



Global Economic Review

No. 16

24th - 28th April 2017



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i GOSPODARKA**

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Monetary Policy

• This week the central bank of Colombia cut the nation's key interest rate from 7.0% to 6.5%, A 50-basis-point drop that exceeded market consensus expectations. It made 25-point cuts at three of its last four monthly meetings dating back to December. In response to recent data, the bank's technical team has reduced its forecast for Colombia's GDP growth in 2017 to just 1.8%, down from a previous prediction of 2.0%. (It does, however, continue to maintain a large range of between 0.8% and 2.6% growth for 2017.)

Michał Tuszyński

Labor Market

• Spain sees unemployment edge up in first quarter. There are now 4.25m Spaniards looking for work – down more than half a million over the past 12 months but a small increase compared with the end of December. Spanish retailers and service providers often hire seasonal labour to help with the busy Christmas period, but return to normal staffing levels in January. The bank of Spain expects the unemployment rate to decline further, to 16.7 per cent at the end of this year and 15.4 per cent at the end of 2018.

Michał Tuszyński

Currency Market

Exchange rates (04/28/2017) :

■ EUR/USD	1.0891 \$	+1.81%
■ USD/GBP	0.7738 £	-0.99%
■ USD/CHF	0.9944 Fr.	-0.37%
■ USD/JPY	111.463 ¥	+2.71%

Rate of return: 7 days

• Eurodollar scared of inflation. EUR/USD only this week strengthened by 1.81% and remain at 1.08 level. According to Eurostat's core inflation (with no consideration of fuel, energy and food prices) rose in the euro area to 1.9% yoy in April against 1.5% in March. A further rise in inflation could become an impulse to discussion on the ECB's monetary policy change. However, such change is unlikely.

Aleksandra Duda

GDP

• Reforms on Philippines goad the economic growth Economy of Philippines in 2016 achieved a growth of 6.8%. This result is higher than in 2015, when the growth was 5.9%. Main factors influencing the change of GDP are growth of infrastructure investments and internal demand.

Aleksandra Kossakowska

Retail Sales

• The world's largest retailer – Alibaba Group has now world's biggest money market fund – Yu'e Bao. The fund, set up for leftover cash from online spending, now totals more than USD 165 billion.

Alexander van den Akker

Consumer moods

• Growth of Argentina's Consumer Confidence Index. The indicator increased to 46.19 points in April compared to 40.95 points in March. Households were optimistic about the country economic situation - 14.50 pp raise, their personal financial situation - 7.4 pp raise and intentions to buy durable goods - 19.5 pp raise. Averaged Consumer Confidence in Argentina since 2001 reached 47.09 points, with an all-time high of 60.97 points in January 2007.

Wiktoria Warych