Poland Macro Weekly

Macro Research



MPC waits and doesn't see

Top macro theme(s):

• MPC waits and doesn't see (p. 2): Outcome of the MPC meeting in June was more dovish than expected by market participants (rates and QE unchanged and no hawkish elements in rhetoric) and cooled down expectations for swift start of policy normalisation. What is important, the MPC has reminded that CPI inflation running above the target, even above the target range (2.5%+/-1pp), is in line with the Monetary Policy Guidelines. Given stubbornly dovish rhetoric of the MPC, we stick to our view that the first rate hike is distant, but stronger than expected recovery and higher than predicted inflation increase probability of a move in the course of 2022.

What else caught our eye:

- **Detailed GDP figures for 1q21** showed that not only private consumption, but also fixed investments (positive surprise, boding well for corporate loans) rose in y/y terms (+0.2% and +1.3%, respectively). Overall GDP growth was revised up to -0.9% y/y vs flash estimate at -1.2% y/y.
- **Manufacturing PMI in May** jumped to an all-time high of 57.2pts signalling mounting price pressures and a sharp rebound of the domestic demand (resulting from reopening of the economy in May).

The week ahead:

- **Detailed CPI figures for May** should confirm that the headline inflation rate rose to 4.8% y/y (flash estimate) with core inflation inching up to 4.0% y/y (PKO estimate). One should focus on signs of underlying inflationary pressure (especially prices of services).
- Labour market data for May should show effects of the reopening and low base, with faster rise in employment (PKOe: 2.5% y/y) and still double-digit rise in wages (PKOe: 10.5% y/y). This would mean acceleration in corporate wage bill growth in real terms, even despite elevated inflation.
- Balance of payments for April will show sky-high (~60% y/y) exports and imports growth rates (on base effects) and another record high CA surplus.
 Number of the week:
- 59.6% of GDP public debt (ESA) after 1q21 (4q rolling), most likely marks a peak of debt-to-GDP ratio in this crisis episode.

Chart of the week: Short-term PLN interest rates and market expectations



Chief Economist

Piotr Bujak piotr.bujak@pkobp.pl tel. +48 22 521 80 84

Macro Research Team



Marta Petka-Zagajewska

Senior Economist marta.petka-zagajewska@pkobp.pl tel. +48 22 521 67 97

Marcin Czaplicki

Economist marcin.czaplicki@pkobp.pl tel. +48 22 521 54 50

Urszula Krynska

Economist urszula.krynska@pkobp.pl tel. +48 22 521 51 32

Kamil Pastor

Economist kamil.pastor@pkobp.pl tel. +48 22 521 81 08

Michal Rot

Economist michal.rot@pkobp.pl tel. +48 22 580 34 22

	2020	2021†
Real GDP (%)	-2.7	5.1
Industrial output (%)	-1.0	17.9
Unemployment rate# (%)	6.2	5.4
CPI inflation** (%)	3.4	4.0
Core inflation** (%)	3.9	3.8
Money supply M3 (%)	16.4	10.5
C/A balance (% GDP)	3.5	3.2
Fiscal balance (% GDP)*	-7.0	-3.4
Public debt (% GDP)*	57.5	56.7
NBP reference rate ^{##} (%)	0.10	0.10
EURPLN ^{‡#}	4.61	4.53

Source: GUS, NBP, MinFin, †PKO BP Macro Research team forecasts; ‡PKO BP Market Strategy team forecasts; *ESA2010, **period averages; [#]registered unemployment rate at year-end; ^{##}at year-end. ^under revision.

MPC waits and doesn't see

- Poland's monetary policy has not changed in June (the reference rate still stands at 0.10% and the QE program remains unchanged).
- The MPC has delivered a clear message that there are no arguments for swift rate hikes. It recalled that the CPI inflation running above the target, even above the upper end of the range (2.5%+/-1pp), is in line with the Monetary Policy Guidelines.
- Given stubbornly dovish rhetoric of the MPC, we stick to our view that the first rate hike is distant, but stronger than expected recovery and higher than predicted inflation increase probability of a move in the course of 2022.

The MPC, in line with expectations, has not altered the monetary policy parameters and has left both interest rates (reference rate at 0.10%) and the QE program unchanged. The post-meeting statement indicates in our opinion that interest rate changes should not be expected in the coming months.

