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Independent Think-Tank

Real Economy
Monthly review of Moldovan economy and policy

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Real Economy is a monthly economic review, tracking the most important economic evolutions and policy developments in Moldova. Its readers are policymakers, CEOs of domestic and international companies and banks, representatives of the international institutions and foreign embassies, political parties and economic journalists.

Acronyms and abbreviations: y-o-y - year on year; q-o-q - quarter on quarter; m-o-m – month on month; e-o-p – end of period; Q4:07 – fourth quarter 2007; Jan:09 – January 2009; NBS – National Bureau of Statistics; NEA – National Employment Agency; NBM – National Bank of Moldova; MDL – Moldovan leu (national currency); p.p. - percentage points.

EXPERT-GRUP is a Moldovan independent think-tank whose mission is to create a working environment in which free and non-trivial thinking thrives in order for the institution to be a leading source of unbiased economic analysis and to effectively advocate for innovative ideas and solutions to the economic problems that Moldova encounters along its path of economic transformation, societal development and European integration.

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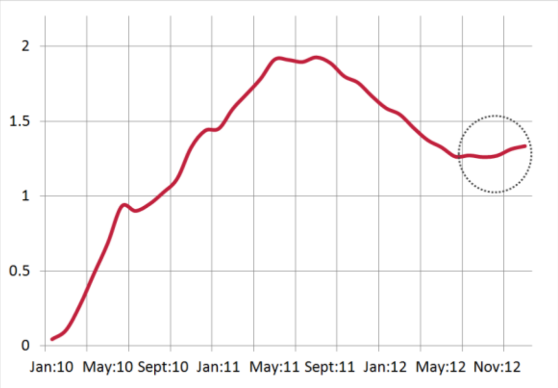
Evolution of the Economic Leading Indicator

Despite the negative economic growth registered in Q3:12 and which is estimated to have persisted until the end of the year, the economic leading indicator (ELI) computed by EXPERT-GRUP posted a moderate increase. It follows after a harsh decline during Q4:11 – Q2:12 and stabilization in the third quarter of 2012. Given the fact that ELI tends to predict by four months on average the state of the national economy, its current dynamics bodes well for a slight economic recovery which might take place in 2013. It corroborates with our forecast of 3.0%-3.5% for the real GDP growth in 2013, which is broadly in line with the estimates of World Bank (+3.1%), EBRD (3.0%) and slightly less optimistic as that of IMF (+4.0%). The key assumption about the expected revival in economic activity is related to the dissipation of the drought effects this year.

Chart 1. **Economic Leading Indicator, 4-Months Moving Average**



Source: EXPERT-GRUP calculations based on NBS, NBS and Logos-Press;

The main driving forces of ELI in Nov:12 (according to the latest available data), have been the 3.6% y-o-y growth in remittances which fueled the amount of money in circulation (+21.9%). Additionally, the quality of banks' portfolios is gradually improving, while the banking spread is shrinking. These positive dynamics have been counterbalanced by the negative growth in exports and new loans, which are important parts of the ELI. Thus, total Moldovan exports in November plunged by 11.1% y-o-y, while new loans declined by 15.2% y-o-y, driven mainly by credits in foreign currency (-21.4%).

A number of other leading indicators suggest an improvement of economic prospects for the near future, which will be supported by much better weather conditions in 2013 as compared to the previous year. Obviously, it is too early to conclude that the economy is full swing back on the recovery path, considering the high uncertainty and weak economic conditions in CIS and, especially, in EU.

Moreover, several policy issues will have to be efficiently managed by the Government in order to avoid eventual deeper negative repercussions on the economic growth. This is particularly related to strengthening lenders' rights and creating the necessary conditions to allow the banks to restructure their bad debts in optimal terms. This could spur the access of firms and households to banking credits and, hence, accelerate the economic recovery. Additionally, the inevitable increase in the fiscal pressure is necessary to counterbalance with higher-quality public services and infrastructure, as well as to ensure smoother communication between government and investors.

■ Key economic figures and data

Agriculture. NBS estimates a dramatic 22.4% decline in agricultural production in 2012, with losses coming mainly on the account of crops (-32.6%). On a more positive note, considering the extremely hot and dry weather in 2012 the decline in livestock sector was quite small (-1.1%). Paradoxically, the livestock sector output can grow further in Q1:13 if cattle growers start mass slaughtering of the cattle because of shortages with fodder. The areas sown with winter wheat under the 2013 harvest increased to 325 thousand hectares, up from 270 hectares in 2012[1]. According to latest estimates, the weather and soil conditions for the winter crops and multiannual plantations are favorable[2]. However, after two extremely drought years 2011-2013, the soil humidity is still far from recovering the normal level.

