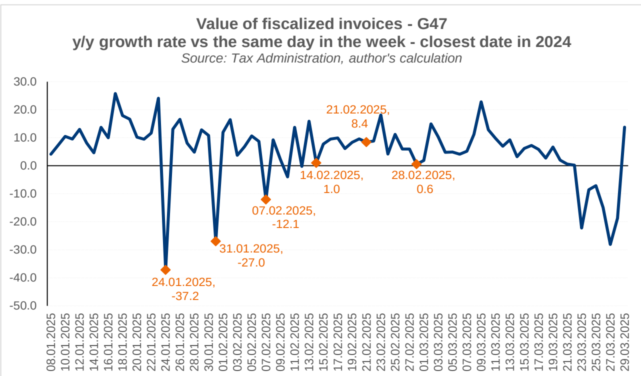
WEEKLY ANALYSIS

NUMBER 897, MARCH 31, 2025

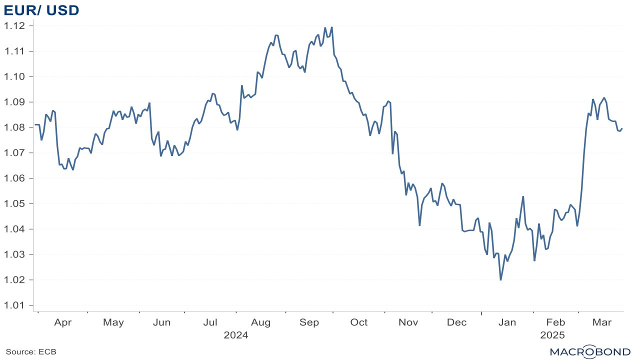
Real retail trade growth slowed to 2.6%

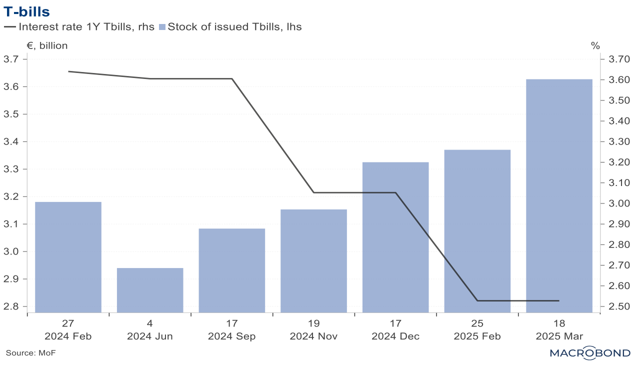
Month-on-month, real decline in turnover of -0.9% was recorded

- After a boycott-marked January (-1.4% month-on-month), real retail trade turnover in February additionally recorded a decrease month-on-month, of -0.9% according to seasonally adjusted data, and -3.6% according to the original data (-21.3% in January), in accordance with the data of the Tax Administration. Year-on-year, calendar-adjusted data reveal a slowdown in real growth to 2.6%, after 4.4% in January and an average of 6.6% recorded during the last quarter of last year. Interestingly, the sale of food products in February recorded a real decline in turnover of as much as -4.7% year-on-year, which is the first decline recorded in almost two years, while the growth rate of turnover in the trade of non-food products (excluding fuel) at the same time slowed down to 4.7%, which is the lowest growth rate recorded in the last 18 months. Month-on-month, real turnover in the trade of food products has been declining for four months in a row (February -3.7%), while in non-food products a consecutive decline has been recorded in the last two months (February -0.9%). Data from the Tax Administration suggest that in the period from March 1 to March 29, the total value of fiscalized invoices in retail trade increased by 1.4% compared to the same period in 2024, but it is important to keep in mind that Easter last year was March 31, while Easter this year falls only on April 20. Consequently, we also recorded a noticeable decrease in the value of fiscalized invoices in the last week of March this year compared to comparable days in March last year, which is also visible on the graph. Overall, there has been a noticeable slowdown in consumption in the first quarter of this year, and the original data suggest nominal growth of around 4-4.5%, compared to the 15.1% increase recorded in the first quarter of 2024, which in turn also suggests a noticeably slower growth in private consumption, which in the first quarter of last year recorded nominal growth of 10.6% and real growth of 5.4%, however, we will receive confirmation of such developments only with the disclosure of national accounts data at the end of May.



- The dollar continued to strengthen slightly in a week in which uncertainty about tariffs increased. At the end of the week, the exchange rate stood at $1.0797 per euro, down by 0.3% week-on-week.
- Euribor maintained a slightly downward trajectory, so on Friday 3M and 6M were 2.3% and 2.4%, respectively.
- The positive trend on the ZSE was maintained and Crobex increased by 0.3% week-on-week (to 3,329 points) due to an increase in almost all sectoral indices (CROBEXindustry +0.2% to 2,303, CROBEXnutris +0.7% to 863, CROBEXtourist -0.3% to 4,323). Crobis rose marginally (to 99.1 points).





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