

7. CURRENCY AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

The source of the data presented in this chapter is the Czech National Bank. All tables where the titles of reports are given are exhaustive investigations. Otherwise, qualified estimates and calculations are used.

Notes on Tables

Table 7-1. **Monetary aggregates and counterparts**

The table on monetary aggregates and their counterparts is a concise balance sheet of monetary financial institutions (MFIs) providing users with a basic overview of the position of the MFI sector vis-à-vis other resident and non-resident sectors.

Monetary aggregates represent the amount of money in the economy and are calculated from the monetary liabilities of resident monetary financial institutions (the money-creating sector) to other resident sectors (the money-holding sector).

The money-holding sector comprises all Czech residents other than MFIs (excluding central government). In addition to households, it includes non-financial corporations, financial corporations other than MFIs, local government and social security funds. In the Czech Republic, MFIs comprise the central bank (S.121) and other monetary financial institutions (S.122), i.e. banks, money market funds and credit unions. Central government is considered to be a money-neutral sector.

Monetary aggregates differ according to the degree of liquidity of the individual components.

The **narrow monetary aggregate M1** comprises currency in circulation plus overnight deposits.

The **intermediate monetary aggregate M2** comprises M1, deposits redeemable at a period of notice of up to and including three months, and deposits with an agreed maturity of up to and including two years.

The **broad monetary aggregate M3** comprises M2 plus money market fund shares and units, debt securities with a maturity of up to and including two years, and repurchase agreements.

The main counterparts of the monetary aggregates are as follows:

Longer-term financial liabilities, which comprise deposits redeemable at a period of notice of over three months, deposits with an agreed maturity of over two years, capital and reserves.

Loans to general government (S.13) under the ESA 95 classification, including purchased debt and equity securities issued by general government.

Loans to the private sector (S.11+S.123+S.124+S.125+S.14+S.15) under the ESA 95 classification, including purchased debt and equity securities issued by this sector.

Net external assets, which comprise external assets of Czech MFIs (such as monetary gold, non-koruna cash, securities issued by non-residents and loans granted to non-residents) minus external liabilities of the Czech MFI sector (such as non-residents' holdings of deposits, repurchase agreements, money market fund shares and units, and debt securities with a maturity of up to and including two years issued by MFIs and held by non-residents).

Monetary aggregates and their counterparts in the Czech Republic are compiled on the basis of the harmonised consolidated balance sheet of the MFI sector. It is the sum of the balance sheet of the central bank and the aggregated balance sheet of other monetary financial institutions excluding mutual loans and deposits, including non-marketable securities; cash at MFI cash desks is subtracted from issued currency in circulation and other debt, and equity securities held by MFIs on the asset side are subtracted from MFI liabilities arising from the issuance of such instruments.

Money and banking statistics statements and the CNB's own calculations are the data sources for the compilation of the MFI consolidated balance sheet.

The collection methodology (statistical principles, sector definitions, instrument classification, method of calculation of annual changes) is harmonised with European and international standards (ECB Regulations and Recommendations, ESA 95, IMF Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual, etc.).

Calculation of growth rates

The growth rates for the reference period are calculated from the volumes of monthly financial transactions and the outstanding amounts at the beginning of each month. Monthly transactions are calculated from differences in outstanding amounts adjusted for reclassifications, other revaluations, exchange rate variations and other changes which do not arise from transactions. This data thus reflects only those changes that arise from accepting financial assets or providing financial liabilities. Reclassifications and other non-transaction corrections are introduced into the transaction statistics to preserve the comparability of the gradual monitoring results, thereby enabling calculation of the indices of expected outstanding balances of the monitored variables and determination of their growth rates.

Method of calculation

1. The month-on-month percentage change a_t^M for month t is calculated as:

$$(a) \quad a_t^M = \left(\frac{F_t^M}{L_{t-1}} \right) \times 100$$

2. The annual growth rate for month t , i.e. the change for the last 12 months ending with month t , is calculated as the product of the twelve coefficients for each previous month. The calculation of the annual growth rate from the month-on-month growth rates thus enables transaction changes and non-transaction effects in the individual months to be taken into account:

$$(b) \quad a_t = \left[\prod_{i=0}^{11} \left(1 + \frac{F_{t-i}^M}{L_{t-1-i}} \right) - 1 \right] \times 100$$

where

F_t^M – transactions in month t

$F_t^M = (L_t - L_{t-1}) - C_t^M - E_t^M - V_t^M$

and

L_t – outstanding amount at the end of month t

C_t^M – reclassifications in month t

E_t^M – exchange rate variations in month t

V_t^M – valuation changes in month t

The growth rates for other reference periods are derived from formula (b).

