

BULGARIAN ECONOMY

Monthly Report

2/2019

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Bulgaria • Economic and Financial Policy Directorate

Main topics:

- » Gross Domestic Product
- » Short-term Business Statistics
- » Labour Market, Productivity and Wages
- » Inflation
- » External Sector
- » Financial Sector
- » Fiscal Developments
- » Tabl. Key Economic Indicators

Statistical data used
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Highlights

The Bulgarian economy expanded by 3.1% for the whole 2018 as GDP growth in Q4 accelerated to 3% yoy from 2.7% in Q3. Both domestic demand and net export contributed positively to the economic activity in the country. Following a yoy decline in Q2 and Q3 exports returned to growth. Public consumption and gross fixed capital formation also strengthened. Private consumption growth decelerated on the back of lower consumer confidence in late 2018.

Short-term business statistics showed a strong performance in January. Industrial production and turnover posted a yoy increase, supported by both domestic and foreign segments. Construction production was also higher on a year earlier. Growth in retail trade accelerated. In February 2019 the **overall business climate indicator** and the **consumer confidence indicator** remained at their previous month levels.

In Q4 2018 **employment** declined by 0.8% yoy due to lower number of self-employed in agriculture, while the employed in industry and services increased. In February 2019 **registered unemployment** went down to 6.2%, following a seasonal increase in January. **Productivity** growth accelerated to 3.8% yoy in real terms in Q4 2018, while **compensation per employee** growth continued to slow down (6.3% yoy in nominal terms), which resulted in a lower increase in **unit labour costs**.

HICP inflation posted a 0.3% increase in February over the previous month, largely due to higher food prices. The **annual inflation rate** edged up to 2.4% yoy in February, while core inflation decelerated to 2.2% yoy.

In 2018 the **current account** posted a surplus of 4.6% of GDP. The balance lowered on a year earlier, mainly due to deterioration in the balance of goods. **Foreign direct investment** in Bulgaria reached 3.5% of GDP. **Gross external debt** kept improving and stood at 59.3% of GDP at end-2018.

The upward trend in **private credit** extended to January. The growth rate accelerated to 8.5% yoy, supported by both corporate loans and credit to households.

According to preliminary data on a cash basis, the **budget surplus on the consolidated fiscal program** stood at BGN 1 bn (0.9% of projected GDP) at end-January. Surpluses were reported both on the national budget and the EU funds account (0.8% and 0.1%, respectively). ■

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

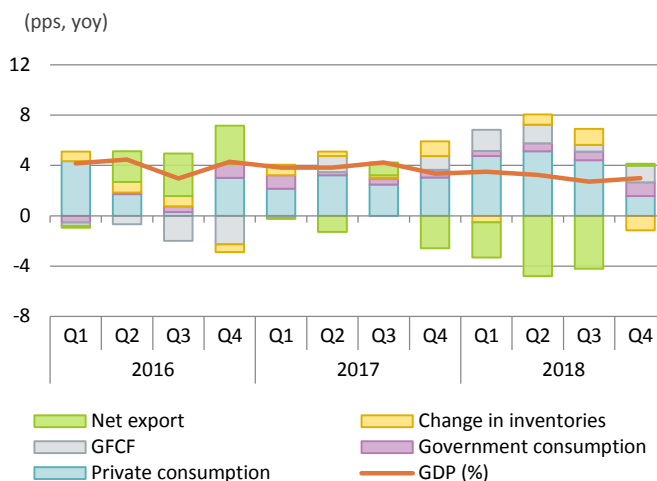
The Bulgarian economy expanded by 3.1% in 2018. **Gross domestic product** (GDP) growth accelerated in Q4 to 3% yoy, up from 2.7% in Q3, due to positive contribution of net exports (fig. 1). Following a decline in Q2 and Q3 exports increased by 2.2% yoy in Q4 and outpaced the growth in imports, up by 1.6%. The lower imports growth was driven by weaker domestic demand. Private consumption growth decelerated to 2.5% (fig. 2) due to worsened consumer confidence in late 2018 and a decrease in the number of employed, while incomes dynamics was favourable. Real households' disposable income speeded up compared to Q3 in line with higher increase in compensation of employees and lower inflation. The growth in the other domestic demand components like public consumption and gross fixed capital formation also strengthened compared to Q3, up by 6.8% and 6.7% yoy, respectively.

On the supply side, **gross value added** (GVA) increased by 3% yoy in Q4 (fig. 3). As in the previous quarters the growth was driven by *services*, mainly *real estate activities, financial and insurance activities* and *public administration*. The growth in value added in manufacturing decelerated to 0.3%, in line with the dynamics of the short-term indicators in Q4. At the same time, the growth in value added in construction came higher, up by to 6.6%, supported by building construction.

SHORT-TERM BUSINESS STATISTICS

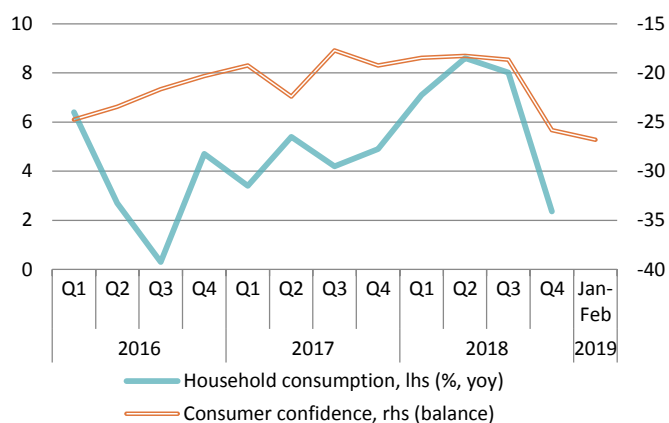
Industrial production and **turnover** posted a yoy increase in January 2019, supported by favourable development of both domestic and foreign industrial sales, up by 5.6% and 8.3% yoy, respectively (fig. 4). Major contribution to the higher domestic turnover had *manufacture of food products* while the growth in foreign turnover was primarily driven by *manufacture of chemical products* and *manufacture of electrical equipment*.