Industry. The most recent data on industrial production confirm the significant slowdown of activity in the second half of the year: -7.9% in the output volume in Nov:12, -6% in Oct:12 and -10% in Sep:12 (against +1.1% in Jan-Jun:12). Recession affects almost all important industrial sectors. On the bright side there is the activity speeding up in mining industry (+17% y-o-y in Nov:12) and in production of construction materials (+10%), which to certain extent serves as leading indicator predicting a more tepid activity in the constructions sector. Production of machines and equipments (+36% y-o-y in Jan-Nov:12) has been among the few manufacturing sectors resilient against the declining domestic and foreign demand. The domestic production of electricity continued its years-long decline in 2012, with a 18% contraction y-o-y in Nov:12. In short-term, this problem is likely to become even more binding.

Services. In Nov:12 the retail trade volume lost almost 10% compared to Oct:12 and almost 4% y-o-y. Volume of services rendered to population also registered a decline against Oct:12 (-4.7%), but gained 2.9% compared to Nov:11. Companies rendering services to businesses have been hit even more by declining demand, with volume of services declining 6.5% compared to Oct:12 and almost 3% compared to Nov:11. Parallel reduction in 2012 in the volume of transported goods (-2.9%) and in the routes' total length (-3.6%, including -20% for railroads) is a compelling evidence of the difficult economic situation in the wider region, including in the CIS area.

Business activity. Net FDI flows decreased significantly in Q3:13 – by 68.2%. For the first time in more than a decade a 61.1% y-o-y decline in equity capital was registered, meaning that investors take away their investments. By now, this is the case only in the banking system that experienced an overall decrease of the equity capital. Also, reinvested earnings are negative for the third quarter in row, which might be due to the operating losses registered by the enterprises and therefore reported as a negative income payment and disinvestment in the enterprise.

Households' income and expenditures. For the first time since 2006, in Q3:12 the disposable income of the population decreased in real terms by 2% y-o-y and the steepest decline was in incomes generated in individual agricultural activity - over 10%. A curious fact is that income of the rural inhabitants is reported to have declined less (-1.5%) than that of urban ones (-3.4%). Given the shrinking income of the population, the increase in final consumption of the households in Q3:12 by 1% is quite surprising. The loss in the incomes generated in the country continues to be partly compensated by increase in transfers from abroad with an annual growth rate was of 4.4% in Nov:12. However, the loss in incomes generated a fall in households' savings, with deposits of natural persons in commercial banks decreasing by 12.5% in Dec:12 y-o-y, and only with long-term deposits (over 12 months) growing.

Public finance. In 2012, total revenues of the national public budget grew by 11.2% y-o-y, being mostly driven by the reintroduction of Corporate Income Tax and a series of tax hikes applied at the beginning of the year. Nevertheless, due to the economic downturn and over-optimistic estimates, the collected revenues were just 98.0% of the planned level. This underperformance was mainly driven by foreign grants (87.3%), the VAT from imported products (95.8%) and excises (96.1%). As a result, the budgetary deficit accounted for about 2% of GDP – twice higher than originally planned.

Labor market. While employment trends are less pessimistic, the salaries have continued to grow with an annual gain of 5.3% in real terms in Nov:12. The strongest increase was registered in public administration (30.3%), hotels and restaurants (16.7%) and several industrial branches (textile, chemical, non-metallic mineral products, furniture). The only sectors affected by declining wages are some industrial sectors where the external demand for goods has decreased strongly and some other sectors represented by few enterprises facing severe structural problems. The

[1] Vasile Bumacov, "High value- added agriculture remains top priority for Republic of Moldova", http://www.moldpres.md/News.aspx?NewsCod=86&NewsDate=04.01.2013.
[2] State Hydro-Meteorological Service, "Analysis of the meteorological and agro-meteorological conditions during 21-27 of January 2013", http://meteo.md/mold/nssapt.htm.

number of unemployed registered at NEA reached 26297 persons at the end of 2012, which is 32% lower than the number registered in the beginning of the year. NEA has published the data on vacancies in January, and, as usual, the sewers positions are the most difficult to fill in, accounting for 30% of the total number of vacancies reported.