Table 7-2. **Monetary base of the CNB**

The monetary base (reserve money) includes currency and reserves held by commercial banks on accounts with the central bank. These items together constitute the **use of the monetary base**. The monetary base expresses the central bank's relations with other sectors of the economy. The counterparts of the monetary base are therefore the external sector, the government sector, the banking sector and the private sector. These factors affecting the monetary base are referred to as the **sources of the monetary base**.

The external sector represents the balance of short-term and long-term assets and liabilities of the central bank vis-à-vis non-residents in the domestic currency and in foreign currencies. This item also includes the foreign exchange position vis-à-vis residents (domestic banks).

The government sector expresses the difference between the assets and liabilities of the central bank vis-à-vis the government sector.

Claims on non-bank entities represent the claims of the central bank on different non-bank entities. These include banks without licenses, Česká konsolidační agentura, Česká finanční and other organisations.

Other net assets include various items, for example the central bank's own funds, tangible and intangible property, claims on commercial banks by virtue of drawing currency in circulation, other deposits of commercial banks with the central bank, other non-government deposits and non-government securities and participations, etc.

The volume of sterilisation expresses the volume of CNB bills held by commercial banks, non-bank entities and the Ministry of Finance of the CR.

Stand-by facilities include overnight lending and deposit facilities, which enable to manage the daily reserve position of banks so that an optimum balance on the payment system account is maintained.

- Lombard repo (lending facility): a repo operation serving to provide liquidity to commercial banks. On granting the credit, 100% coverage by securities, as a rule Treasury bills and CNB bills, is required. Interest on the credit is calculated at the Lombard rate. The minimum volume is not stipulated.
- O/N deposit (deposit facility): commercial banks have a possibility to deposit their free funds with the central bank. The deposit is not secured and is remunerated at the discount rate. The stipulated minimum volume is CZK 10 million.

Other operations include other operations used by the central bank in relation to commercial banks.

Short-term liquidity credit represents short-term refinancing credit that was used in the past. This type of credit is not used presently.

Currency represents a liability of the central bank by virtue of issued banknotes and coins held by banks and the non-bank public.

Reserves of banks include required minimum reserves and excess reserves on accounts with the central bank:

- The required minimum reserves are the funds which banks are obliged to maintain on their accounts with the central bank. The prescribed volume amounts to 2% of banks' primary liabilities with a maturity of up to 2 years in Czech and foreign currencies. The required minimum reserves used to be maintained in two-week cycles, which were replaced by one-month cycles as of 24 January 2002. The interest on these reserves is calculated at the valid repo rate.
- The excess reserves represent the difference between the prescribed and actual volumes of the required minimum reserves.

Tables 7-3 and 7-4. Client loans granted by commercial banks, total: by purpose, sector and activity

A survey of the balances and structure of loans granted to clients and the bank's receivables from clients (including bank overdrafts and debit balances on clients' current accounts), broken down according to the principles of categorisation of receivables to standard, watch, substandard, doubtful and loss, by contractual maturity (up to 1 year, over 1 year and up to 5 years, over 5 years), by currency (CZK and foreign currencies included in the CNB's foreign exchange fixing as well as other currencies), by economic subsector of the clients-debtors, by economic activities classification of the clients-debtors and by loan purpose.

Data File VST (CNB) 1-12: Monthly statement of client loans and receivables.

Tables 7-5 and 7-6. Client deposits accepted by commercial banks, total: by sector, activity and duration

A survey of the amounts and structure of total deposits and other loans accepted from clients (including general government), broken down by agreed duration of the deposit or maturity of the accepted loan, by economic characteristics of the client (economic sector and economic activities) and by type of deposit product.

Data File VST (CNB) 11-12: Monthly statement of deposits and loans from clients.

Table 7-7. Average interbank offered rates (annual averages)

PRIBOR (Prague Interbank Offered Rates) are reference interest rates on the interbank deposit market calculated on the basis of quotations of selected banks (hereinafter "reference banks"). The interest rates are fixed by the CNB daily at 11.00 a.m. Quotation means publication of an orientation price at which banks are willing to sell deposits in a standard volume to a standard counterparty.