Fig. 1: Contributions to GDP growth



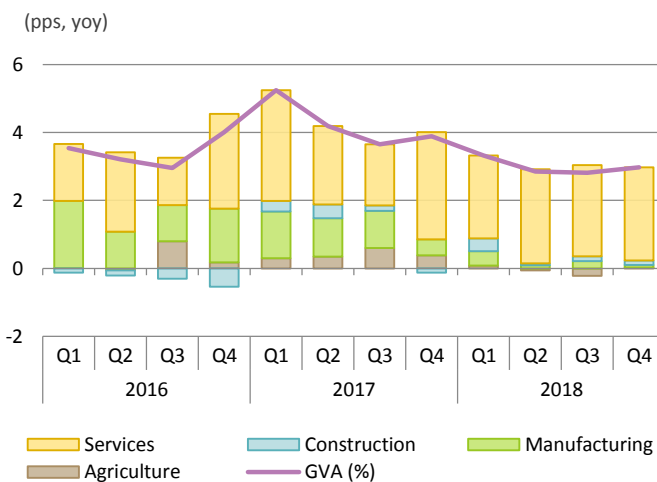
Source: NSI

Fig. 2: Consumer confidence and consumption



Source: Eurostat, NSI

Fig. 3: Contributions to GVA growth



Source: NSI

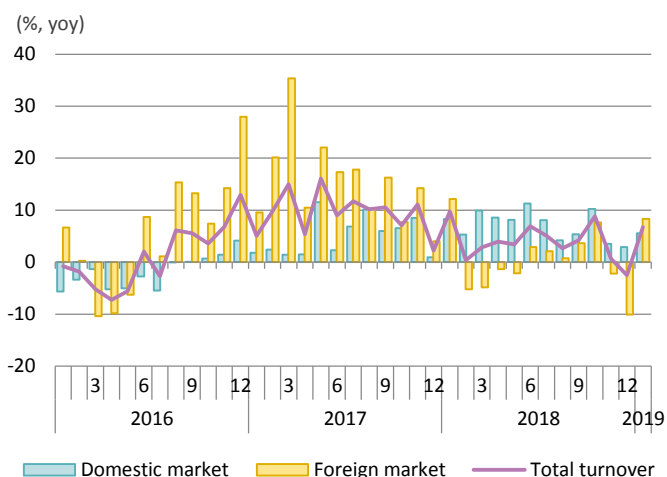
In January, **construction production index growth**, up by 0.9% yoy, was restricted by the decrease in *civil engineering*, down by 4% yoy. Meanwhile, the increase in *building construction* accelerated to 4.6% yoy, being 4.2% yoy a month earlier. **Retail trade** also speeded up, to 3.2%, with *sales of audio and video equipment* having the largest increase, up 19% yoy (fig.5).

In February 2019 the overall **business climate** indicator remained at its January level (fig. 6 and 7). The more reserved assessments in *industry* and *retail trade* were compensated by improved expectations in *construction* and *services*. In *industry* the number of respondents who reported insufficient demand increased. At the same time, the respondents in *construction* were optimistic about the construction activity in the next months. The expectations for *services* demand and *retail trade* sales were also favourable. Similar to the business climate, the **consumer confidence indicator** also remained unchanged from a month earlier.

LABOUR MARKET, PRODUCTIVITY AND WAGES

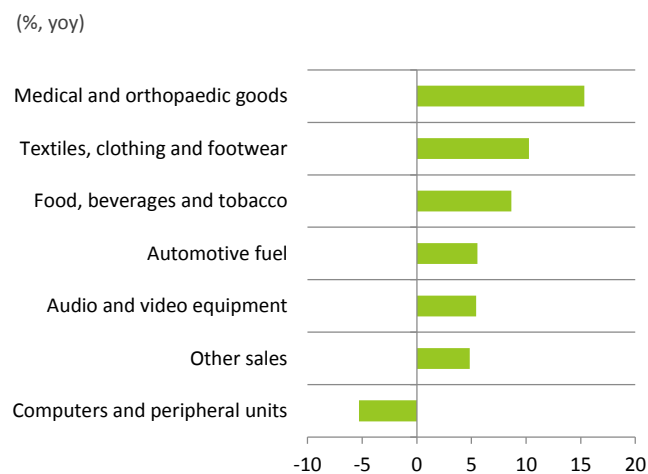
In Q4 2018 labour demand continued to increase but the **employment number** (ESA 2010) went down by 0.8% yoy due to the decrease in agriculture. The latter came as the self-employed, which dominate the structure of *agricultural* employment, declined further, in line with the unfavourable GVA developments. On the other hand, along with the growth in *industry* and *services*, the number of employed in the sectors went up (fig. 8). *Construction* employment posted the highest increase, up by 4.4%, supported by the improved economic activity in both building and civil construction. *Manufacturing* employment dynamics was slightly negative, down by 0.4%, influenced by jobs reduction in some of the export-oriented industries, such as *manufacture of textiles and wearing apparel*, *of metal products*, and *of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers*. GVA growth in *services* remained close to previous three quarters and the employed number went up by 0.7% yoy mainly due to the reported increase in *trade, transport and accommodation and food services*

