Weekly News Update



October 7 - 25, 2024

BUDGET

- ♦ On 14 October, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the draft law on the State budget for 2025 and the budgetary framework for 2025, 2026 and 2027. The consolidated national budget revenue for 2025 is planned in amount of EUR 15.1 billion, but expenditure − in amount of EUR 17.1 billion. Next year's general government budget deficit is planned at EUR 1.3 billion, or 2.9 % of gross domestic product (GDP). In next year's budget, a ceiling on central government debt has been set at EUR 21 billion, or 47.3 % of GDP at the end of 2025. Latvia's GDP is projected at EUR 44.379 billion in 2025. Internal and external security have been set as the key national priorities. (Oct 14, MoF)
- On 14 October, The Cabinet of Ministers approved the first Latvian Fiscal Structural Plan for 2025-2028 prepared by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy according to new EU fiscal regulations, which entered into force on April 30 of this year. The Fiscal Structural Plan replaces the annual Stability Program and the National Reform Program. (Oct 14, MoF)

MACROECONOMICS

- ♦ The latest data of the Central Statistical Bureau show that in September 2024, compared to September 2023, the average level of consumer prices increased by 1.4 %. (Oct 8, CSB)
- ♦ CSB provisional data show that in August 2024 Latvia had foreign trade turnover of EUR 3.24 billion (at current prices 5.7 % lower than a year ago), of which value of exported goods reduced by 2.1 % and of imported goods by 8.5 %. (Oct 10, CSB)
- Provisional results (accordingly European System of Accounts (ESA 2010) methodology) compiled by the CSB show that in 2023 general government budget deficit amounted to EUR 932 million or 2.4 % of the GDP and, compared to 2022, that was EUR 822 million less. General government consolidated gross debt accounted for EUR 17.6 billion or 45.0 % of the GDP and during a year it has increased by EUR 1.54 billion. (Oct 21, CSB)
- ◆ CSB estimate shows that in September actual unemployment rate was 6.6 % and registered 5.1 %. (Oct 21, CSB)
- ♦ The International Monetary Fund has lowered Latvia's GDP growth forecast for this year and next, according to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook. In the report, the IMF forecasts that Latvia's economy will grow by 1.2 percent this year and by 2.3 percent next year. (Oct 22, IMF)

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Republic of Latvia

A- positive (Fitch)/ A stable (S&P) / A3 stable (Moody's)/ A stable (R&I)

Bloomberg: TREL

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