The CNB defines the maturities for which PRIBOR rates are set, the algorithm for their calculation, the reference bank structure, the standard counterparties, the standard volumes and the method of publishing quotations.

PRIBOR rates are set for the following maturities: overnight, 1 and 2 weeks, and 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months. They are calculated from the reference banks' quotations on the interbank deposit market in the following manner:

- if more than five reference banks quote an interest rate for a certain maturity, the highest quotation (or one of the highest quotations) and the lowest quotation (or one of the lowest quotations) are eliminated and the PRIBOR is calculated from the remaining quotations as the arithmetic mean rounded to two decimal places;
- if four or five reference banks quote an interest rate for a certain maturity, the PRIBOR is calculated from all quotations as an arithmetic mean rounded to two decimal places;
- if less than four reference banks quote an interest rate for a certain maturity, the PRIBOR is not set.

PRIBOR rates are published daily by the CNB in *Hospodářské noviny* and through the Reuters, Telerate and Bloomberg agencies. The number and structure of the reference banks are given in the notes appended to each table of historical PRIBOR rates.

Table 7-8. Repo rate, Discount rate, Lombard rate

The main monetary policy instrument takes the form of **repo** tenders. The CNB accepts excess liquidity from banks and in return transfers eligible securities to them as collateral. The two parties agree to reverse the transaction at a future point in time, when the CNB as borrower repays the principal of the loan plus interest and the creditor bank returns the collateral to the CNB. The basic duration of these operations is 14 days, although repos with shorter maturities are executed from time to time depending on the forecasts of banking sector liquidity. Owing to the systemic liquidity surplus in the Czech banking sector, repo tenders are currently used exclusively for absorbing liquidity.

The CNB conducts variable rate tenders, which means that the declared repo rate serves as the maximum limit rate at which banks' bids can be satisfied in the tender. The bids are settled using the American auction procedure, i.e. those with the lowest interest rate are satisfied as having priority and those with successively higher rates are accepted until the total predicted liquidity surplus for the day is exhausted. If the volume ordered by the banks exceeds the predicted surplus, the CNB either completely refuses the bids at the highest rate or reduces them pro rata. Repo tenders are usually announced every business day at around 9.30 a.m.

Banks may submit their bids – i.e. the amounts of money and the interest rates at which they want to enter into transactions with the CNB – within a prescribed time. The minimum acceptable volume is CZK 300 million. Bids exceeding the minimum must be expressed as multiples of CZK 100 million.

The Discount rate is a key CNB rate. Up to 30 September 1997, the CNB provided acceptance credits to banks at this rate. Since 1998, when these credits were abolished, the discount rate has been used for deposit facilities. These are non-collateralised overnight deposits with the CNB that any Czech bank may place before the end of the business day. The minimum amount is CZK 10 million.

The Lombard rate is the rate at which the CNB grants Lombard credit. Lombard credit is granted against a pledge of selected securities included in the “List of securities accepted by the CNB as collateral for Lombard credit”.

Tables 7-9 and 7-10. **Average interest rates on CZK client loans and deposits**

Average interest rates applied by banks on CZK-denominated deposits and loans vis-à-vis clients. The rates are calculated as weighted average where the weights are the volumes in the respective deposit and loan categories.

The methodology was harmonised with the requirements of Regulation ECB/2009/7 in 2004. Since then the interest rates have been reported as annualised agreed rates instead of nominal agreed rates.

The outstanding amounts are defined as outstanding balances of deposits accepted and loans granted by the bank at the time of reporting, broken down by original agreed maturity. Statistics relating to new business have been launched. New business includes all new agreements between bank and client in the reference period, broken down by original interest rate fixation period, i.e. a period at the start of the contract during which the interest rate cannot be changed.

New business is equal to outstanding amounts in the following types of categories: overnight deposits, deposits redeemable at notice and overdrafts.

The overall indicators of new business, which included new business corresponding to the outstanding amounts of deposits at the end of the reference period, were removed from the interest rate statistics for methodological reasons.

The source of the data is the interest rate statistics statements submitted by banks to the Czech National Bank.

Table 7-11. **Number of active commercial banks**

The data are taken from Report E (CNB) 5-04, Statement on the organisational structure and qualifying holdings of the bank. Banks are divided into groups according to the ratio of paid-up domestic and foreign capital.

