

Ukraine

Rating report

Rating rationale

Significant international financing support: Loan and grant financing alongside prudent debt relief from a range of international multilateral, bilateral-official and private creditors and donors. Sustained international financial assistance coupled with increasing sovereign borrowing in the domestic market are crucial to a continued elimination of monetary financing and reinforcing long-run debt sustainability. In December 2023, the European Council approved the beginning of accession talks of Ukraine to the European Union.

Institutional preparedness for this crisis: The National Bank of Ukraine adopted speedy administrative measures and capital controls following the full-scale invasion to preserve foreign-exchange reserves, stem deposit flight, inject liquidity and adopt regulatory forbearance. It has appropriately cut its policy rate more recently as inflation has declined but nevertheless ensured hryvnia stability – seeing recent re-liberalisation to a “managed flexible” exchange rate.

Resilient banking system under exceptional circumstances: The resilience of the domestic financial system since the war supports the elimination of monetary financing, boosts sovereign financing in domestic markets and anchors the domestic-debt ratings of the sovereign. It does, however, deepen the sovereign-banking nexus.

Rating challenges: i) the negotiation around the second external debt restructuring, expected to be finalised by the middle of 2024; ii) long-run debt-sustainability risk amid a protracted conflict; iii) risks to external-sector resilience and elevated dollarisation; and iv) banking-system susceptibilities.

Figure 1: Ukraine’s sovereign rating drivers

Risk pillars		Quantitative		Reserve currency*	Political risk**	Qualitative***	Final rating (foreign currency)
		Weight	Indicative rating	Notches	Notches	Notches	
Domestic economic risk		35%	b-	UAH	Ukraine	0	CC
Public finance risk		20%	b+			+ 1/3	
External economic risk		10%	b+			+ 1/3	
Financial stability risk		10%	bbb-			+ 1	
ESG risk	Environmental factors	5%	bbb-	[+0]	[-3]	- 1/3	Final rating (local currency)
	Social factors	7.5%	bb			- 1/3	
	Governance factors	12.5%	ccc			- 1/3	
Sovereign Quantitative Model		cc			+ 1	CCC	
Additional considerations (local currency)					0		
Additional considerations (foreign currency)					- 1		

*The reserve-currency quantitative adjustment applies to currencies in the IMF’s Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket.

**The political-risk quantitative adjustment is based on the World Bank’s Political Stability & Absence of Violence/Terrorism index.

***The qualitative scorecard analyst adjustments, capped at one notch per rating pillar, are weighted equally with an aggregate adjustment rounded to the nearest integer. For details, please see Scope’s [Sovereign Rating Methodology](#). Source: Scope Ratings.

Foreign currency

Long-term issuer rating/Outlook

CC/Negative

Senior unsecured debt

CC/Negative

Short-term issuer rating/Outlook

S-4/Stable

Local currency

Long-term issuer rating/Outlook

CCC/Stable

Senior unsecured debt

CCC/Stable

Short-term issuer rating/Outlook

S-4/Stable

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Credit strengths and challenges