In the after-meeting statement the Council noted an improvement in the pandemic situation. At the same time it reiterated that despite elevated inflation, major central banks stick to an accommodative monetary policy. Importantly, the MPC recalled the 'Monetary Policy Guidelines for 2021' that provides for the possibility of inflation running above the target, also outside the allowed fluctuations range. The monetary policy response to shocks, according to the Guidelines, should be flexible depending on how they affect inflation. The opinion that the policy pursued by the NBP supports economic recovery and stabilizes inflation at a level consistent with the target 'in the medium term' returned to the statement (some market participants suggested after the previous MPC meeting that the omission of this sentence is a sign that the MPC clears the floor to hikes). All in all, we think that the MPC has now delivered a clear message to market participants that immediate rate hikes are not a policy option.

The result of MPC meeting in June confirms our belief that rate hikes in Poland are still distant. We do not think that inflation will clearly and permanently exceed the upper end of allowed fluctuations around the target in next projections of the NBP staff in July and November. The latter has been indicated recently by MPC's Sura as a signpost for monetary policy actions. Historically, such an overrun occurred twice (in 2008 and 2010, see chart packs on the following pages) and had not automatically triggered the MPC reaction. In 2008, the Council had been in the tightening cycle for some time, and in 2010, tightening came almost a year later. In our opinion, there are more factors that the Council will take into account when making a decision on rates: (1) uncertainty regarding the pandemic (this argument rather excludes July as the starting point for exiting the current ultra-loose monetary policy); (2) the expected slowdown in the upward trend in inflation; (3) potential zloty appreciation, especially if the MPC started hikes well ahead of the major central banks (especially the ECB). We remind that the MPC believes that the zloty exchange rate is an important factor influencing the pace of post-pandemic recovery. Moreover, the end of the MPC term of office and the approaching set of changes in its composition, that will occur in 1h22, is also not conducive to introducing changes in monetary policy parameters.

In the baseline scenario, we assume that the probability of rate hikes will start to significantly increase in the course of 2022 along with personal changes in the MPC and in a situation where (in our opinion) inflation will start to accelerate again after a temporary decline, and the economy will be boosted by the inflow of EU funds. We still believe that changes in the asset purchase program will be the

NBP policy rate: PKO BP forecast vs. market expectations



Source: Refinitiv, PKO Bank Polski.



Exchange rates vs EUR in the CE

Source: Refinitiv, PKO Bank Polski.

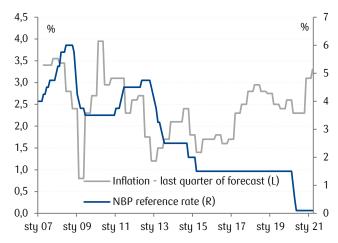


first phase of monetary policy normalization (before rate hikes). Last but not least, due to the dominance of pro-inflationary risk factors, we do note that the likelihood of an alternative one-off hike scenario (i.e. not a hike cycle) in 2021 is not negligible, but it is definitely not a baseline scenario.

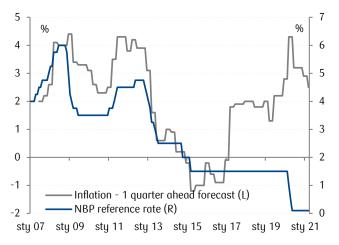
NBP governor, A.Glapinski, said during an online press conference on Friday that the key priority of the monetary policy nowadays is the economic recovery, which – in his opinion – is not yet embracing the economy as a whole. Thus, it is too early to think about monetary normalization. In his opinion current economic activity indicators are strong, but they are boosted by low base effects and forecasts are still subject to extremely high uncertainty. According to him, the currently high inflation is 'solely' due to negative supply shocks and exogenous factors, that stay beyond control of the NBP's policy. A.Glapinski stressed that none of the important foreign central banks has so far started policy normalisation and that before starting the tightening, central banks want to be sure that the economy has entered a sustainable growth path.

CPI inflation projections vs interest rate

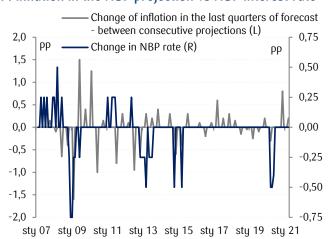
CPI inflation in the NBP projection vs NBP interest rate



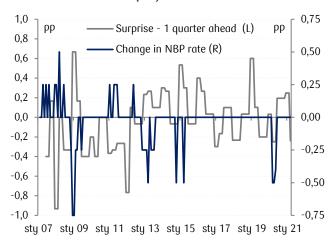




CPI inflation in the NBP projection vs NBP interest rate



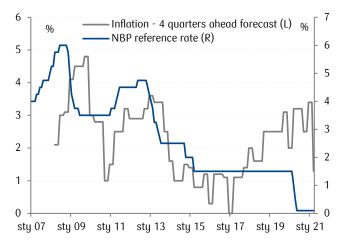
CPI inflation in the NBP projection vs NBP interest rate



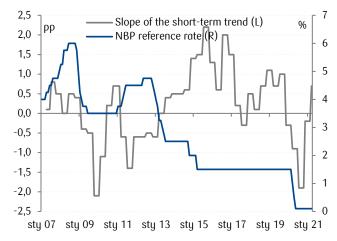
Source: NBP, PKO Bank Polski.