Table 7-12. **Balance of payments**

The balance of payments records economic transactions with other countries (i.e. between residents and non-residents) during a certain period. The basic structure of the balance of payments, using the IMF Balance of Payments Manual (5th edition, 1993), consists of the current, capital and financial accounts and the change in international reserves.

The current account records flows of goods (exports and imports) and services (exports and imports of transport services, travel services and other commercial and non-commercial services), income on capital, investment and labour (interest, dividends, reinvested earnings, wages) and compensating items for real financial resources granted or obtained without countervalue (current transfers such as subsidies and contributions vis-à-vis the EU budget and other EU funds, pension, foreign aid, contributions, etc.).

The capital account comprises capital transfers relating to migration, debt forgiveness, ownership rights to fixed assets, investment grants above all from the EU budget and other EU funds that are reported on the capital account, and transfers of non-produced non-financial tangible assets (e.g. purchase or sale of land by embassies) and intangible assets (patents, licences, copyrights, trading in emission allowances etc.).

The financial account includes transactions connected with the creation, dissolution and change of ownership of financial assets and liabilities of the government, banks, the corporate sector and other entities vis-à-vis other countries. It provides information on financial (capital) flows, broken down into direct investment (equity capital and reinvested earnings, other capital), portfolio investment (equity and debt securities), financial derivatives and other investment broken down by maturity (long-term and short-term) and basic sector (CNB, commercial banks, government and other sectors), which includes supplier and bank credits, loans, deposits, subscriptions to international non-monetary organisations, etc.

The change in reserves shows the foreign asset transactions of the central bank. International reserves constitute foreign assets held by the central bank which may be easily mobilised as a source of direct financing of a payments imbalance and of indirect regulation of such an imbalance through interventions on the foreign exchange market.

Errors and omissions are a correction item between the resulting balance on the current, capital and financial accounts on the one hand and the change in reserves on the other; they represent the balance of unidentified flows in the current, capital and financial accounts.

The sources used for compiling the balance of payments include the statistics of external trade in goods and services (CZSO), reporting data from banks and non-banks, information from administrative sources from central authorities and other institutions, and the CNB's own calculations.

Tables 7-13 and 7-14. Foreign direct investment in the Czech Republic by country and activity

The data on foreign direct investment are based on reports from non-banks in compliance with a reporting duty pursuant to the Foreign Exchange Act. Other sources of information include reports from banks, Ministry of Finance reports on foreign payments, stock exchange information, the commercial bulletin and the press.

The reported data show the inflow of foreign direct investment into equity capital including reinvested earnings in the given year, as well as credit relations with direct investors.

In compliance with the IMF definition, a foreign direct investment is a share acquired by a foreign investor in a Czech enterprise representing 10% or more of the equity capital or voting rights, conditional on the investor having a lasting interest in the enterprise and participation in its management.

Table 7-15. International investment position

The international investment position provides a survey of the overall composition of the financial assets and liabilities of national economic agents (residents) vis-à-vis foreign countries (non-residents) as of a certain date.

By structure, the investment position corresponds to the financial account of the balance of payments; for assets and liabilities, it is broken down by instrument into direct investment (equity and other capital), portfolio investment (equity and debt securities), financial derivatives and other investment, broken down further into long-term and short-term and by basic institutional sector group. The CNB's reserves are listed separately on the asset side. Reserve gold (as well as gold in the possession of commercial banks) is valued at market price from 2000 onwards.

The net investment position (the difference between total assets and liabilities) represents the net relationship vis-à-vis foreign countries (creditor or debtor position). In addition to transactions undertaken in previous periods and recorded in the balance of payments, the stock of assets and liabilities recorded as of a certain date in the investment position reflects exchange rate and other (e.g. price) influences.

The sources used for compiling the investment position are as follows:

Direct investment – quarterly survey of non-financial corporations focusing on assets and liabilities and annual survey of non-financial corporations focusing on direct investment stocks in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Portfolio investment – monthly statement of monetary and financial institutions and pension funds, quarterly survey of non-financial corporations focusing on assets and liabilities, statement of investment firms (client-account and own-account transactions), information on securities issued abroad that are mediated by a foreign custodian or held directly, the SKD (the Short-Term Bond System administered by the CNB) and the Central Securities Depository.