Prices. In Dec:12 the consumer prices increased by 4.1% y-o-y, which is 4 p.p. higher than previous month. About half of this annual headline inflation owed to foodstuffs, due to lower supply following the drought. Thus, the main drivers of CPI in late 2012 were fresh fruits (+11.4%), fresh vegetables (+22.7%) and eggs (+19.5%). At the same time, the core inflation (excluding foodstuffs, beverages, fuels and utilities) remained low (+3.7%) due to poor domestic demand on the grounds of the economic downturn.

Monetary policies. Given the weak economic conditions and low demand-side inflationary pressures, the central bank maintained the accommodative stance of its monetary policy. The basic policy rate remains at a historical low of 4.5%, which is only slightly above the NBM's 3.8% inflation outlook for the end of 2014. This way, the central bank tries to avoid the unnecessary policy volatility and to anchor inflationary expectations within the targeted interval of 5% (+1.5 p.p.).

Financial indicators. Given the gloomy economic situation, both at regional and domestic levels, the commercial banks remained very reluctant in their lending activity, which continued its downward trend in Dec:12. Total new credits were 34.3% lower y-o-y, owing mainly to plummeting loans denominated in foreign currency (-57.9%). Banks' try to immunize their portfolios against the risks associated with the current economic issues and aim to clean their books of bad loans. The overall banking sector remained stable, liquid and well-capitalized. The key challenge is related to the difficult situation at "Banca de Economii" S.A., where over half of loans (55.3%) are considered non-performing and which does not comply with the minimum capital adequacy requirements.

Exchange rates. In Dec:12, the average official exchange rate of the national currency strengthened in relation to the US dollar by 1.5% m-o-m, owing to the seasonal effect associated with larger foreign currency inflows in the proximity of winter holidays. It allowed the central bank to interfere on the domestic foreign exchange market by purchasing an equivalent of USD 47.3 million (by 3.4 times more than in the previous month). In this way an excessive volatility of the national currency has been avoided, as the Moldovan currency would have strengthened much stronger without these interventions. At the same time, NBM managed to augment its official reserve assets, which increased by 3.2% m-o-m, and suffice to cover over 5 consecutive months of imports (the conventional minimum is 4 months). In Jan:13 the MDL remained quite firm, losing only 0.4% of previous month's gains.

Foreign trade. The most recent trade figures show a profound fallout from the 2012 drought on Moldovan exports of goods, which in Nov:12 declined 11% y-o-y, while imports – by 3.4%. Falling export of cereals (40% down y-o-y) and of oleaginous fruits and seed (-45%) are the main culprit for the receding exports. According to most recent balance of payments data, in Q3:13, Moldovan exports of services grew 3.0% y-o-y, while import increased at double pace, +6.2% y-o-y, with services' trade balance much sounder than in case of trade in goods.

Key trading partners. In the Euro zone in Dec:12 bank loans contracted for the eighth month in a row (0.7%), albeit at a slower pace, featuring the weakening private activity. In Italy (Moldova's third exports destination), the consumers' confidence index in Jan:13 reached new lows (84.6), after the already disappointing 85.7 in Dec:12. Ukraine's economic outlook for 2013 has been downgraded by EBRD from 2.5% expected in Oct:12 to only 1% in Jan:12. In Russia, in Dec:12 the GDP grew only 2.4% y-o-y; the year began with figures twice higher, 4.6% in Jan:12.

Global and regional markets. In Jan:13 prices for all key agricultural commodities persisted at high levels; however, the short-term outlook is negative. In US – world key supplier of wheat – condition of the winter wheat is currently the worst in three decades, but weather conditions in Northern hemisphere are promising higher harvests compensating for the shortages in US. In the Black Sea region, Kuwaiti and Saudi companies appeared more interested to enter long-term contractual agreements with the food producing companies for supplies of significant quantities of grains and food.