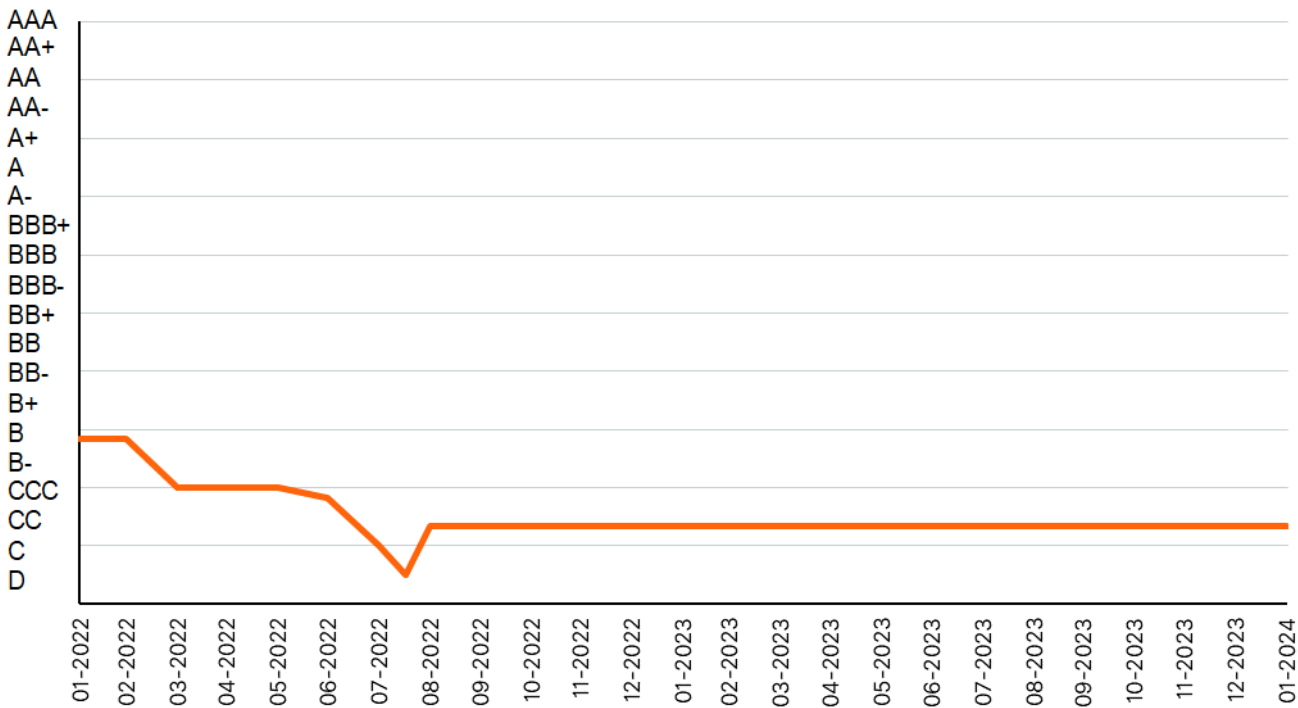
Credit strengths	Credit challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant international financial support and EU accession talks Adept central-bank response to the crisis Resilient banking system under exceptional circumstances Meaningful improvements within the external sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiations on further debt restructuring Long-run debt sustainability risk amid protracted war External-sector risks Banking-system vulnerabilities

Outlook and rating triggers

The Negative Outlook for long-term foreign-currency issuer ratings reflects expectation of the forthcoming external debt treatment. The Stable Outlook for local-currency issuer ratings reflects a view that risks relevant to the domestic debt are balanced.

Positive rating-change drivers	Negative rating-change drivers
<p>Foreign-currency long-term issuer rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructuring plans with external commercial creditors are annulled <p>Domestic debt ratings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in security risk; improved debt sustainability; and/or easing of banking-sector risks 	<p>Foreign-currency long-term issuer rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execution approaches for the second external debt treatment <p>Domestic debt ratings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likelihood rises of restructuring of Ukrainian domestic debt

Figure 2: Rating history¹



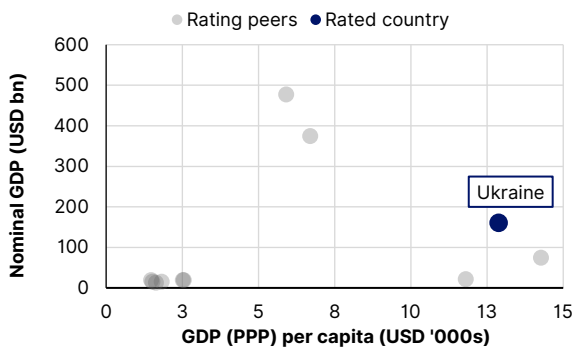
¹Foreign-currency long-term issuer rating. Positive/Negative Outlooks are treated with a +/-0.33-notch adjustment. Credit Watch positive/negative with a +/-0.67-notch adjustment. Source: Scope Ratings.

Domestic economic risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Ukraine's Domestic Economic Risk

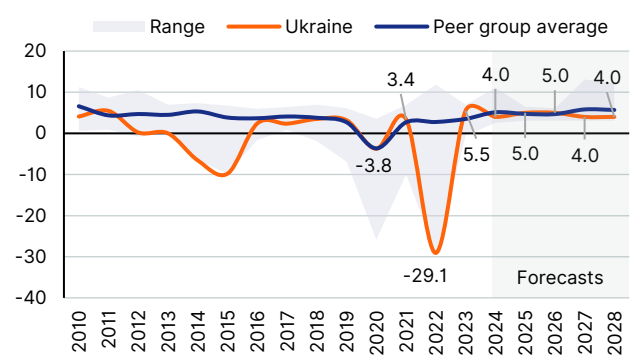
SQM* indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
b-	Growth potential and outlook	Neutral	0	Moderate long-run growth potential but significant uncertainty around recovery trajectory given the war; growth stronger than IMF expectations
	Monetary policy framework	Strong	+1/3	Significant pre-crisis improvement in monetary governance; central-bank measures since the full-scale war have been crucial in the anchoring of macroeconomic and financial stability; elimination of monetary financing
	Macro-economic stability and sustainability	Weak	-1/3	Average economic diversification and labour-market flexibility, conflict with Russia undermines longer-run macroeconomic stability