Financial derivatives – monthly statement of external assets and liabilities of the banking sector (the CNB and other monetary and financial institutions), quarterly survey of non-financial corporations focusing on assets and liabilities.

Other investment – monthly statement of external assets and liabilities of the banking sector (the CNB and other monetary and financial institutions), quarterly survey of non-financial corporations focusing on assets and liabilities, reports on the basis of the disclosure duty (loans), monthly statement of government assets and liabilities, administrative sources.

Reserve assets – CNB balance sheet.

Table 7-16. External debt of the Czech Republic

External debt constitutes the stock of financial liabilities (with fixed maturity date) of national economic agents (residents) vis-à-vis foreign countries (non-residents), i.e. the value of amounts drawn (by contractual agreement) and outstanding (owed) as of a certain date. It does not include equity investment, i.e. direct investment (equity capital) and portfolio investment (equity securities, participating interests and derivatives).

The sources used for compiling the external debt figures are the same as the data sources for the international investment position (see the methodology related to the table 7-15.).

Table 7-17. International reserves

International reserves consist of short-term (liquid) foreign assets held by the Czech National Bank and denominated in convertible currencies (deposits with foreign banks, credit extended, securities, foreign exchange and gold, special drawing rights and the reserve position in the IMF) that may be used to finance and regulate a balance of payments disequilibrium.

The source used to calculate the reserves is the CNB balance sheet.

Table 7-18. Nominal and real CZK effective exchange rate indices

The nominal effective exchange rate of the koruna (NEER) expressed as an index shows the appreciation (index above 100) or depreciation (index below 100) of the national currency towards the basket of selected currencies for a given period against the base period (2010). The most widespread method of weighted geometric average of nominal exchange rates was used, taking into account the weights of total exports and imports of the Czech Republic's largest trading partners. These countries account for approximately 90% of the Czech Republic's foreign trade. Apart from euro area countries, represented by a single weight and the EUR exchange rate, these countries are Russian Federation, Poland, United Kingdom, United states, Japan, Hungary, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, China, Korea, Republic of and Romania. The weights were calculated in two alternatives. Alternative I – used by the International Monetary Fund – comprises the entire trade turnover of the Czech Republic. Alternative II – used by the European Central Bank – comprises only four commodity groups (SITC groups 5–8) of the Czech Republic's foreign trade.

Data sources: CNB exchange rate list, CZSO publications on the Czech Republic's foreign trade.

The real effective exchange rate of the koruna (REER) is one of the indicators of the country's international competitiveness and is generally understood to mean various levels of relative prices or costs expressed in a certain currency. In this respect, REER values above 100 signify a downward trend in the country's competitiveness relative to the base period, whereas an REER below 100 means rising competitiveness of the country relative to the base period (2010).

Among the various methods used to calculate the REER, the weighted geometric average of the ratio of the nominal exchange rate index to the price differential is the most widely used, with the weights given by the shares of the nation's largest trading partners in trade turnover.

The real effective exchange rate of the koruna comprises the consumer prices and industrial producer prices of 12 countries outside the euro area plus all euro area countries. Euro area countries are treated as a single currency and cost area in the calculations. The number of euro area countries corresponds to the current situation. The structure of the countries and their weights are identical to those used to calculate the nominal effective exchange rate of the koruna. In the first alternative, the weights relate to the overall trade turnover, whereas in the second alternative the weights relate only to the turnover in SITC groups 5–8.

Data sources: Price indices from ECB statistics, nominal exchange rate indices from CNB calculations.

Formula for calculating the real effective exchange rate:

$$REER_t = 100 \times \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{S_{it}^*}{P_{it}^*} \right)^{w_i^*}$$

where S_{it}^* – basic index for the domestic currency vs. the currency of the i -th trading partner in period t

P_{it}^* – ratio of the basic price index of the i -th trading partner in period t to the Czech basic price index in period t ; the base year is the same as the base year used for calculating S_{it}^*

w_i^* – normalised weights of the currency of the i -th trading partner

Table 7-19. Exchange rates of major currencies

The average annual exchange rates of foreign currencies against the koruna are calculated from the daily fixings in the exchange rate list issued by the CNB.

* * *

More detailed surveys and current data on monetary statistics and balance of payments statistics can be found on the CNB website at:

– www.cnb.cz/en/statistics/index.html