Key policy developments in January 2013

Policy development	EXPERT-GRUP commentary
January 1. Starting this date, the road tax doubled, while the excises for cigarettes increased by 50% for the fixed component and from 24% to 30% for the ad-valorem component. Important VAT exceptions were removed and VAT for natural gas was raised from 6% to 8%.	Tax hikes reflect the budgetary constraints building up, with the donors' support set to decline in long-term. On the background of disastrous quality of roads, the increase in road tax will trigger new social pressures on the Government to deliver higher-quality infrastructure.
January 2. In its first meeting in 2013, the Moldovan Government decided to initiate negotiations (*and not to sign, as some Moldovan and Russian media reported*) on the Decision of the Council of the Heads of Governments of the CIS countries regarding the Concept of Strategic Development of the Rail-Road Transport in the CIS countries by 2020. As the original Concept is only partly in line with the Moldova's European integration policy, the Government decided that Moldova will not commit to harmonization of the legislation and coordination of the policies in the sector.	The Concept is only one among many other policies scheduled to be adopted by the CIS in 2013 which will be at least partly incompatible with Moldova's European integration vector. This will test Moldova's abilities to remain firm on its European vector while improving and preserving good relations it needs with the CIS countries. At the same time, Russia's assertiveness in the countries located in its so-called 'near abroad', including Moldova, is expected to increase in 2013, with the purpose of drawing them in the Russia-led integrationist projects in Eurasia.
January 2. Prime-Minister of Republic of Moldova Vlad Filat in an interview given to the Radio Free Europe said that the Labor Code has to be adjusted "so that we do not forget about the employers rights", and that inconsistencies between legislative and normative acts have to be alleviated this year. Prime-Minister Filat declared that in 2013 the privatization's policy is to attract strategic investors and to ensure maximum transparency of the process. In this regard, governmental commissions will be formed to oversee the privatization of the biggest state-owned companies. Referring to the relations with Russian Federation, the Prime-Minister stated that Moldova needs a new contract with Gazprom in order to ensure an adequate price for consumers, to solve the problem of the Transnistrian companies debt to Moldova-Gaz and to solve problems related to transit of the Russian gas through Moldovan territory. He continued by saying that there is a public and political commitment between Moldovan and Romanian governments to ensure in 2013 the accomplishment of the Iasi-Ungheni gas pipeline to help Moldova diversifying its energy supplies. Reflecting on the future political alliances, Prime-Minister said that "the mistake of politicizing the state institutions has to be avoided by the future governing coalitions".	The issues raised by the Prime-Minister have to be closely watched in 2013. Solving some of them may trigger anew conflicting policy visions among the parties composing the Alliance for European Integration, among members of the Cabinet and with development partners. In particular, amending the Labor Code may not be welcomed by the Moldovan trade-unions. The unions are not that strong and the issue may not be particularly significant to trigger widespread social protests against the initiative, but the union's leftists sympathies may deter the Prime-Minister initial will on the matter. Plans related to ensuring a higher-level political control on the privatization process may meet negative reactions from the part of Ministry of Economy which voices concerns regarding the low quality of management in the state-owned enterprises and promotes swift privatization as a means of getting rid of inefficient property. We do not expect spectacular breakthroughs in Moldova's energy relations with Russia and gas contract under Moldova's terms. It is important, nonetheless, for the Government to pursue negotiating a fairer formula for gas price, decoupled from the global price for oil. However, one of the most contentious issue will be de-politicizing of the state institutions, especially of the Prosecution Office.
January 3. Deputy-prime-minister, Minister of Economy of Republic of Moldova Valeriu Lazar declared in an interview given to the Radio Free Europe that "administrative approaches currently used to fight the tax evasion are not intelligent" and pleaded for a tax-collection strategy relying on extension of the economic basis rather on building up the pressures on those already paying the taxes. The Minister said that "many are not paying their taxes because they have connections with the Tax Inspectorate".	In 2012 the dialogue on fiscal policy and its impact on the business environment between the Ministry of Economy on the one side and Tax Inspectorate and Ministry of Finance, on the other side, has not been easy. We expect that in 2013 these debates will remain at least as intense if not to surge. Our assumption is based on the lack of proper dialogue between the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy and their often conflicting visions regarding the immediate and mid-term development priorities.
January 10. The Government gave a negative opinion of the legislative amendment of the MPs representing the Liberal Party of increasing the minimal wages in economy. *Inter alia*, MPs demanded increase of the basic wage for non-skilled work from 600 to 1000 MDL. The Government estimated that this measure alone would require 4 billion MDL (half of the total salaries	The Government gave a negative opinion based on the argument of budgetary constraints. However, the most interesting aspect of the story is the initiative itself, as it cannot be assumed that Liberal MPs are not aware of country's financial realities. With general elections set to take place in late 2014, the initiative may announce a new strategy of the Liberal Party of repositioning itself as

