	⇧	1.83	$\hat{\mathbf{T}}$	-15.55
RONRSD	0.04	⇑	0.36	${\bf \hat{T}}$	-3.06
RONBGN	2.26	⇧	0.00	1	-0.31
Course: Bouters					

Source: Reuters

Major RON FX rates (03.01.2011=100)



Sources: Reuters

Regional RON FX rates (03.01.2011=100)



Sources: Reuters

Regional RON FX rates (03.01.2011=100)



Sources: Reuters



Daily EUR/RON Chart



Major trend: ↓	
Minor trend:	
R1 : 4.4375	S1 : 4.4250
R2 : 4.4425	S2 : 4.4175
RSI: neutral	



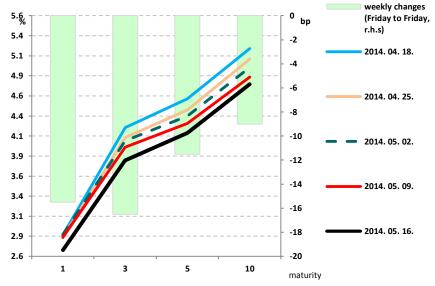
Government securities: Treasury sold bonds at yields 40 -50 bps lower than in April

The government securitities' yield curve continued to drop last week as well, losing from 9 to 16 bps. The improved liquidity conditions and the much awaited S&P rating decision contributed to the price gain, but expectations of an easier ECB monetary policy in June, following a base rate cut could have helped bond prices in Emerging Europe as well. Also, the inclusion of another ISIN in the JP Morgan bond index is likely to support bond prices in the short term as RON debt weight in the index will rise from 1.5% to 1.8% by the end of May.

The S&P raised Romania's short and long term FCY and LCY rating to 'BBB-/A-3' from 'BB+/B'. The rating agency cited improved external balance and the fiscal consolidation which is expected to continue in the future. The GDP growth rate is seen at an average of 3% between 2014 -2017. The rating outlook is stable. At the moment, all rating agencies put Romania in the investment grade category.

The Treasury sold 3Y and 5Y bonds at yields lower by 40 -50 bps compared to similar auctions in April. The 5Y and 3Y bonds had an average accepted yield of 4.11% and 3.95%, respectively. Demand was strong and bid to cover ratio climbed to nearly 4 in both cases.

Yield curve over the past weeks (Central Bank fixing)



Sources: NBR

Auctions

T-bills auctions in March (in RON)

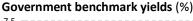
ISIN	Auction date	Settlement date	Maturity	Months	Indicative target amount		
					(RON)		
RO1415CTN073	26/05/14	28/05/14	27/05/15	12	800.000.000		
Source: The Ministry of Finance							

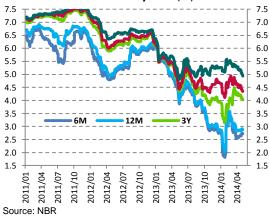
Bonds auctions in March				(IN K	UN)			
ISIN	Auction date	SSON auction date	Settlement date	Maturity	Years	Residual Maturity	Cupon	
RO1121DBN032	08.05.2014	09.05.2014	12.05.2014	11.06.2021	10.0	7.1	5,95	Γ
RO0717DBN038	12.05.2014	13.05.2014	14.05.2014	11.06.2017	10.0	3.1	6,75	l

Source: The Ministry of Finance

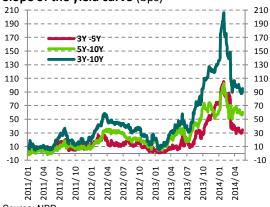
Date: 16.05.2014

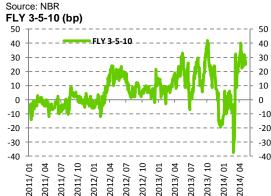
Jator 10100121								
R	ON GOVERI	MME	NT SECUR	ITIES				
	Value (%)	We	ekly chg.	(bp) YTD	chg. (bp)			
6M	2.53	1	-18	1	-23			
12M	2.68	1	-16	1	-18			
3Y	3.80	1	-17	1	-12			
5Y	4.14	1	-12	1	-51			
10Y	4.75	Ŷ	-9	1	-52			
SPREADS								
	Value (bp)	We	ekly chg.	(bp) YTD	chg. (bp)			
GERROM 3Y	360	1	-17	1	6			
GERROM 5Y	358	1	-12	1	-15			
GERROM 10Y	329	Ŷ	-9	1	-4			
3Y -5Y	35	1	5	1	-40			
5Y -10Y	61	1	3	1	-1			
3Y-10Y	95	1	8	1	-41			
FLY 3-5-10	26	Î	-2	1	38			
CDS MID SPREADS								
Value (bp) Weekly chg. (bp) YTD chg. (bp)								
3Y EURO	82	\Rightarrow	0	1	-35			
5Y EURO	135	\Rightarrow	0	1	-36			





Slope of the yield curve (bps)