CPI inflation projections vs interest rate (cont.)

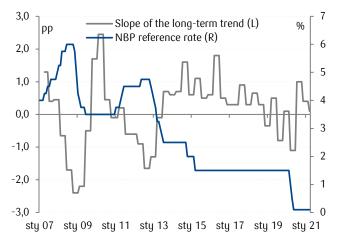
CPI inflation in the NBP projection vs NBP interest rate



CPI inflation in the NBP projection vs NBP interest rate

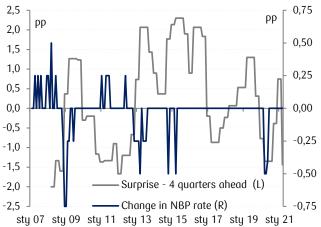


CPI inflation in the NBP projection vs NBP interest rate

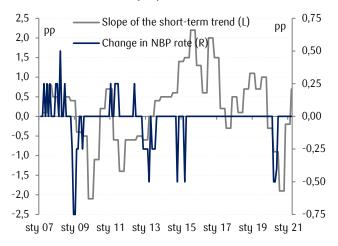


Source: NBP, PKO Bank Polski.

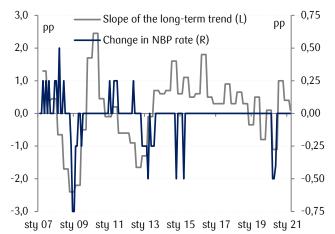
CPI inflation in the NBP projection vs NBP interest rate



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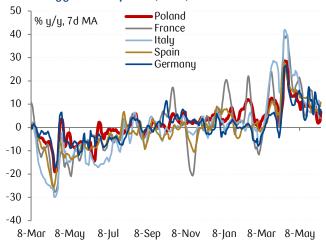
CPI inflation in the NBP projection vs NBP interest rate





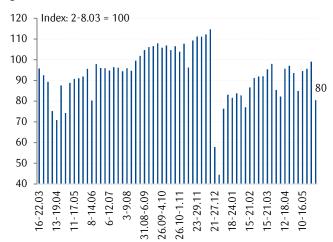


Macro monitoring with alternative data



Electric energy consumption (total)

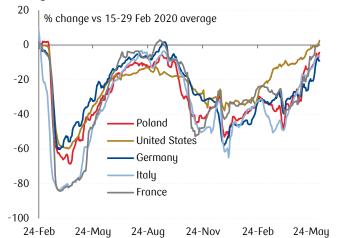
Heavy truck traffic



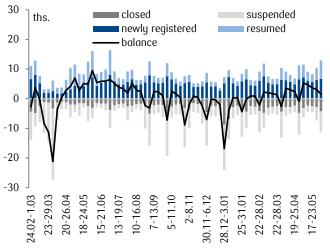
Consumption based on PKO BP card payments



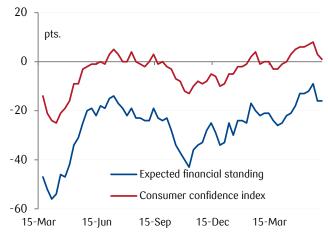
Mobility*







Weekly consumer confidence survey



Source: PSE, Apple, Google, GDDKiA, CEIDG, Kantar, PKO Bank Polski, *weighted with market share of iOS and Android, no new google data available, 7DMA, **Central Registration and Information on Business.