Policy development	EXPERT-GRUP commentary
presently funded from the public budget).	a party ‘closer’ to the citizens’ needs.
January 14. Head of the Gagauzian Trade and Industry Chamber, Piotr Pashaly, declared that interests of the Gagauzian entrepreneurs are harmed by the corruption among the Chisinau bureaucrats and called the members of the Gagauzia Regional Assembly and of the Gagauzia Executive to create mechanisms for conflicts resolution. On **January 23** the Governor of Gagauzia Mihail Formuzal in an official letter sent to Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions accused the Ministry of discriminating Gagauzia as economic development region.	The two statements are not related, but they both are symptoms of Gagauzia’s growing frustrations and resentments. Two decades after solving the ‘Gagauzian issue’, Chisinau fails to integrate economically and, indeed, politically the region in the national policy. This kind of statements emanating from the region prove that corruption, opaque policymaking and inconsistent domestic politics are, without exaggerating, among the most significant threats against Moldovan statehood. Failing to integrate Gagauzia poses great risks for Moldova’s ability to integrate Transnistria later on.
January 16. Moldova’s Energy Strategy for the period up to 2030 and National Plan of Actions for Energy Efficiency for 2013-2015 were adopted by Moldovan Government. The key objectives of the Strategy are securing supply of energy, creating competitive markets and ensuring environmental sustainability. The Energy Efficiency Plan targets reduction of energy consumption by 428 thousand tonnes of oil equivalent by 2014 (19% of total energy consumed in 2011) and by another 860 ttoe by 2016.	The fact that Moldova approves its third Strategy since 2000 reflects complex and dynamic energy, economic and political realities. The new Strategy targets two priorities Moldova failed to meet so far: 1) enhancing transit capacities for gas and electricity by consolidating bi-directional connections; and 2) building new and rehabilitating existing power-generation capacities. As for the Energy Efficiency Plan, meeting the efficiency targets set for 2014-2016 looks as overly ambitious, considering huge private and public investments needed for this.
January 17. According to the “Key directions of social-economic development of Transnistria” adopted by Transnistria’s ‘government’, the region expects a 2.4-4.3% GDP growth in 2013. Inflation is forecast to hit the interval of 7-8%. Measures against those evading mandatory payments in pension funds have been raised.	The widely spread GDP forecast reflects the economic woes and high uncertainty affecting the regional economy. Considering the unsettled budgetary issues and fragile contractual relations for energy imports and exports of regional goods, we believe in a much more negative economic outlook for 2013 for the region.
January 23. The Government approved launching of negotiations with the EU on the Financing Agreement to support Moldova’s Justice Sector Reform. According to the Agreement draft, EU intends to offer a maximum of EUR 60 million for the period 2013-2016. Biggest share of the funds will be provided as sector budget support. Among the key measures to be supported are strengthening of the Supreme Council of Magistrates, greater use of recording equipment during trials, courts’ improved staffing and management, separation of investigative and prosecutorial functions.	Justice Sector reform is a key precondition for Moldova to enter a more sustainable development path. Unfair and distrustful justice is one of the key investment-deterrent factors mentioned by domestic and foreign investors alike. However, implementing the Justice Sector Reform Strategy approved in 2012 will require not only the EU financial support, but also exceptional political will domestically, as many of the envisaged objectives are likely to test the solidarity of the Alliance for European Integration (such as Prosecutor Office reform). The effective implementation of the reform is also conditional on the outcomes of next elections.
January 29. The director of the Romanian pharmaceutical company “Balkan Pharmaceuticals” located in Moldova declared for the Romanian Money TV that the company is considering relocating from Republic of Moldova to Romania or Ukraine because of the political pressures from the part of Gheorghe Brega (MP from the Liberal Party) and harassments from the part of state control bodies. According to his statements, in only one year the company was visited 36 times by different state control bodies.	This is just one particular case, among many others in the recent half a year, attesting that, contrary to official statements boasting Moldova’s progress in international business ratings, the business climate in Moldova is highly problematic. Official positions and political connections are often used to eliminate competitors from the market, be it at national or local level. The national legislation regulating the competences of elected officials offers too many opportunities of using the official position for private ends.
January 30. The Government adopted a new Regulation on VAT reimbursement. Regulation adopts stricter refund procedures and envisions measures penalizing tax officials withholding the reimbursement process.	The VAT reimbursement is one of the most complex aspects of the Moldova’s fiscal environment. It is not clear if the new Regulation will make the VAT issues settlement easier, especially considering that business community did not comment on the Regulation draft.

