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External Trade Price Indices Development
in Q1 2016

Export prices in Q1 2016, compared to Q4 2015, decreased by 1.4%, import prices declined by 3.0% and terms of trade reached 101.6%. Compared year-on-year (y-o-y), export prices in Q1 2016 decreased by 4.2%, import prices fell by 5.6%, and terms of trade reached the value of 101.5%.

# Quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) comparison

**Export prices** in **Q1 2016**, compared to **Q4 2015**, decreased by 1.4% (in Q4 2015 they fell by 0.9%). More important price decreases were observed in 'mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' by 12.1%, ‘chemicals and related products’ by 2.7%, 'manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' by 2.2%, and in 'machinery and transport equipment’ by 0.4%. The prices of ‘beverages and tobacco' grew by 3.1%.

**Import prices** in **Q1 2016**, compared to **Q4 2015**, fell by 3.0% (in Q4 2015 they decreased by 1.5%). Among import prices of important groups of goods price decreases were recorded, from the highest one, for 'mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' by 20.2%, 'manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' by 2.9%, ‘chemicals and related products’ by 1.8%, and of 'machinery and transport equipment’ by 0.8%. The only prices that grew were those of ‘beverages and tobacco' by 1.1%.

The **terms of trade** figures in **Q1 2016**, compared to **Q4 2015**, reached the value of 101.6% (in Q4 2015 they were 100.6%). The positive values of terms of trade were recorded namely in 'mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' (110.2%), 'manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (100.7%), and in 'machinery and transport equipment’ (100.4%). The two lowest negative values of terms of trade were recorded in ‘food and live animals’ (98.0%) and in 'crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (98.6%).

The external trade price development was also significantly affected by the CZK exchange rate to the major foreign currencies. The quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) exchange rate index includes two most important currencies from the Czech Republic’s external trade point of view, i.e. EUR and USD. Q-o-q indices of the CZK exchange rate to these currencies were weighted by the weight, which pertains to those foreign currencies in the export price index and import price index, respectively.

It can be seen from Graphs Nos. 2 and 3 above that in both cases of imports and exports external trade prices have a strong relation to exchange rate impacts. Contracts with foreign entities are, as a rule, signed for a longer period of time and the longer the contract period is, the stronger the relation to exchange rates is.

# Year-on-year (y-o-y) comparison

**Export prices** in **Q1 2016** decreased by 4.2% (in Q4 2015 they fell by 3.2%), year-on-year. Among more important groups of goods, the highest drop was reported for prices of 'mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' by 19.0%, then for those of 'crude materials, inedible, except fuels' by 13.4%, 'manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' by 6.1%, and of 'machinery and transport equipment’ by 2.6%. The growing prices were namely those of ‘beverages and tobacco' by 1.5%.

**Import prices** in **Q1 2016** decreased by 5.6% (in Q4 2015 they fell by 3.8%), year-on-year. A decline in prices was recorded for 'mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' by 32.6%, then for 'crude materials, inedible, except fuels' by 8.4%, 'manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' by 6.4%, and for 'machinery and transport equipment’ by 0.7%. The only growing prices were those of ‘animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes’ by 2.9%.

**Terms of trade** in **Q1 2016** increased year-on-year to reach the value of 101.5% (in Q4 2015 they were 100.6%) and so they remained in positive values – see Graph No. 4 below. Among more important groups of goods higher positive values of terms of trade were recorded for 'mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' (120.2%), 'chemicals and related products’ (100.5%), and for 'miscellaneous manufactured articles' (100.4%). Negative values of terms of trade were recorded namely for ‘food and live animals’ (96.3%) and for 'machinery and transport equipment' (98.1%).


# External trade price indices adjusted y-o-y for exchange rate influence

The CZSO also carries out calculations of year-on-year external trade price indices adjusted for effects of exchange rate. The method is prices in foreign currencies reported in the current month are **converted** into Czech crowns by the **exchange rate** of the same month **of the last year**. Then they are used for the weighted mean calculation along with prices reported in CZK. The year-on-year adjusted price index is then calculated the way that this exchange rate adjusted base price index is related to the non-adjusted base price index of the same month of the last year. **Differences among adjusted and non-adjusted price indices may be substantial**. They can be clearly seen in Graphs Nos. 6 and 7 for November 2013 and December 2013, for instance.

The method employed does not enable, for many practical reasons, to carry out 100% exchange rate adjustment because all trade transactions concluded in foreign currencies are not reported in foreign currencies. This share is up to 30%. It follows from the aforementioned, that **at the full exchange rate adjustment differences** in between the price indices published and the exchange rate adjusted price indices would be probably **even larger**.

The aforementioned exchange rate adjusted indices can be used to form the exchange rate adjusted breakdown of price indices increments. Table 1, last but one page, gives the **published and exchange rate adjusted breakdowns of increments** of export and import price indices, expanded to the most important two-digit code groups of the SITC 7. These breakdowns illustrate, in a good manner, how many percentage points each of the groups “exchange rate contributed” to the given index.

It holds in general that the effects of exchange rate decrease the value of price indices in external trade if CZK is strengthening to foreign currencies in total. Conversely, the effects of exchange rate push the price indices up if CZK is weakening to foreign currencies in total. It is obvious from following Graphs Nos. 6 and 7, how significant was the exchange rate impact on the value of export and import price indices.

It can be seen from Graph No. 9 how the exchange rate influences the value of the year-on-year terms of trade.

Graph No. 10 demonstrates how the value of terms of trade would develop if the observed groups would not include that of 'mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials'.

It can be observed in Graph No. 10 that the effects of 'mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' decreased the overall value of y-o-y terms of trade till Q4 2012. In Q1 2013 the situation began to reverse and 'mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' have had again an upward effect on the value of terms of trade. It is, of course, related to the world market price development, especially in crude oil. Import prices, which, compared to export prices, include a higher proportion of crude materials, respond in a more sensitive way to price turbulences and therefore when prices of crude materials go up, terms of trade, as a rule, go down and, conversely, when prices of crude materials fall, terms of trade grow.

# Closing summary

The exchange rate effects in **Q1 2016** caused year-on-year decreases in export as well as import prices got deeper, unless there were no exchange rate effects the decline in export and import prices would be slower. The export price fell less than the import prices and therefore the terms of trade remained in positive values. Yet if exchange rate non-adjusted, terms of trade would be positive anyway. Values free of the exchange rate effects correspond to exchange rate adjusted indices – see Graphs Nos. 6, 7, and 9.

Closing table gives published external trade price indices **without adjustment**.

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