Fig. 4: Industrial turnover by components



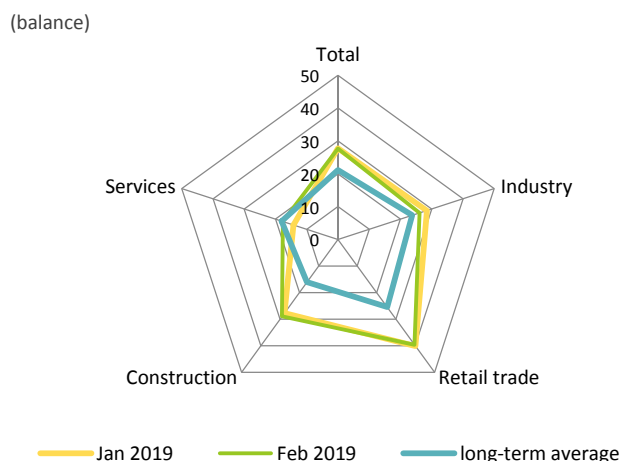
Source: NSI

Fig. 5: Retail trade, excl. motor vehicles and motorcycles, January 2019



Source: NSI

Fig. 6: Business climate by sectors



Source: NSI

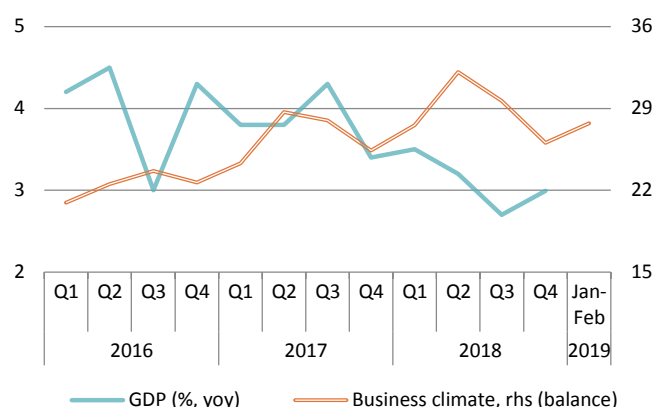
activities but also supported by the strong positive dynamics in some high valued added branches, such as *computer programming, consultancy and related activities*.

In February 2019 **registered unemployment** went down to 6.2%. Net unemployment flow was negative in result of both decrease in inflow, down to 24.2 thousand, and higher outflow, up to 28.4 thousand (fig. 9). The number of people who found employment went up by 11.8% mom (to 19.5 thousand), on account of sustained demand activity on the primary labour market, as well as due to the broadened scope of the implemented active labour market programmes, measures and schemes.

The overall **real labour productivity** growth accelerated to 3.8% yoy in Q4 2018, up from 1% a year ago and 3.7% in Q3 (fig. 10). Main positive contribution came from *services*, up by 3.1% yoy, and *agriculture*, up by 7.3% yoy, while productivity in *industry* grew at a lower rate, close to the previous quarter, up by 0.4% yoy. Nevertheless, in *manufacturing*, which is strongly exposed to external environment, real productivity had a significantly higher pace of increase, up by 5.1% yoy.

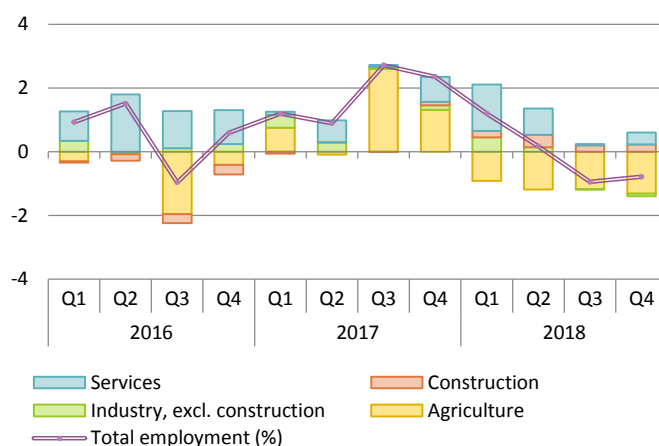
Labour incomes continued to increase at a lower rate compared to 2017. The nominal growth of compensation per employee came at 6.3% yoy, almost twice lower than in Q4 2017. *Services* had the main contribution for the deceleration, while growth in *industry* was at a doubled-digit rate of 11.8% yoy. Reflecting wage and productivity developments, the overall **nominal unit labour cost (NULC)** slowed down to 2.4% yoy in Q4 2018, being 10.9% in Q4 2017 (fig. 11). NULC dynamics in Bulgaria remained lower compared to the NMS average and close to the EU-28 average, thus supporting the cost competitiveness of the economy.

Fig. 7: Business climate and GDP



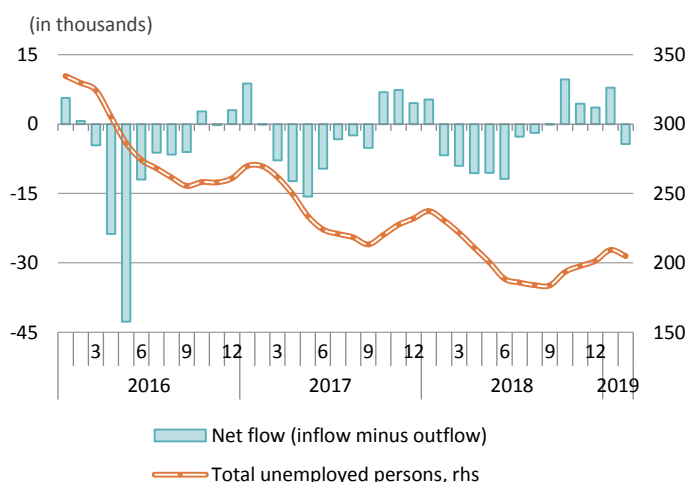
Source: NSI, MF

Fig. 8: Employment dynamics and contributions by sector (pps, yoy)



