Economic Comment

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Economy in the second dip

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GDP in Poland fell 2.8% in 2020, only slightly less than our forecast (-2.9). Such result implies GDP growth in 4Q20 somewhere between -2.8 and -3.1% y/y, which in s.a. terms corresponds to q/q drop slightly smaller than 1%. Private consumption fell 3% in 2020 and it looks that the drop in 4Q could have been the same (which would be much better than we had anticipated). Fixed investments dropped 8.4% in 2020 and probably nearly 11% y/y in 4Q (more or less in line with our view). Overall, the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic apparently did have much smaller impact on economic activity than in the spring 2020, which was in line with expectations. At the same time, it is quite obvious that this impact will last longer, as economic restrictions were extended well into 1Q21. The economic scenario for 2021 depends heavily on the success and pace of the vaccination program. We still believe there is a chance for a strong economic revival in 2H21, given that by the late summer the large part of uncertainty regarding future lockdowns is removed.

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On the supply side, the annual data imply that the industrial sector saw a further acceleration in 4Q: value added in industry dropped only -0.2% in 2020, which implies c. 3% q/q s.a. rise in the final quarter, according to our estimate. Meanwhile, construction and retail trade were still under pressure and it seems that in both sectors the gross value added could have dropped by around 5% q/q s.a. in 4Q20.

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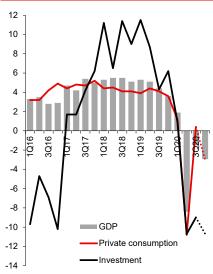
GDP growth and its components (% y/y)

	2018	2019	2020	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q20**
GDP	5.4	4.5	-2.8	1.9	-8.4	-1.5	-2.9
Domestic demand	5.6	3.5	-3.7	1.0	-9.5	-3.2	-2.8
Total consumption	4.3	4.4	-1.5	1.5	-7.5	1.0	-1.3
Private consumption	4.3	4.0	-3.0	1.2	-10.8	0.4	-3.0
Public consumption	3.5	6.2	3.3	2.6	3.4	3.4	3.5
Gross accumulation	10.5	0.1	-12.2	-1.6	-19.7	-20.2	-7.0
Fixed investment	9.4	7.2	-8.4	0.9	-10.7	-9.0	-10.7
Stock building *	0.4	-1.3	-0.8	-0.4	-2.0	-2.2	0.9
Net export *	0.0	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.6	-0.3

^{*} contribution to GDP growth (percentage points); ** Santander estimate based on annual data

Source: GUS, Santander

Polish GDP growth, % y/y



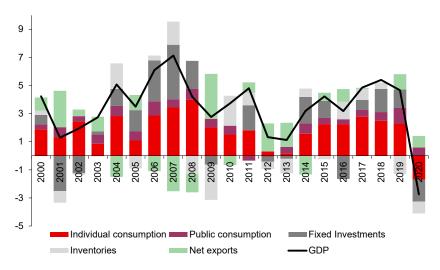
Source: GUS, Santander

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GDP growth breakdown (% y/y)



Source: GUS, Santander

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