Statistical annex

Table 1. Key Monthly Indicators

Indicator	Feb:12	Mar:12	Apr:12	May:12	Jun:12	Jul:12	Aug:12	Sep:12	Oct:12	Nov:12	Dec:12	Jan:13
Industrial production, y-o-y, % ch.	-1.5	-4.0	-2.4	10.6	0.2	1.0	-5.2	-10.7	-6.0	-7.9	n.a.	n.a.
Retail trade, y-o-y, % ch.	3.6	1.5	-3.5	0.5	0.2	1.6	1.9	-1.2	4.3	-3.3	n.a.	n.a.
Services to the population, y-o-y, % ch.	-3.3	4.6	9.5	8.6	2.0	2.6	3.7	2.5	-1.8	2.9	n.a.	n.a.
Exports of goods, y-o-y, % change	-1.9	11.9	3.3	1.7	3.7	-9.9	-15.8	2.4	-0.4	-11	n.a.	n.a.
Import of goods, y-o-y, % change	9.3	4.1	1.3	-2.2	-3.7	0.4	-3.3	-7.1	6.2	-3.4	n.a.	n.a.
Official reserve assets, million USD	2090.9	2073.6	2114.0	2043.0	2059.0	2094.3	2231.6	2326.8	2421.5	2422.4	2515.0	2519.7
Freighted cargo, y-o-y, % ch.	-35.9	-27.3	0.3	24.0	23.9	23.1	-11.5	-16.2	13.9	1.4	-18.6	n.a.
Registered unemployed at NEA (e-o-p)	40355	40300	38477	34803	31722	29412	27243	25552	24609	25586	26297	n.a.
Real salary, y-o-y, % ch.	3.7	4.1	2.1	4.2	6.1	5.4	5.7	3.2	6.0	5.3	n.a.	n.a.
Budgetary revenues, y-o-y, % ch. *	5.3	7.5	13.8	14.0	12.3	16.1	14.5	12.7	13.3	14.1	11.2	n.a.
CPI, y-o-y, %	6.1	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.7	4.0	4.4	4.9	3.9	3.7	4.1	n.a.
IPPI, y-o-y, %	6.6.	6.5	5.8	5.7	6.0	5.0	4.8	5.3	5.0	4.1	4.5	n.a.
Nominal exchange rate MDL/USD (e-o-p)	11.8	11.81	11.78	12.00	12.26	12.54	12.47	12.39	12.27	12.37	12.06	12.10
Money transfers from abroad, y-o-y, % ch.	7.5	-1.6	-4.2	10.6	-7.4	4.5	3.7	-5.8	23.6	4.4	n.a.	n.a.
M2 monetary aggregate, y-o-y, % ch	15.86	13.1	12.0	11.3	11.8	14.1	18.2	21.4	20.8	23.7	23.5	n.a
NBM base interest rate, %	13.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Banks deposits interest rate, % (e-o-p)	6.5	7.32	7.23	7.5	7.59	7.40	7.15	7.94	7.72	7.96	8.44	n.a.
Banks credits interest rate, %	8.04	14.05	14.25	13.98	13.69	13.38	12.82	12.58	13.0	12.68	11.98	n.a.
Non-performing loans, % of total	13.9	13.2	13.6	14.7	15.3	15.2	15.3	14.5	14.4	14.7	14.5	n.a.

Source: NBS, NBM, calculations and estimates EXPERT-GRUP;

Table 2. Key Quarterly Indicators

Indicator	Q1:11	Q2:11	Q3:11	Q4:11	Q1:12	Q2:12	Q3:12	Q4:12
Real GDP growth, % y-o-y *	8.4	7.5	6.7	6.4	1.0	0.8	-0.2	n.a.
Agricultural production, y-o-y, % ch.*	8.3	3.9	3.7	4.6	0.6	-2.1	-21.6	-22.4
Construction works f-a-p, % ch.*	4.0	12.9	3.1	1.4	4.9	3.6	0.8	n.a.
Fixed capital investment, y-o-y, % ch.*	132.0	131.8	111.3	109.3	95.4	-0.6	-0.7	n.a.
Net FDI flows, y-o-y, % change	25.8	100	-1.8	33.3	-51.3	-26.3	-68.2	n.a.
Unemployment rate, %	9.4	6.2	5.3	6.2	7.2	4.5	4.8	n.a.
Employment rate, %	34.6	41.9	42.9	38.4	34.3	40.5	41.1	n.a.

*Note: * - cumulative;*

Source: NBS, NBM, calculations and estimates EXPERT-GRUP;