Source: NSI

Fig. 9: Net flow and stock of unemployment



Source: EA

INFLATION

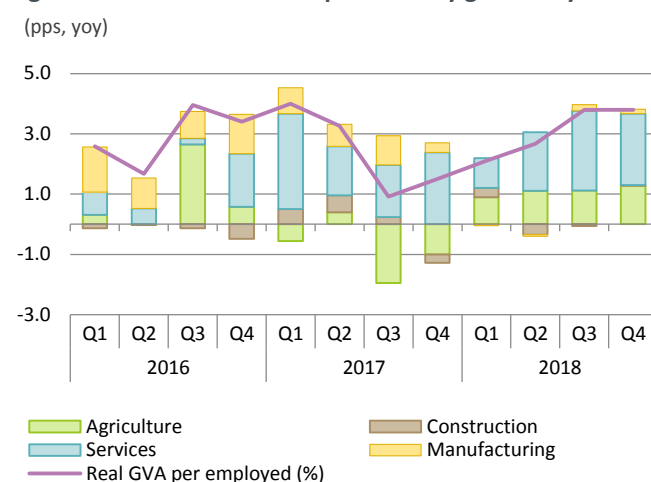
In February, **HICP inflation**¹ over the previous month was 0.3%, driven by higher food prices, up by 1.4% mom. Unprocessed food prices increased by 4.2% mom due to seasonal rise in the prices of some fruits and vegetables. Processed foods prices were up by 0.5%, including rice - up by 1.9%, flour - up by 0.6% and bread - up by 0.2%. Among the other major HICP groups, the increase in energy commodities, up by 1.6%, was offset by the decline in services and non-energy industrial goods prices, down by 0.5% and 0.3%, respectively, and they formed a combined neutral contribution to the inflation.

The **annual inflation rate** reached 2.4% yoy in February (fig. 12), up by 0.1 pps compared with January 2019 and December 2018. Food prices rose by 4.5% yoy, including an increase in unprocessed and processed foods of 6.3% and 4%, respectively. Energy commodities prices were up by 1.7% yoy (fig. 13). Due to crude oil prices dynamics, domestic fuel prices increased by 3.3%. **Core inflation** declined to 2.2% yoy, compared to 2.6% in January. The slowdown was driven by services prices. The drop in fuel prices in late 2018 was reflected in lower increase in transport and recreational and tourist travel services prices. The latter were also influenced by some seasonal factors.

EXTERNAL SECTOR

Following a minimal monthly deficit of EUR 51 mln in December, the **current account** accumulated to a surplus of EUR 2.5bn or 4.6% of GDP in 2018. The 12-month balance lowered on a year earlier led by widening *trade deficit* (fig. 14). The latter reached 4.1% of GDP, compared to 1.5% in 2017. Strong domestic demand supported import growth, up by 7.1% yoy, while lower external demand and some temporary factors (affecting trade with non-EU countries) led to a restricted exports growth, up by 1.8%.

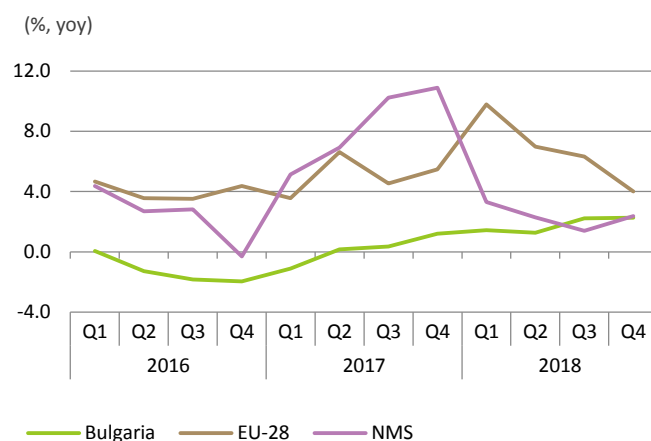
Fig.10: Contributions to real productivity growth by sectors*



* GVA in services includes imputed rent.

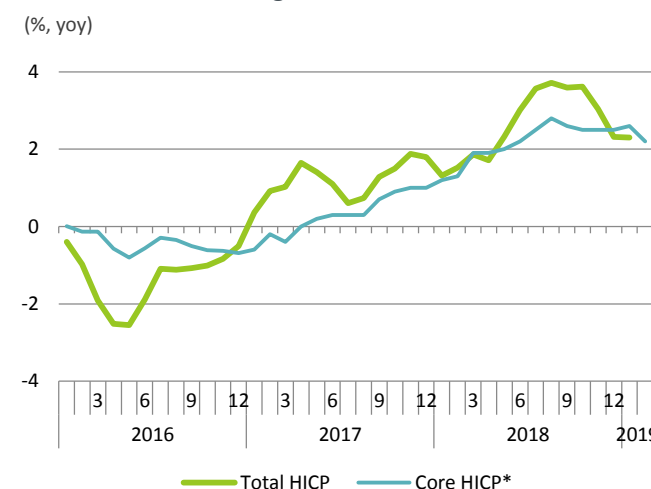
Source: NSI, MF

Fig.11: Nominal unit labour cost dynamics



Source: Eurostat, MF

Fig. 12: Inflation



* total HICP excl. energy and unprocessed food

Source: NSI

¹ Under the Harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP) methodology, NSI has introduced new statistical weights for calculating the price index, starting January 2019. According to final data monthly inflation in January was reported at 0.2%, compared with 0% with preliminary data.

