

RESULTS OF THE MACROECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF KAZAKHSTAN

Survey dates: February 1-7, 2024

Number of respondents: 12

(ACRA, AERC, Asian Development Bank, Centras Securities, Economic Research Institute, Eurasian Economic Commission, Eurasian Development Bank, Freedom Finance, Halyk Finance, Jusan Invest, NAC Analytica, Renaissance Capital)

Survey results (the median value of respondents' predictions, the median values of previous predictions are in brackets):

Indicator	2023 (fact/ estimation)	2024	2025	2026
Brent oil price USD per barrel, on average per year	82,2	80,5 (80,0)	80,0 (80,0)	80,0 (80,0)
GDP %, YoY	5,1*	4,5 (4,5)	5,0 (5,0)	4,5 (4,2)
CPI %, Dec. to Dec. of the previous year	9,8	8,5 (7,5)	6,5 (6,9)	5,7 (5,8)
Base rate % per annum, on average per year	16,5	13,8 (13,5)	10,5 (10,0)	9,0 (9,0)
Exports of goods and services billions of USD per year	89,7*	89,8 (86,5)	86,0 (83,6)	90,6 (85,4)
Imports of goods and services billions of USD per year	72,8*	72,8 (69,1)	73,0 (67,7)	74,0 (69,0)
USD/KZT exchange rate on average per year	456,3	471,8 (475,7)	491,3 (490,0)	506,9 (500,0)
Neutral base rate** % per annum	8,0 (8,0)			
Long-term GDP growth*** %, YoY	4,0 (4,0)			

OIL PRICE. Scenario conditions for oil prices have not undergone significant changes. According to the median expectations of respondents, the price of Brent oil in 2024 will be at the level of **80.5** US dollars per barrel, in 2025-2026 – at the level of **80** US dollars per barrel.

GDP. Forecasts for economic growth in Kazakhstan for 2024 and 2025 remained at 4.5% and 5%, respectively. The forecast for 2026 has been improved – from 4.2% to **4.5%**.

* GDP - preliminary data from the BNS ASP&R of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023, exports/imports - preliminary data from the NBRK for 2023.

** The level of the base rate at which monetary policy maintains long-term inflation and inflation expectations for targets and GDP at potential levels

*** Expected average growth rates of potential GDP over a 5-year horizon

CPI. In 2024, respondents expect a higher inflation rate compared to previous estimates: the forecast has been increased from 7.5% to **8.5%**. For subsequent periods, analysts' forecasts were slightly improved. In 2025, the estimate of expected inflation was reduced from 6.9% to **6.5%**. In 2026, respondents predict inflation at **5.7%** in comparison with target of 5%.

BASE RATE. Following the change in inflation estimates, analysts' expectations for the level of the base rate for 2024 were also revised, increasing from 13.5% to **13.8%**. The median base rate forecasts for 2025 and 2026 were **10.5%** and **9%**, respectively.

EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES. Respondents' forecasts for the volume of exports of goods and services for 2024 were revised upward - from 86.5 to **89.8** billion US dollars. The 2025 forecast has been raised from \$83.6 billion to **\$86.0** billion. In 2026, exports of goods and services are expected to increase to **\$90.6** billion.

IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES. An increase in the volume of imports of goods and services is expected by analysts throughout the forecast horizon. In 2024, expert estimates on the volume of imports of goods and services were revised from 69.1 to **72.8** billion US dollars, for 2025 - from 67.7 to **73.0** billion US dollars. The median forecast for 2026 is raised to \$74.0 billion.

USD/KZT EXCHANGE RATE Analysts' forecasts for the USD/KZT exchange rate have not undergone significant changes. According to experts, in 2024 and 2025 the USD/KZT exchange rate will be **471.8** and **491.3** tenge per US dollar on average per year, respectively (previously – 475.7 and 490.0 tenge per US dollar). In 2026, respondents expect the USD/KZT exchange rate to be **506.9** tenge per US dollar (previously 500.0 tenge per US dollar).

NEUTRAL BASE RATE. The base rate, at which monetary policy maintains inflation and inflation expectations on target and GDP at the potential level in the long run, remains at the level of **8,0%**.

LONG-TERM GDP GROWTH. The estimate of the average growth rate of potential GDP over a 5-year horizon estimated at **4%**.

The **forecast ranges** for most macro indicators remain quite wide. At the same time, for a number of macro indicators, there is a narrowing of the interquartile range of respondents' assessments. This is most typical in relation to respondents' forecasts regarding the price of oil in 2024, the inflation rate in 2025-2026, the base rate and GDP in 2025. The narrowing of the spread of estimates in the dynamics of macro indicators may indicate a decrease in uncertainty in experts' expectations regarding the prospects for the development of the domestic and global economy. At the same time, there is an improvement in expert assessments regarding the dynamics of the USD/KZT exchange rate over the entire forecast horizon.