Figure 3: Nominal GDP and GDP per capita



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO), Scope Ratings

Figure 4: Real GDP growth, %



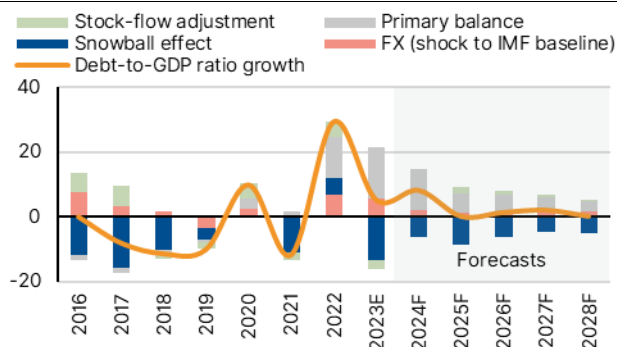
Source: IMF WEO, Scope Ratings forecasts

Public Finance Risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Ukraine's Public Finance Risk

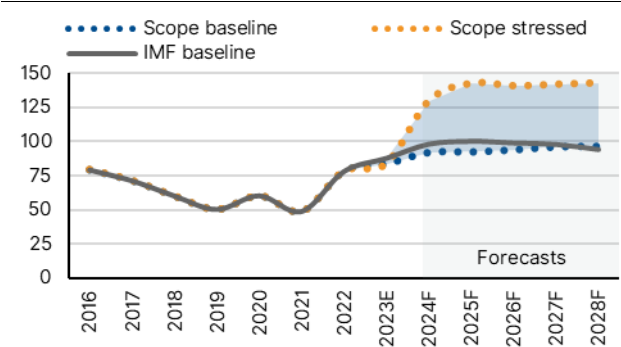
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
b+	Fiscal policy framework	Neutral	0	Record of fiscal discipline with oversight of the IMF and multilateral & bilateral creditors; reduced spending flexibility due to the war
	Long-term debt trajectory	Neutral	0	Stronger near-term debt projections than IMF baseline; many sovereigns of peer group are exercising presently or at risk of debt restructuring
	Debt profile and market access	Strong	+1/3	Restricted international market access, high foreign-currency risk in government debt, but extraordinary access to global multilateral and bilateral lenders and donors

Figure 5: Contributions to change in debt levels, pps of GDP**



Source: IMF WEO, Scope Ratings forecasts

Figure 6: Debt-to-GDP forecasts, % of GDP**



Source: IMF WEO, Scope Ratings forecasts

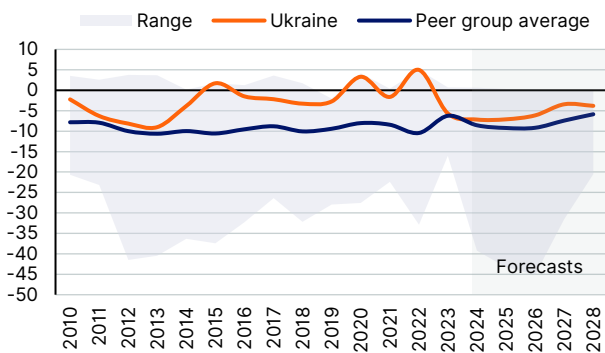
*Sovereign Quantitative Model. **Debt-sustainability projections of Scope Ratings and the IMF exclude assumed comprehensive debt restructuring by 2027.