On the other hand, *services* performance improved on a year earlier, up to 6% of GDP. Higher receipts on export of travel, transport and other services mainly contributed to better balance. *Primary income* also had positive contribution to the CA dynamics, backed by lower payments on investment income to non-residents. *Secondary income* surplus remained almost unchanged at 3.5% of GDP compared with 3.6% in 2017.

Foreign direct investment inflow in Bulgaria reached 3.5% of GDP.

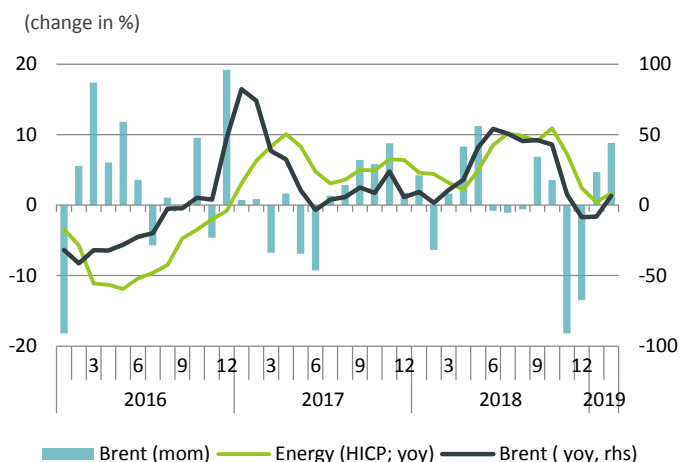
Gross external debt reached 59.3% of GDP at end-2018 and the ratio lowered from 64.6% in 2017. The improvement came from all institutional sectors, except for *banks*. The nominal increase in *banks'* debt was due to higher short-term liabilities. As regards the overall maturity structure, short term debt (original maturity) stood at 14.3% of GDP, while long term debt was 45% of GDP. **Net external debt** continued to indicate higher external assets than liabilities, 9.1% of GDP (fig. 15).

FINANCIAL SECTOR

The upward trend in **private credit** extended to January, as growth rate reached 8.5% yoy, up from 8.4% yoy in December. Strong contribution came from households loans and credit to corporates. The latter growth accelerated to 5.8% yoy, up from 5.4% yoy at end-2018. Credit growth to households reached 10.8% yoy vs. 11.2% yoy at end-2018, with positive contribution from both consumer loans and loans for house purchases.

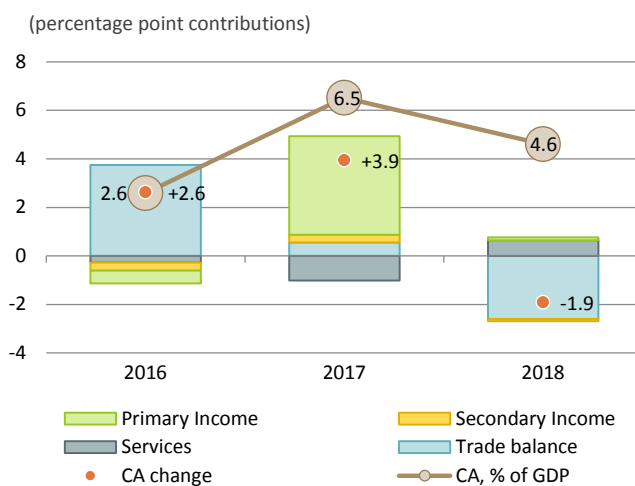
In January, consumer loans kept a strong rate of increase, up by 17.6% yoy vs 17.7% in December, supported by recent favourable development in labour market and incomes (fig. 16). In terms of maturity, the increase came mainly from long term deals (over 5 years) and loans over 1 and up to 5 years. In January the weighted price of new deals came down by 46 bps on a month earlier, driven by lower interest rates on consumer loans in national currency. The marginal deceleration in the yoy growth in consumer loans compared with December 2018 was in an environment of a monthly decrease

Fig. 13: International prices of Brent in euro and energy prices in Bulgaria



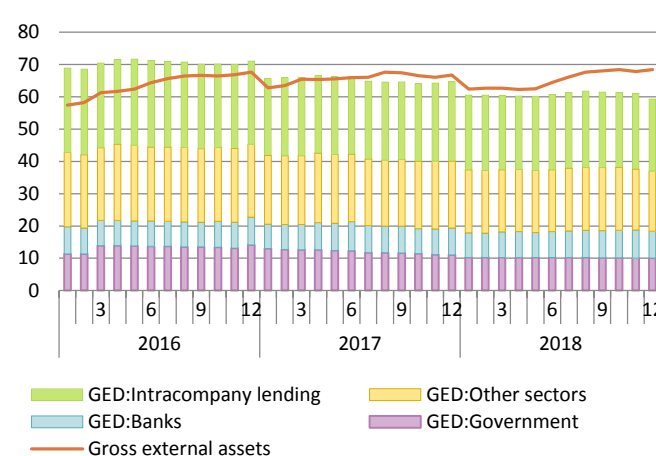
Source: NSI

Fig. 14: Breakdown of Current account (CA) growth



Source: BNB, NSI, MF calculations

Fig. 15: External debt and external assets



Source: BNB, NSI, MF

in the consumer confidence indicator.

Loans for house purchases continued to increase, up by 11.1% yoy, while the weighted price on new deals in January rose by 3 bps. "Other credits" kept a negative contribution, down by 27.5% yoy.

FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS

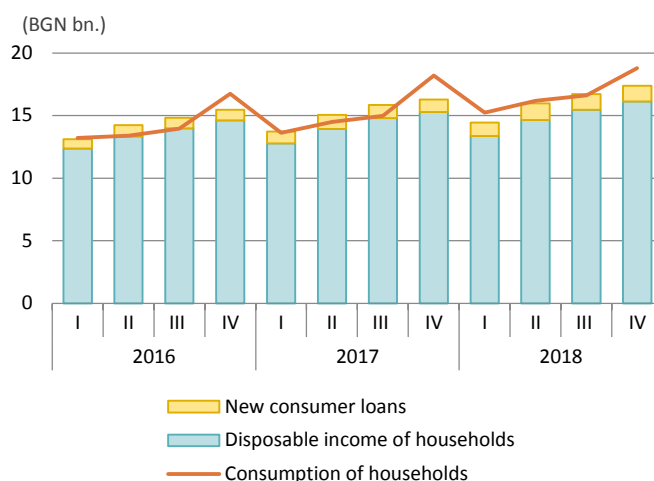
According to preliminary data on a cash basis, the **budget outturn** for the first month of 2019 came at BGN 1 bn (0.9% of projected GDP). Surpluses were reported both on the national budget and the EU funds account (0.8% and 0.1%, respectively).

Total budget receipts (fig. 17) came slightly over the level a year ago, up by 0.3% yoy to BGN 3.7 bn. The growth was mainly due to higher non-tax proceeds, up by 51.7% yoy, reflecting a positive base effect from legislative amendments related to the budget of the Energy Security Fund in affect as of July 2018. Grants and social and health insurance contributions also came higher. Tax revenue decreased by 9.3% yoy, as a result of lower indirect tax receipts. The latter was owing to a base effect from higher excise duties paid in January 2018 after increased stock of cigarettes in the last month of 2018 and before the excise duties rate rise. Proceeds from income taxes broadly equalled their previous year level.

Consolidated fiscal spending (fig. 18) was up by 6.6% yoy to BGN 2.7 bn. The latter came largely on account of higher personnel costs, up 10.6% yoy, and Bulgaria's contribution to the EU budget, up by 77.3%, while current maintenance and interests went down by 3.6% and 2.7% yoy, respectively. Investment costs (including contingency reserve) came higher by 14.7% yoy.

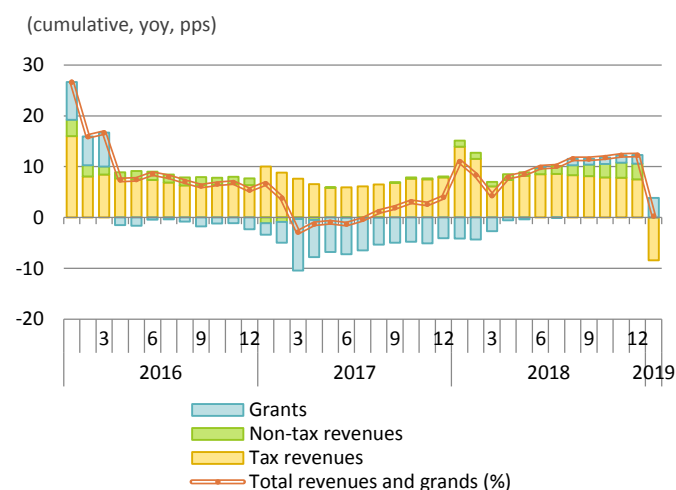
Total government debt, incl. guaranteed debt, decreased to BGN 23.2 bn or 19.9% of projected GDP at end-January, being 22.7% a year earlier. Domestic debt lowered to 4% of GDP, down from 5.2% in January 2018. The external debt-to-GDP-level also moved down from 15.6% to 14.3%. Government guaranteed debt was 1.6% of GDP, being 1.8% a year earlier. ■

Fig. 16: Consumption, disposable income of households and volume of new consumer loans