Weekly economic calendar

Indicator	Time (UK)	Unit	Previous	Consensus*	РКО ВР	Comment			
Monday, 14 June									
EUR: Industrial production (Apr)	10:00	% y/y	10.9	37.5					
POL: Current account balance (Apr)	13:00	EUR bn	938	1203	1451				
POL: Exports (Apr)	13:00	% y/y	27.7	61.7	63.6	12-month C/A surplus likely to hit another record-high level.			
POL: Imports (Apr)	13:00	% y/y	24.6	58.1	59.8				
Tuesday, 15 June									
GER: CPI inflation (May, final)	7:00	% y/y	2.0	2.5					
POL: CPI inflation (May, final)	9:00	% y/y	4.3	4.8	4.8	CPI inflation most likely peaked this year.			
USA: Retail sales (May)	13:30	% m/m	0.0	-0.5					
USA: Industrial production (May)	14:15	% m/m	0.7	0.6					
Wednesday, 16 June									
POL: Core inflation (May)	13:00	% y/y	3.9	3.9	4.0	Details of core inflation shou shed more light on mountin price pressures.			
USA: Housing starts (May)	13:30	thous.	1569	1610					
USA: Fed meeting	19:00	%	0.00-0.25	0.00-0.25	0.00-0.25				
Thursday, 17 June									
SWI: SNB meeting	8:30	%	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75				
NO: Norges Bank meeting	9:00	%	0.00	0.00	0.00				
EUR: HICP inflation (May, final)	10:00	% y/y	1.6	2.0					
EUR: Core inflation (May, final)	10:00	% y/y	0.9	0.9					
USA: Initial Jobless Claims	13:30	thous.	376						
Friday, 18 June									
JAP: BoJ meeting		%	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10				
GER: PPI inflation (May)	7:00	% y/y	5.2						
POL: Wages (May)	9:00	% y/y	9.9	10.5		Despite rising inflation, real wage			
POL: Employment (May)	9:00	% y/y	0.9	2.5		bill improved further.			

Source: GUS, NBP, Parkiet, PAP, Bloomberg, Reuters, PKO Bank Polski. Parkiet for Poland, Bloomberg, Reuters for others.



Selected economic indicators and forecasts

	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	1q21	2q21	3q21	4q21	2019	2020	2021
Economic activity										
Real GDP (% y/y)	Х	Х	х	-0.9	9.2	5.8	6.3	4.7	-2.7	5.1
Domestic demand (% y/y)	Х	х	х	1.0	9.5	5.4	5.7	3.6	-3.7	5.4
Private consumption (% y/y)	Х	Х	х	0.2	14.8	3.6	6.8	4.0	-3.0	6.0
Gross fixed capital formation (% y/y)	Х	х	х	1.3	-2.0	3.0	5.0	6.1	-9.6	2.3
Inventories (pp)	Х	х	х	0.3	0.0	1.8	0.1	-1.0	-0.8	0.6
Net exports (pp)	Х	х	х	-1.9	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.1
Industrial output (% y/y)	18.6	44.5	33.0	7.5	32.3	17.2	13.6	4.0	-1.0	17.9
Construction output (% y/y)	-10.8	-4.2	2.6	-12.5	-0.8	3.5	-1.3	3.6	-2.7	-2.1
Retail sales (real, % y/y)	15.2	21.1	25.0	1.9	8.9	1.1	3.6	5.4	-2.7	5.7
Nominal GDP (PLN bn)	Х	Х	х	585.2	595.2	636.2	715.3	2293	2324	2532
Labour market										
Registered unemployment rate‡(%)	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.4	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.2	6.2	5.4
Employment in enterprises (% y/y)	-1.3	0.9	2.5	-1.7	2.0	1.1	1.1	2.7	-1.2	0.6
Wages in enterprises (% y/y)	8.0	9.9	10.5	5.8	9.6	7.3	7.5	6.6	4.8	7.5
Prices^										
CPI inflation (% y/y)	3.2	4.3	4.8	2.7	4.4	4.3	4.4	2.3	3.3	4.0
Core inflation (% y/y)	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.7	1.9	3.9	3.8
15% trimmed mean (% y/y)	2.9	3.3	х	2.6	х	х	х	1.9	3.9	х
PPI inflation (% y/y)	4.2	5.3	6.5	2.4	6.1	7.3	8.6	1.2	-0.5	6.1
Monetary aggregates‡										
Money supply, M3 (PLN bn)	1862.9	1863.4	1875.7	1862.5	1918.7	1948.7	2026	1565.6	1822.7	2026.2
Money supply, M3 (% y/y)	14.4	11.2	9.9	14.4	9.9	9.9	10.5	8.3	16.4	10.5
Real money supply, M3 (% y/y)	10.9	6.6	4.9	11.3	5.2	5.4	5.8	5.8	12.7	6.2
Loans, total (PLN bn)	1344.0	1344.1	х	1344.1	1353.3	1375.0	1384.9	1323.6	1333.9	1384.9
Loans, total (% y/y)	-1.7	-1.2	х	-1.7	0.9	2.8	3.8	5.1	0.8	3.8
Deposits, total (PLN bn)	1670.0	1681.2	х	1670.1	1694.6	1721.9	1735.6	1406.8	1602.2	1735.6
Deposits, total (% y/y)	12.5	8.7	х	12.4	4.7	5.8	8.3	8.2	13.9	8.3
Balance of payments										
Current account balance (% GDP)	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.2	0.5	3.5	3.2
Trade balance (%GDP)	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.0	0.2	2.4	2.0
FDI (% GDP)	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5
Fiscal policy										
Fiscal balance (% GDP)	Х	х	х	х	Х	х	х	-0.7	-7.0	-3.4
Public debt (% GDP)	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	45.6	57.5	56.7
Monetary policy‡										
NBP reference rate (%)	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	1.50	0.10	0.10
NBP lombard rate (%)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	2.50	0.50	0.50
NBP deposit rate (%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
WIBOR 3M [×] (%)	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	1.71	0.21	0.20
Real WIBOR 3M [×] (%)#	-2.97	-4.09	-4.55	-2.53	-4.32	-4.22	-4.33	-0.58	-3.06	-3.85
Exchange rates ^x ‡										
EUR-PLN	4.66	4.57	4.57	4.66	4.50	4.48	4.46	4.26	4.61	4.46
USD-PLN	3.97	3.77	3.84	3.97	3.72	3.67	3.63	3.80	3.75	3.63
CHF-PLN	4.21	4.15	4.15	4.21	4.09	4.07	4.02	3.92	4.25	4.02
EUR-USD	1.17	1.21	1.19	1.17	1.21	1.22	1.23	1.12	1.23	1.23
Course CUC NOD DKO Beek Deleki										