External economic risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Ukraine's External Economic Risk

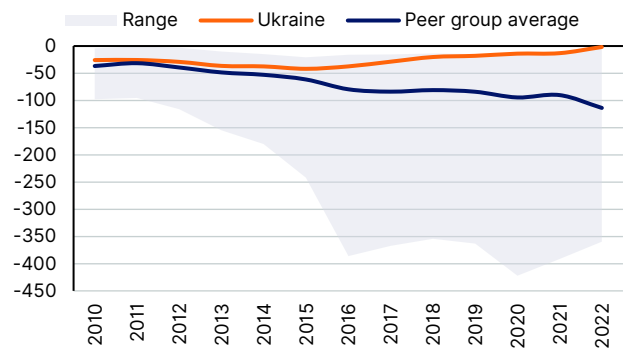
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
b+	Current account resilience	Strong	+1/3	Current-account deficits largely outweighed by reliable inflows comprising grant and concessional debt funding, alongside sizeable remittances since escalation of the war
	External debt structure	Neutral	0	Reversal in an earlier declining external-debt trajectory, a high share of external debt that is short-term, maturity of external debt extended after debt restructuring
	Resilience to short-term external shocks	Neutral	0	Near record levels of reserves, reflected in improved coverage of short-term external debt

Figure 7: Current-account balance, % of GDP



Source: IMF WEO forecasts, Scope Ratings

Figure 8: Net international investment position (NIIP), % GDP



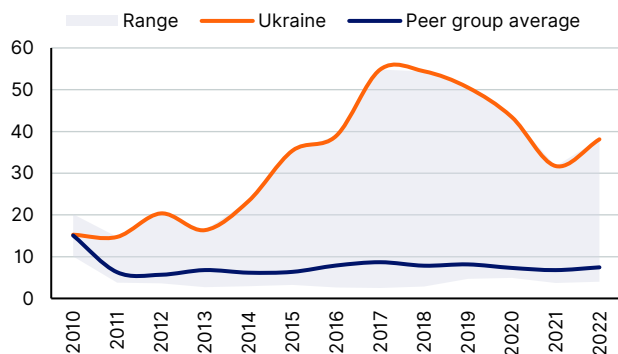
Source: IMF, Scope Ratings

Financial stability risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Ukraine's Financial Stability Risk

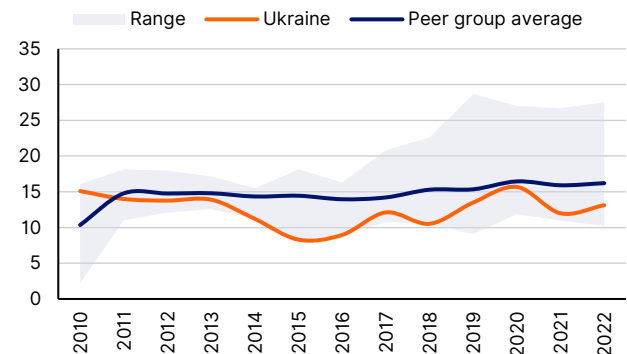
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
bbb-	Banking sector performance	Strong	+1/3	Resilience of the banking sector. Stable liquidity and rises in capital adequacy, although crystallisation of credit risks challenges bank balance sheets. Modest decline of dollarisation.
	Financial sector oversight and governance	Strong	+1/3	History of challenges in financial supervision; however, management of financial stability since the full-scale war has been exceptional
	Financial imbalances	Strong	+1/3	Low levels of private-sector debt and lack of credit imbalances given a developing domestic capital market and weak credit growth since full-scale war