2012/ 2012/

2012/

2011/ Source: NBR

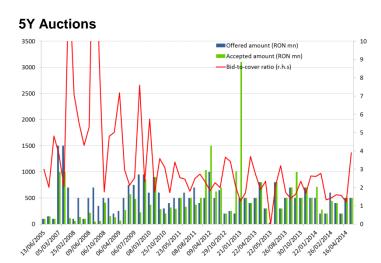
2011/



Last week's auctions

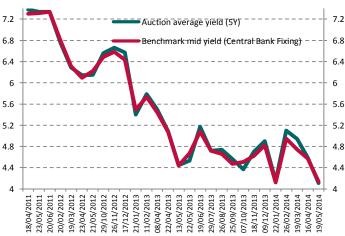
	RO0717DBN038	RO1419DBN014
Offered amount (mn RON)	400	500
Total bids (mn RON)	1601	1951
Accepted amount (mn RON)	400	500
Average accepted yield (%)	3.95	4.11
Coupon	6.75	4.75

Source: NBR



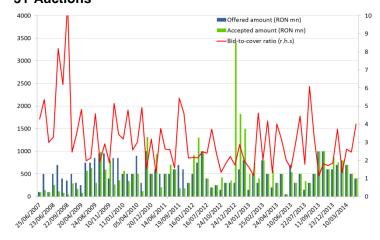


5Y Interest rate



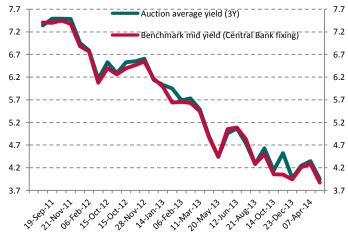
Source: NBR

3Y Auctions



Source: NBR

3Y Interest rate



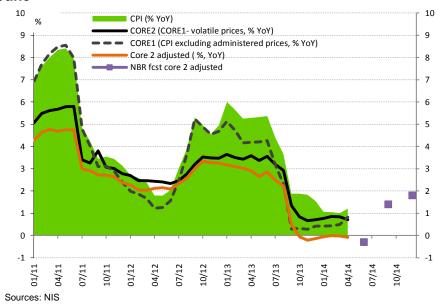
Source: NBR



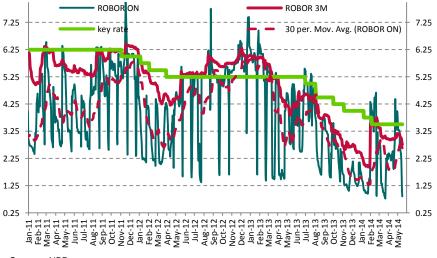
MM: Core 2 adjusted inflation was negative in the past 7M

In April, headline inflation stood at 1.2% YoY against market expectations for 1.5%YoY. Core 2 adjusted inflation (CPI excluding administered prices, volatile food items, alcohold and tobacco) was -0.1% YoY and it has been in the negative territory for the past 7M. The Central Bank expects it to maintain negative until the end of the first semester and climb to 1.8% YoY until the end of the year. This data reemphasizes the opportunity of further easing, expected to come in the form of reserve ratio cut. All money market rates are currently well below the base rate of 3.5% but the fact that net government issuance is positive this month and probably in June as well will help reduce liquidity to some extent.

Core 2 adjusted inflation expected to remain negative until June



Most important MM rates



Sources: NBR

Date: 16.05.2014

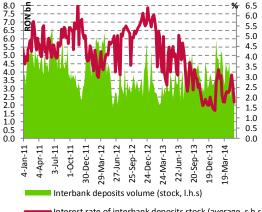
- 4101 101001						
MID INTERES	T RATES					
	Value (%)	We	eekly chg. (b	p) YT	D chg. (b	p)
repo rate	3.50	\Rightarrow	0	1	-50	
ROBOR ON	0.86	1	-176	1	-88	
ROBOR 3M	2.77	1	-27	1	33	
ROBOR 6M	3.18	1	-17	1	19	
ROBOR 9M	3.22	1	-15	1	12	
ROBOR 1Y	3.24	1	-13	♠	9	
INTERBANK D	EPOSITS					
	Value (mn RON) W I	y chg. (mn Ro	N) YTD	chg. (mn F	(ON
outstanding	2,721.9		154.5		-1917.3	
MID SWAP P	OINTS					
	Value (bp)	We	eekly chg. (b	p) YT	D chg. (b	p)
USDRON 1W	8	1	-3	•	1	
USDRON 1M	49	1	-12	1	17	
USDRON 3M	159	1	-26	1	43	
EURRON 1W	11	1	-5	1	0	
EURRON 1M	57	1	-25	1	13	
EURRON 3M	238	1	-11	♠	37	
MID EUR BAS	IS SWAPS					
	Value (bp)	We	ekly chg. (b	p) YT	D chg. (b	p)
EURRON 1Y	-80	\Rightarrow	0	•	30	

Sources: Reuters

EURRON 3Y

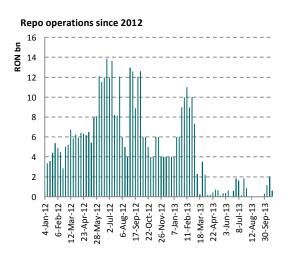
EURRON 5Y

Interbank deposits and interest rate evolution



Interest rate of interbank deposits stock (average, r.h.s)

Sources: NBR



Sources: NBR



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