Source: GUS, NBP, PKO Bank Polski. * PKO BP Market Strategy team forecasts, ^period averages for quarterly and yearly data, #deflated with current CPI inflation, ‡period end values, †under revision.



Monetary policy monitor

MPC Members	Hawk-o-meter*	Recent policy indicative comments^
E. Gatnar	4.8	"If inflation solidifies, I will be thinking about slight, gradual normalization, about interest rate hikes, () I am in favor of gradually showing Poles that we notice inflation and care about Poles' money, [PAP: so that] their inflation expectations are not de-anchored," (13.05.2021, PAP)
K. Zubelewicz	4.5	"Polish MPC would rethink easy-money preferences only on outlook for long-term lasting inflation above 4% () Polish MPC will likely stick to bias for "lowest possible interest rates" and "weak zloty;" chances for rate normalization "near zero" (26.01.2021, PAP)
L. Hardt	4.3	"In the situation of the economy in a post-crisis recovery and also due to the high uncertainty concerning further pandemic developments, normalization of the monetary policy in Poland should be subtle and directed at anchoring inflation expectations". (25.05.2021, PAP)
J. Kropiwnicki	2.8	"If those concerns [PAP: over growth] turn out to be less important, if the economy shows vitality, in such case we might think about increasing the cost of credit" (21.05.2021, PAP, Biznes24).
J. Zyzynski	2.6	"When the main pandemic restrictions are lifted, which is to take place on May 29, it will be possible to consider closing the asset purchases program, and shortly after that this program might be extinguished. Of course, one should take into account, to some extent, heightened inflation expectations, which in truth are difficult to grasp, but a one-off rate hike by, let's say, 10-15 bps could be considered in order to anchor them." (13.05.2021, PAP)
R. Sura	2.5	"For me, the most important forecast document will be the inflation and GDP projection in November () If this document indicates that inflation in 2022 and 2023 will lastingly exceed 3.5% and will be heightened by demand factors, that is the ones MPC has impact on via interest rates, then I will point to the need of increasing rates. For now, while headline inflation will remain above the upper end of the target range, () base inflation is expected to decline in H2 (18.05.2020, PAP).
G. Ancyparowicz	2.4	"If we were to tighten monetary policy, we would have to somehow signal first that the bond-buying program is going to end and it's not yet the time for that" (18.05.2021, Biznes24.tv, Bloomberg)
C. Kochalski	2.0	"Inflation in Poland should decline in the medium term and there is no need to start a cycle of interest rate hikes () rates may remain unchanged until the end of the term of the Monetary Policy Council early next year" (19.05.2021, Refinitiv).
A. Glapinski	1.7	"Interest rate cuts are not an option at the moment, there is the question of policy normalization. ()For now, rate stability to the end of the term is the most likely scenario. () The NBP will first announce the end of quantitative easing and only then there will be measures concerning interest rates. () We will likely start thinking about it mid-next year, I recommend calm until then" (07.05.2021, PAP)
E. Lon	1.0	"If it turned out that the level of zloty rate were too strong, then in my opinion a return to monetary policy easing cannot be excluded" (24.05.2021, wGospodarce.pl, PAP)

*the higher the indicator the more hawkish views. Due to the fact that the new MPC has not voted yet on interest rates changes, the positioning has been made based positively on PAP survey conducted among economists at banks in Poland (scale 1-5). *Quotes in bold have been modified in this issue of Poland Macro Weekly.