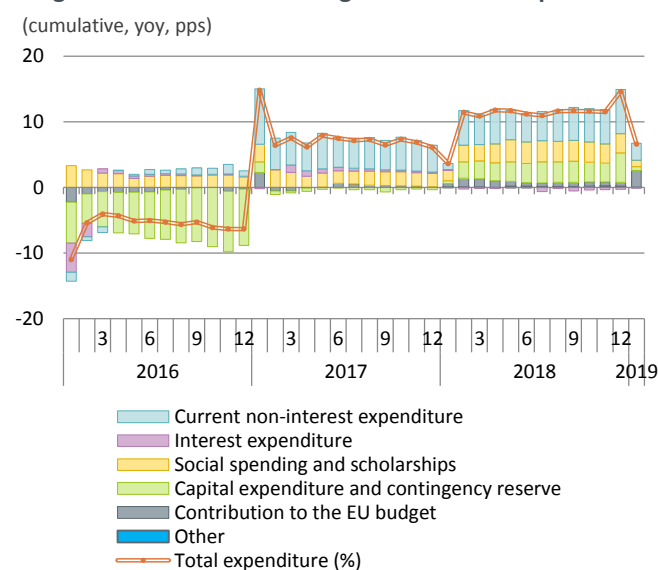
Source: NSI, BNB

Fig. 17: Contribution to the dynamics of total cash budget receipts



Source: MF

Fig. 18: Contribution to the growth of total expenditure



Source: MF



KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

		Annual data			Quarterly data				Monthly data						
		2016	2017	2018	Q1'18	Q2'18	Q3'18	Q4'18	08'18	09'18	10'18	11'18	12'18	1'19	2'19
— GDP¹															
Gross Domestic Product	% , yoy	3.9	3.8	3.1	3.5	3.2	2.7	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consumption	% , yoy	3.3	4.3	6.0	6.1	7.7	7.5	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross fixed capital formation	% , yoy	-6.6	3.2	6.5	10.9	7.0	3.0	6.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Export	% , yoy	8.1	5.8	-0.8	1.1	-2.3	-3.2	2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Import	% , yoy	4.5	7.5	3.7	4.6	4.9	3.8	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agriculture	% , yoy	5.3	8.9	-1.1	-0.6	-2.0	-0.8	-1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industry excl. Construction	% , yoy	5.9	4.0	0.8	1.6	0.4	0.9	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction	% , yoy	-6.8	4.4	4.0	9.1	0.7	2.1	6.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services	% , yoy	3.1	3.9	4.0	3.6	4.3	4.3	3.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments	% , yoy	7.2	1.5	3.8	4.7	5.7	2.0	3.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
— Short-term business statistics²															
Industrial production	% , yoy	2.7	3.4	1.1	1.8	1.4	1.1	0.2	1.9	-1.5	2.8	1.9	-4.0	2.8	-
Industrial turnover	% , yoy	1.1	9.3	3.8	4.2	4.8	4.0	2.2	2.6	4.2	8.8	0.7	-2.5	6.7	-
Retail trade turnover	% , yoy	6.1	5.4	4.5	3.1	5.4	4.2	4.9	4.7	3.3	5.4	6.7	2.9	3.2	-
Construction output	% , yoy	-16.7	4.6	1.6	7.1	-0.5	-1.2	1.3	-1.2	-5.9	4.1	-1.7	1.6	0.9	-
Total business climate	balance	22.5	26.6	28.8	27.6	32.1	29.6	26.1	29.2	27.7	25.8	26.4	25.9	27.8	27.7
Industry	balance	23.5	26.9	28.1	28.3	30.4	28.3	25.5	27.7	27.6	25.2	27.0	24.3	28.4	26.1
Retail trade	balance	33.6	37.9	41.4	41.5	43.3	41.4	39.3	40.0	40.1	37.6	38.6	41.8	40.1	39.7
Construction	balance	17.9	24.6	28.3	21.9	33.3	30.9	27.0	31.5	25.7	28.3	26.1	26.5	27.7	29.0
Services	balance	13.8	16.7	18.3	17.8	23.2	19.3	13.0	19.0	17.3	12.8	13.2	13.0	14.2	17.6
Consumer confidence	balance	-22.5	-19.6	-20.3	-18.5	-18.3	-18.7	-25.8	-17.3	-18.8	-23.4	-27.9	-26.2	-26.8	-26.7
— Labour market															
Participation rate (15+)	level	53.3	55.4	55.3	54.6	55.5	56.1	55.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employment rate (15+)	level	49.3	51.9	52.4	51.5	52.5	53.3	52.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employment (SNA)	% , yoy	0.5	1.8	-0.1	1.2	0.2	-0.9	-0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unemployment rate (LFS)	level	7.6	6.2	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.0	4.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unemployment rate (EA)	level	8.7	7.2	6.2	7.0	6.1	5.6	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.4	6.2
Nominal wage	% , yoy	8.0	9.4	9.4	7.1	8.2	7.7	6.9	8.6	6.7	6.7	6.8	7.3	-	-
Real wage ³	% , yoy	9.5	8.1	6.6	5.4	5.7	3.9	3.8	4.7	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.9	-	-
Labour productivity (GDP per employed)	% , yoy	3.4	2.0	3.2	2.3	3.1	3.7	3.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Real ULC (GDP)	% , yoy	0.1	4.8	-1.2	0.5	-1.2	-3.9	-0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nominal ULC (GDP)	% , yoy	2.3	8.4	2.4	3.3	2.3	1.4	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
— Prices															
National consumer price index (CPI)	% , yoy	-0.8	2.1	2.8	2.0	2.6	3.5	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.1	2.7	3.0	3.2
Harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP)	% , yoy	-1.3	1.2	2.6	1.6	2.4	3.6	3.0	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.4
PPI, domestic market	% , yoy	-2.9	4.2	4.1	4.9	4.8	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.9	3.5	2.9	2.1	-
PPI, non-domestic market	% , yoy	-3.5	6.0	3.9	0.6	5.7	5.4	3.8	5.0	4.5	5.3	3.4	2.4	0.6	-
— Consolidated fiscal program (cumulative)															
Revenues and grants	mIn BGN	33 959	35 317	39 651	9 220	19 210	29 164	39 651	25 976	29 162	32 613	35 810	39 646	3 718	-
Total expenditure	mIn BGN	32 491	34 471	39 516	8 628	17 497	26 501	39 516	23 588	26 498	29 769	32 913	39 509	2 712	-
Contribution to EU budget	mIn BGN	859	888	1 083	308	576	823	1 083	738	823	910	994	1 083	149	-
Cash deficit (-) / surplus (+)	mIn BGN	1 468	846	135	592	1 713	2 663	135	2 388	2 665	2 844	2 897	137	1 006	-
	% of GDP	1.6	0.8	0.1	0.5	1.6	2.5	0.1	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.7	0.1	0.9	-
Government debt (incl. guaranteed debt)	mIn BGN	27 424	25 531	23 942	24 429	24 250	24 153	23 942	24 219	24 153	23 942	23 980	23 942	23 197	-
	% of GDP	29.1	25.3	22.2	22.6	22.5	22.4	22.2	22.4	22.4	22.2	22.2	22.2	19.9	-