Figure 9: Non-performing loans, % of total loans



Source: World Bank (WB), Scope Ratings

Figure 10: Tier 1 capital, % of risk-weighted assets



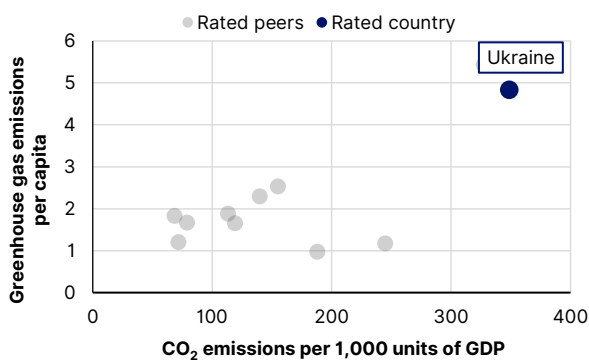
Source: IMF, Scope Ratings

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Ukraine's ESG Risk

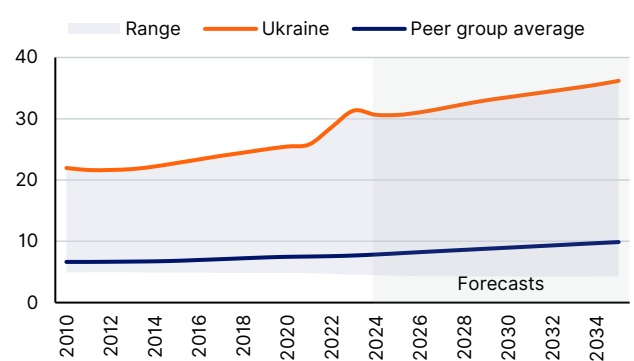
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
b	Environmental factors	Weak	-1/3	Elevated transition risk for higher carbon-intensity developing economy; the war is causing long-lasting environmental damage
	Social factors	Weak	-1/3	Poverty, emigration and internal displacement of people due to the war, rising old-age costs, moderate income inequality, moderate performance on education, weaker wealth dynamics
	Governance factors	Weak	-1/3	War on sovereign's territory and associated exceptional adverse credit implications

Figure 11: CO₂ emissions per GDP, mtCO₂e



Source: European Commission (EC), Scope Ratings

Figure 12: Old-age dependency ratio, %



Source: United Nations (UN), Scope Ratings

Reserve-currency adjustment

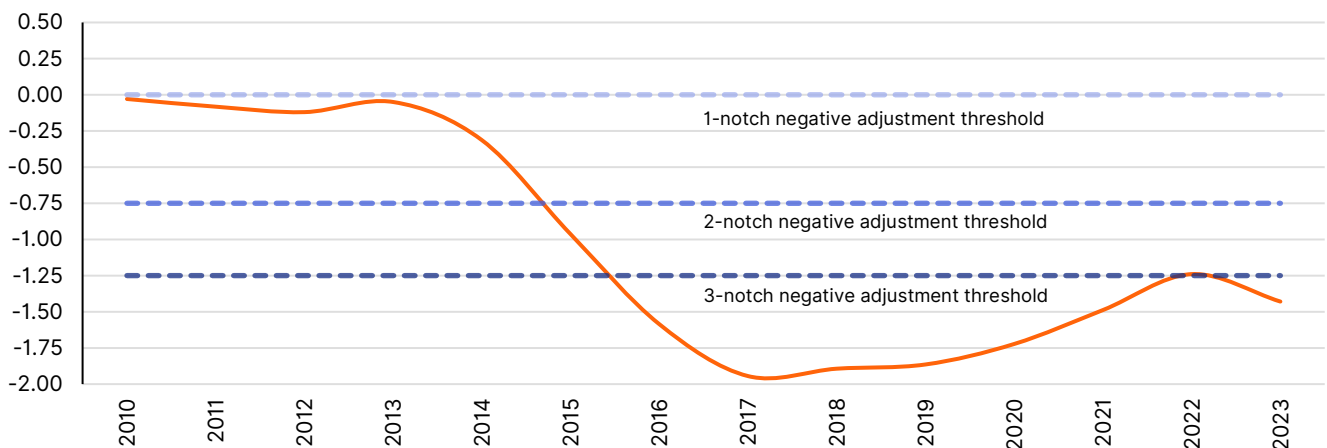
Figure 13: IMF SDR basket and Scope reserve-currency adjustment

Currency	U.S. dollar	Euro	Chinese yuan	Japanese yen	Pound sterling	Other
IMF SDR basket weights, %	43.4	29.3	12.3	7.6	7.4	0.0
Positive adjustment, notches	3	1	1	1	1	0

Source: IMF, Scope Ratings

Political-risk adjustment

Figure 14: WB Political Stability & Absence of Violence/Terrorism index, Ukraine, 3-year moving average