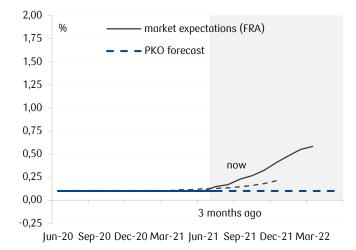
Interest rates – PKO BP forecasts vs. market expectations										
		1M	2M	3M	4M	5M	6M	7M	8M	9M
Date	10-Jun	10-Jul	10-Aug	10-Sep	10-Oct	10-Nov	10-Dec	10-Jan	10-Feb	10-Mar
WIBOR 3M/FRA†	0.21	0.26	0.28	0.34	0.38	0.44	0.52	0.59	0.66	0.69
implied change (b. p.)		0.05	0.07	0.13	0.17	0.23	0.31	0.38	0.45	0.48
MPC Meeting	9-Jun	8-Jul	-	8-Sep	6-Oct	3-Nov	8-Dec	-	-	-
PKO BP forecast*	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
market pricing*		0.15	0.17	0.23	0.27	0.33	0.41	0.48	0.55	0.58

†WIBOR 3M from the last fixing, FRA transactions based on WIBOR 3M for subsequent periods, ‡in basis points, *PKO BP forecast of the NBP reference rate.

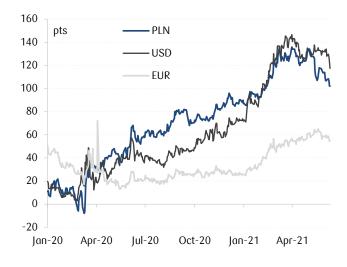


Poland macro chartbook

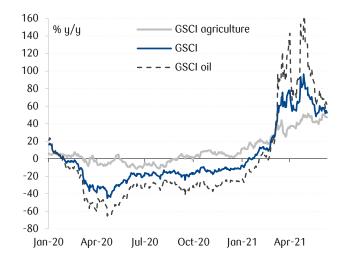
NBP policy rate: PKO BP forecast vs. market expectations



Slope of the swap curve (spread 10Y-2Y)*

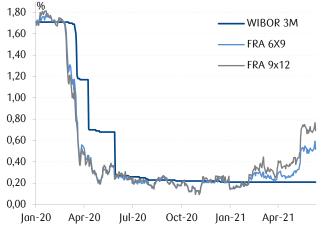


Global commodity prices (in PLN)



Source: Datastream, NBP, PKO Bank Polski. *for PLN, and EUR 6M, for USD 3M.

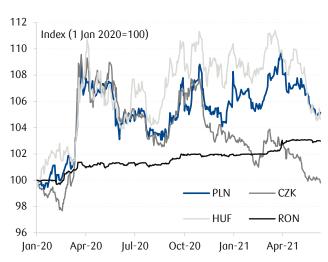
Short-term PLN interest rates





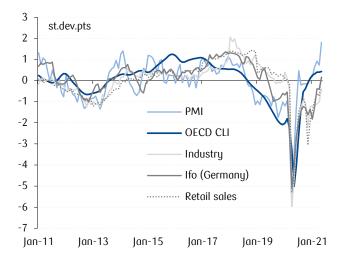
PLN asset swap spread



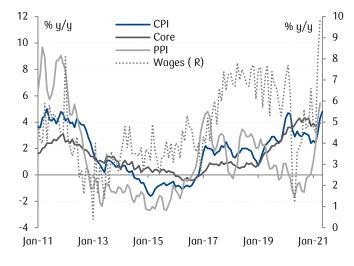




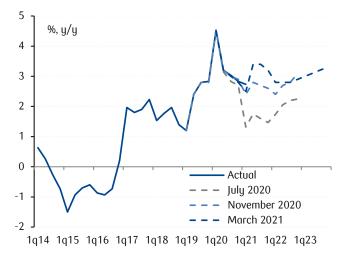
Economic sentiment indicators



Broad inflation measures

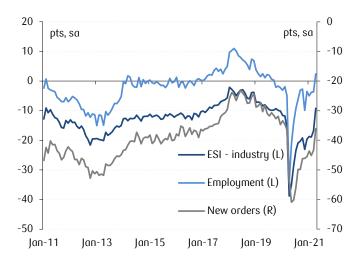


CPI inflation - NBP projections vs. actual

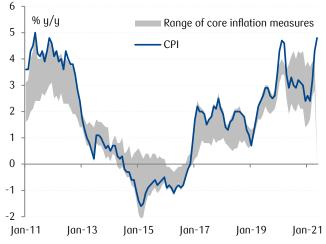


Source: Datastream, GUS, EC, NBP, PKO Bank Polski.