		Annual data			Quarterly data				Monthly data						
		2016	2017	2018	Q1'18	Q2'18	Q3'18	Q4'18	08'18	09'18	10'18	11'18	12'18	1'19	2'19
Fiscal reserve	mIn BGN	12 883	10 289	9 365	10 149	10 831	11 213	9 365	10 860	11 213	11 128	11 306	9 365	10 518	-
	% of GDP	13.7	10.2	8.7	9.4	10.0	10.4	8.7	10.1	10.4	10.3	10.5	8.7	9.0	-
— Financial sector															
BNB International reserves	mIn EUR	23 899	23 662	25 072	22 606	23 510	24 540	25 072	23 960	24 540	24 137	24 161	25 072	24 398	24 767
Monetary base coverage	%	163.4	156.4	150.5	158.6	158.7	160.1	150.5	160.7	160.1	162.2	163.0	150.5	154.0	156.1
Coverage of import with FX reserves	months	10.0	8.7	0.0	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.6	-	-
Coverage of short-term external debt	%	315.7	304.6	0.0	287.0	301.1	304.8	318.0	300.1	304.8	298.7	293.1	318.0	-	-
Money M1 (Narrow money)	%, yoy	13.5	16.9	12.2	17.2	15.8	13.5	12.2	14.0	13.5	14.8	14.5	12.2	13.5	-
Money M3 (Broad money)	%, yoy	7.6	7.7	8.8	8.4	10.0	9.2	8.8	9.6	9.2	9.7	9.3	8.8	10.0	-
Deposits	%, yoy	6.7	7.2	8.7	7.8	9.6	8.8	8.7	9.3	8.8	9.6	9.2	8.7	10.0	-
Credit to private sector	%, yoy	1.5	4.8	8.4	5.6	6.7	7.4	8.4	7.6	7.4	7.8	8.2	8.4	8.5	-
Credit to non-financial enterprises	%, yoy	0.3	1.7	5.4	2.5	3.8	4.0	5.4	4.2	4.0	4.8	5.5	5.4	5.8	-
Credit to households	%, yoy	2.0	6.0	11.2	6.3	9.2	9.7	11.2	10.2	9.7	10.0	10.0	11.2	10.8	-
Interest rate on credit ⁴	%	5.8	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.6	-
Interest rate on deposits ⁵	%	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	-
APRC ⁶ , consumer loans	%	11.0	10.2	10.5	10.0	10.3	10.9	10.9	11.1	10.9	10.6	10.7	11.3	10.5	-
APRC ⁶ , mortgages	%	5.5	4.4	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	-
Exchange rate BGN/USD	eop	1.86	1.63	1.71	1.59	1.68	1.69	1.71	1.68	1.69	1.73	1.72	1.71	1.70	1.71
	per. av.	1.77	1.74	1.72	1.59	1.64	1.68	1.72	1.69	1.68	1.70	1.72	1.72	1.71	1.72
— Gross External Debt (GED)															
Gross external debt	% of GDP	71.1	64.6	59.3	60.4	60.7	61.4	59.3	61.8	61.4	61.4	60.9	59.3	-	-
Short-term external debt	% of GED	22.1	23.4	24.1	23.8	23.3	23.8	24.1	23.4	23.8	23.8	24.5	24.1	-	-
Intercompany lending	% of GED	36.2	38.1	37.7	38.0	38.4	38.0	37.7	38.3	38.0	37.9	38.4	37.7	-	-
— Balance of payments⁷															
Current account	mIn EUR	1 244	3 368	2 539	49	297	2 207	-14	980	303	10	27	-51	-	-
Current account (moving average)	% of GDP	2.6	6.5	4.6	6.0	5.2	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.6	-	-
Trade balance	mIn EUR	-984	-766	-2 248	-635	-705	-255	-652	-36	-90	-235	-177	-240	-	-
Trade balance (moving average)	% of GDP	-2.0	-1.5	-4.1	-2.2	-3.2	-4.0	-4.1	-3.5	-3.9	-4.2	-4.4	-4.1	-	-
Export, f.o.b.	mIn EUR	23 104	26 950	27 427	6 285	6 649	7 182	7 312	2 319	2 348	2 682	2 499	2 130	-	-
	%, yoy	5.4	16.6	1.8	0.3	0.2	2.3	4.0	2.3	-0.4	8.1	2.1	1.2	-	-
Import, f.o.b.	mIn EUR	24 088	27 716	29 676	6 921	7 354	7 437	7 964	2 355	2 437	2 917	2 676	2 371	-	-
	%, yoy	29.0	15.1	7.1	6.2	8.0	9.6	4.7	0.6	10.1	15.0	4.2	-5.1	-	-
Capital account	mIn EUR	1 071	530	778	2	193	247	337	134	55	76	83	178	-	-
Financial account	mIn EUR	-266	2 260	969	1 442	-186	327	-614	149	-194	440	-455	-599	-	-
Net Foreign Direct Investments	mIn EUR	-266	-1 079	-1 223	50	-132	-498	-643	-368	104	-236	-226	-182	-	-
Net Portfolio Investments	mIn EUR	-75	1 291	287	406	-54	263	-328	78	82	233	-604	43	-	-
Other Investments – net	mIn EUR	1 735	631	1 767	1 314	35	1 017	-599	634	-457	601	-244	-956	-	-
Change in BNB reserve assets	mIn EUR	3 467	-99	1 362	-1 035	892	1 122	383	231	604	-493	34	843	-	-

Notes:

Ratios to GDP are calculated using GDP data as follows: for 2016 – BGN 94 130.0 mln, for 2017 - BGN 101 042.5 mln, for 2018 - BGN 107 925.3 mln and MF projections for 2019 - BGN 116 411.7 mln;

1. Growth rates derived from chain-linked (2010) level series, not seasonally adjusted data;
2. Not seasonally adjusted data;
3. HICP deflated;
4. Weighted average interest rate on new credit to households, NPISHs and non-financial companies by type, currency and maturity;
5. Weighted average interest rate on new time deposits of households, NPISHs and non-financial companies by type, currency and maturity;
6. Annual Percentage Rate of Charge on new loans to households by original maturity, weighted by currency and maturity;
7. Analytical presentation (BPM6).