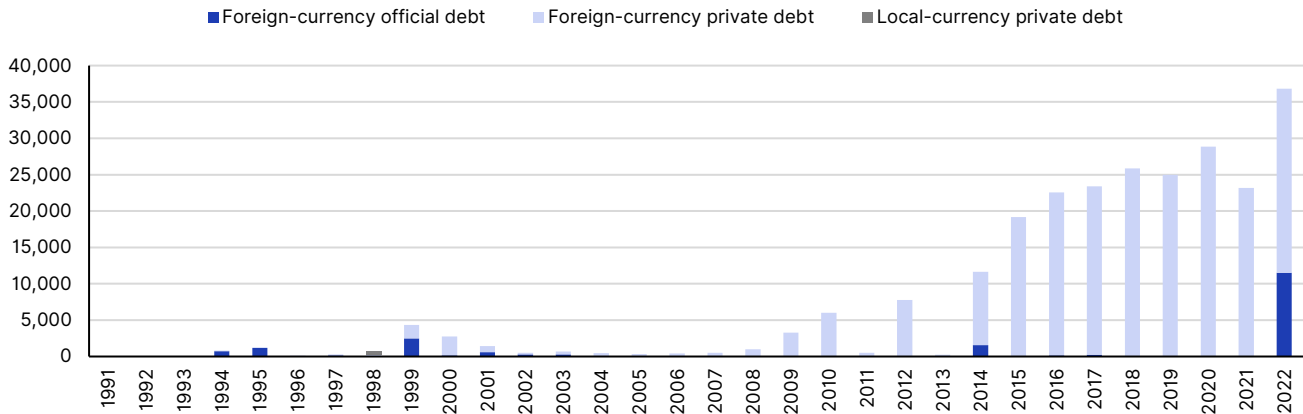
Source: WB, Scope Ratings

Additional considerations

A one-notch extraordinary downside adjustment to foreign-currency issuer and foreign debt-securities ratings reflects an expectation of near-term external debt restructuring.

Appendix I. Sovereign default history

Figure 15: Sovereign default history, USD m



Depicted private-debt defaults may not always constitute a credit event under [Scope's credit-rating definitions](#). Source: [Bank of Canada-Bank of England Sovereign Default Database](#), Scope Ratings.

Appendix II. Rating peers

Rating peers are related to sovereigns with an indicative rating in the same rating category or adjacent categories, as assigned by Scope's sovereign quantitative model after accounting for methodological reserve-currency and political-risk adjustments.

Peer group*
n/a

*Publicly-rated sovereigns only; the full sample of sovereign-rating peers may be larger.

Appendix III. Economic development and default indicators

IMF Development Classification	Emerging market and developing economy
5y USD CDS spread (bps)	n/a

Appendix IV. Statistical table for selected SQM indicators

This table presents a selection of the indicators (24 out of 30 – with the governance indicator reflecting a composite of five indicators) used in Scope's quantitative model, in line with Scope's Sovereign Rating Methodology. The metrics and sources for the data presented here ensure comparability across global country peers and may therefore differ from data from national and other select international statistical series.

Pillar	Core variable	Source	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E
Domestic Economic	GDP per capita (PPP), USD '000s	IMF	12.7	13.4	13.2	14.4	12.9	14.3
	Nominal GDP, USD bn	IMF	131	154	157	200	161	173
	Real growth, %	IMF	3.5	3.2	-3.8	3.4	-29.1	2.0
	CPI inflation, %	IMF	10.9	7.9	2.7	9.4	20.2	17.7
	Unemployment rate, %	WB	8.8	8.2	9.5	9.8	-	-
Public Finance	Public debt, % of GDP	IMF	60.3	50.4	60.5	48.9	78.5	88.2
	Net interest payments, % of government revenue	IMF	8.3	7.7	7.3	7.8	6.2	9.9
	Primary balance, % of GDP	IMF	1.2	1.0	-3.0	-1.1	-12.6	-14.7
External Economic	Current-account balance, % of GDP	IMF	-3.3	-2.7	3.3	-1.6	5.0	-5.7
	Total reserves, months of imports	IMF	3.1	3.5	4.9	3.6	3.9	-
	NIIP, % of GDP	IMF	-20.2	-18.0	-14.0	-13.1	-1.7	-
Financial Stability	NPL ratio, % of total loans	IMF	54.4	50.5	43.5	31.7	38.1	-
	Tier 1 ratio, % of risk-weighted assets	IMF	12.0	10.9	13.0	16.2	11.7	13.4
	Credit to the private sector, % of GDP	WB	34.5	30.0	28.2	23.6	-	-
ESG	CO₂ per EUR 1,000 of GDP, mtCO₂e	EC	407.2	370.9	366.3	346.3	-	-
	Income share of bottom 50%, %	WID	22.7	22.6	22.6	17.7	-	-
	Labour-force participation rate, %	WB	68.2	68.4	67.2	66.8	-	-
	Old-age dependency ratio, %	UN	24.3	24.8	25.3	25.9	26.5	27.0
	Composite governance indicators*	WB	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-
	Political stability, index	WB	-1.9	-1.4	-1.2	-1.1	-2.0	-

*Average of the following five World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators: *Control of Corruption, Voice and Accountability, Rule of Law, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality.*

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