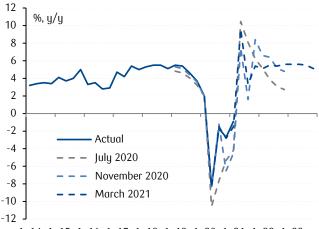
Poland ESI for industry and its components



CPI and core inflation measures



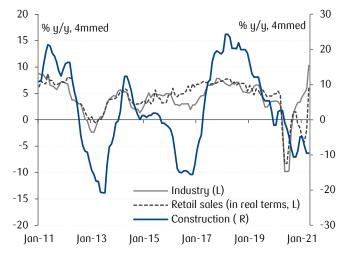
Real GDP growth - NBP projections vs. actual



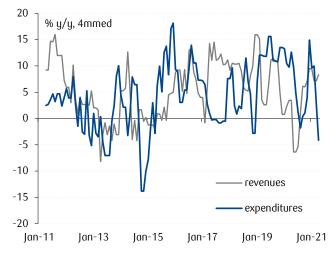
1q14 1q15 1q16 1q17 1q18 1q19 1q20 1q21 1q22 1q23



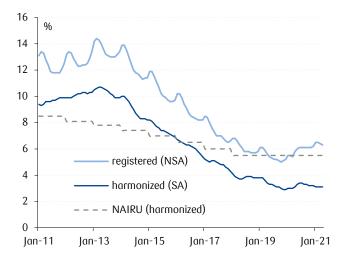
Economic activity indicators



Central government revenues and expenditures*

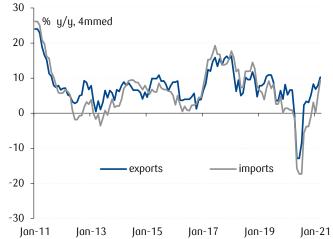


Unemployment rate

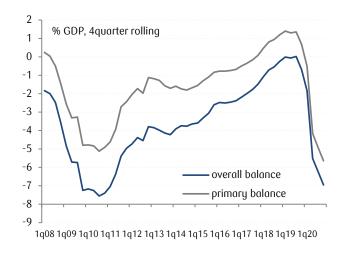


Source: NBP, Eurostat, GUS, MinFin, PKO Bank Polski. *break in series in 2010 due to methodological changes.

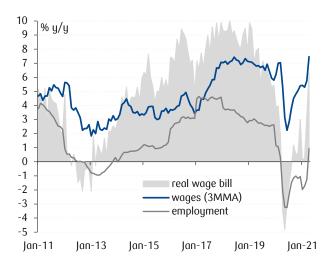
Merchandise trade (in EUR terms)



General government balance (ESA2010)

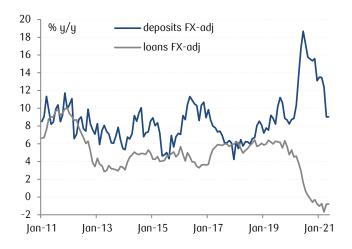


Employment and wages in the enterprise sector

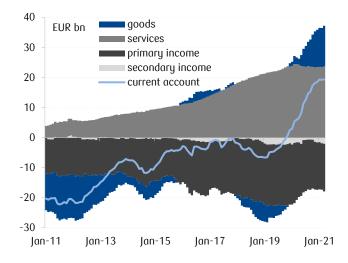




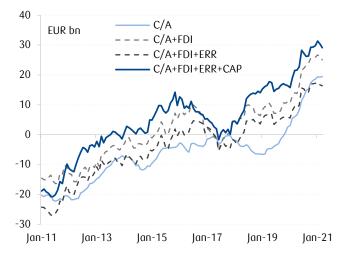
Loans and deposits



Current account balance

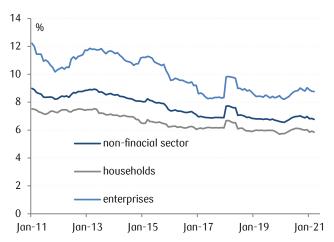


External imbalance measures

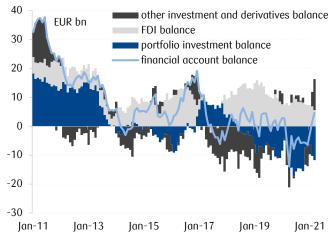


Source: NBP, PKO Bank Polski. *break in series in Jan2018 due to methodological changes.

