

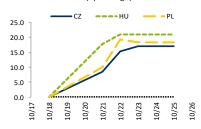
Friday, 25 October 2024

Forex markets (index)



	LAST	PREVIOUS	CHANGE (%)
EURCZK	25.25	25.25	0.00
EURHUF	401.8	401.8	0.00
EURPLN	4.339	4.339	0.00

Gov. bonds 10 Y (bps change)



	LAST	PREVIOUS	CHANGE (bps)
CZGB 10Y	4.100	4.100	0.0
HUGB 10Y	6.79	6.79	0.0
PLGB 10Y	5.75	5.75	0.0

Equity indices (index)



	LAST	PREVIOUS	CHANGE (%)
PX	1640.2	1640.2	0.00
BUX	73846	73846	0.00
WIG	80347	80347	0.00

Regional insights

Are Central European assets a victim of the Trump trade?

Central European financial assets, including government bonds and currencies (the stable Czech koruna is the only exception), have currently come under selling pressure. Looming US elections, which are generating several negative spillover effects for the region, may hover over the losses, which are among the highest in the world over the past week. These are related to the fact that markets see as increasingly likely a post-election scenario in which the Republicans take control not only of the White House but also of the entire Congress, so that they will be able to implement their expansive fiscal promises.

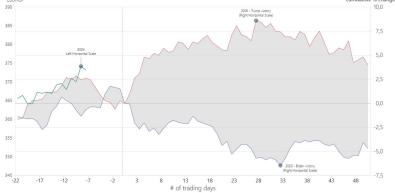
First and foremost among these will be the extension (or cancellation) of the 2018 tax cuts, which are due to expire in 2025. The result will be an increase in the deficit and therefore in the debt and supply of US government bonds. The market is already preparing for this eventuality and so USD rates are rising, triggering short-term capital outflows from higher-yielding currencies. And this is exactly why the forint and the zloty are already suffering.

Second, if Donald Trump is in office in 2025, the whole world faces the threat of universal tariffs-imposed on imports to the US (a starting proposal is 10%, but it might jump even to 20%). While the exports of Central European economies to the US are relatively low, so the direct impact of tariffs should be negligible, it would be another negative hit for these small open economies in a situation where the regional (automotive) industry faces a significant structural challenge. Add to this the fact that Trump intends to impose 60% tariffs on Chinese imports. This may result in cheap production from the middle kingdom pushing all the more aggressively into other markets (in the EU) and squeezing out (for example) Central European competitors.

Finally, a major political change in the White House, or even in the composition of the Congress, also contains an element of geopolitical uncertainty tied in particular to Central Europe. It will be a question of how Republican-led America will confront the Russian-Ukrainian war conflict. This may, of course, increase risk premiums on regional assets.

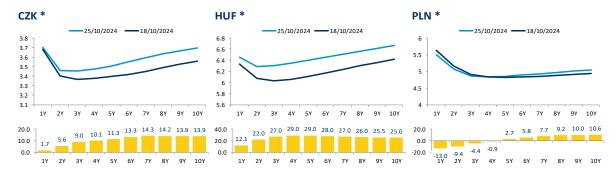
With less than two weeks to go before the elections, Central European markets could still face more headwinds. Overall, today's situation is very reminiscent of 2016, when Donald Trump surprisingly won the election and regional assets also came under pressure for some time (see the example of the HUF below).







Interest-rate Swap Curves



^{*} upper plot in each panel shows interest swap curve (%), lower plot shows change in interest rates in basis points (against previous Friday). Source for all market data: Bloomberg

Calendar

Country	Data	Time	Indicator	Period		Fore	cast	Act	ual	Conse	nsus	Previ	ous
Country	Date	Tille	indicator	renou	m/m	y/y	m/m	y/y	m/m	y/y	m/m	y/y	
HU	10/25	8:30	Unemployment rate	%	09/2024			4.5		4.2		4.2	
HU	10/30	8:30	GDP	%	3Q/2024 *P							-0.2	1.5
CZ	10/30	9:00	GDP	%	3Q/2024 *A							0.4	0.6
HU	10/31	8:30	PPI	%	09/2024							1.3	3.0
HU	10/31	8:30	Trade balance	EUR M	08/2024 *F							671	
PL	10/31	10:00	CPI	%	10/2024 *P							0.1	4.9
CZ	10/31	10:00	Money supply M2	%	09/2024								5.8
HU	11/01	9:00	PMI manufacturing		10/2024							49.7	
CZ	11/01	9:30	PMI manufacturing		10/2024							46.0	
CZ	11/01	14:00	Budget balance	CZK B	10/2024							-181.8	

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