Non-performing loans (NPLs) - by sectors*



Financial account balance









Previous issues of PKO Macro Weekly:

- <u>Economy roars out of lockdown</u> (May 28, 2021)
- The New (Polish) Deal (May 21, 2021)
- <u>Fasten your seatbelts, please</u> (May 14, 2021)
- <u>Lift-off</u> (May 7, 2021)
- <u>To the moon!</u> (Apr 30, 2021)
- <u>What's the score?</u> (Apr 23, 2021)
- Inflation rears its head yet again (Apr 16, 2021)
- Inside the NBP's comfort zone (Apr 9, 2021)
- Locked-down Easter (Mar 26, 2021)
- <u>The third wave hits the economy</u> (Mar 19, 2021)
- <u>Choke points in focus</u> (Mar 12, 2021)
- <u>Blueprint for Recovery</u> (Mar 5, 2021)
- This time is (really) different (Feb 26, 2021)
- <u>Bottlenecks, winter and lockdowns</u> (Feb 19, 2021)
- <u>Green fiscal island</u> (Feb 12, 2021)
- <u>Spotlight: fiscal stance</u> (Feb 5, 2021)
- <u>2020 better than feared, bounce back ahead</u> (Jan 29, 2021)
- Labour waves goodbye to difficult year (Jan 22, 2021)
- <u>Housing frenzy exposes some perils of ultralow rates</u> (Jan 15, 2021)
- New Year's sale at the NBP (Jan 08, 2021)
- Surplus economy (Dec 18, 2020)
- <u>Deal done</u> (Dec 11, 2020)
- <u>Bumpy road to recovery</u> (Dec 4, 2020)
- <u>A tipping point</u> (Nov 27, 2020)
- <u>Reflections on the pandemic and inflation</u> (Nov 20, 2020)
- <u>Shadow rate below zero</u> (Nov 13, 2020)
- <u>Lockdown 1.5</u> (Nov 6, 2020)
- Fiscal space (Oct 30, 2020)
- <u>Fearless?</u> (Oct 23, 2020)
- How deep is the second dip? (Oct 16, 2020)
- <u>Second wave, double dip recession</u>? (Oct 9, 2020)
- Inflation is not letting go (Oct 2, 2020)
- Easy gains are now over? (Sep 25, 2020)
- Lower for even longer? (Sep 18, 2020)
- Fiscal policy on the go (Sep 11, 2020)
- <u>Better than feared</u> (Sep 4, 2020)
- Labour market at a crossroads (Aug 28, 2020)

Poland's macro in a nutshall



Poland's macro in a nut	tshell		
	2020	2021	Comment
Real economy - real GDP (%)	-2.7	5.1	Despite a more difficult-than-expected start of the year, we still forecast a strong rebound in the domestic economy in 2021. The global recovery supports Poland's exports. We still believe that consumption (along with easing restrictions) and "shifted" fiscal stimulation will be an important driver of growth this year. 1q21 will be the last quarter of negative GDP growth rate. 2q21 will be determined by a low base. In 2h21 a longer period of GDP growth will begin, driven by fiscal, monetary and trade impulse and a decline in the savings rate, followed by an inflow of EU funds.
Prices - CPI inflation (%)	3.4	4.0	The sudden rise in CPI which occurred in March and April means, that it will stay around 4.0% level throughout the rest of the year, with a peak in May, at around 4.5%. Rising regulated prices, energy and food prices will keep the CPI at elevated levels despite expected moderation in core CPI.
Monetary aggregates - M3 money supply (%)	16.4	10.5	With the rebound of the economic growth, we expect credit demand to increase slowly, fueling a moderate bank lending expansion. Smaller scale of asset purchases will result in a deceleration of money supply growth.
External balance - current account balance (% GDP)	3.5	3.2	The balance of payments has become the main strength of Poland's macroeconomic fundamentals. Polish companies are successfully gaining the market share in global trade and Polish exports are breaking new records on a regular basis. Poland has become a net exporter, which is a hugely important structural change, that increases the room for maneuver in both monetary and fiscal policy.
Fiscal policy - fiscal balance (% GDP)	-7.0	-3.4	We see no threat to the sustainability of the public finances. In our view Poland, as a competitive economy with high GDP growth potential and moderate inflation, will begin to quickly 'outgrow' the public debt, which has increased due to pandemic.
Monetary policy - NBP reference rate (%)	0.10	0.10	Despite high inflation NBP monetary policy will not be exciting. In our baseline scenario we still assume that NBP interest rates will remain unchanged even after 2021, and that the MPC will continue its asset purchases program. Nevertheless, as the economy recovers and relatively high inflation persists, the market might start to expect that monetary policy normalization will start in Poland even before the major central banks will start to tighten their policies.

Source: GUS, NBP, Eurostat, PKO Bank Polski.

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