BFA Angola Weekly | 21/02

The unemployment rate recorded a slight improvement in the 4th quarter of 2021, decreasing by 1.2 percentage points (pp) compared to the Q32021 (32.9%, vs. 34.1%). According to data published by INE, despite this quarterly improvement, the unemployment rate increased by 2.3 p.p compared to the same quarter last year. Moreover, there was an increase in the employment rate from 1.3 p.p to 61.2% in Q42021 compared to Q32021, but still 2.5p.p lower than the level of the same period in 2020. The youth unemployment rate (15-24 years old) is significantly higher, standing at 59.8%, representing a increase of 8.2p.p yoy, while the unemployment rate of the population aged 18 and over is slightly lower, at 28.7% (+5.5p. p yoy). Another positive point in the evolution of the labor market is the decrease in the inactive population, which now represents 9.5% of Angolans aged 15 or over. The unemployment rate decreased more in rural areas (from 43.4% to 43.0%).

The National Bank of Angola defined last Tuesday an obligation to comply with additional capital reserves for 8 banks considered to be of domestic systemic importance. According to the statement, this reserve aims to safeguard the national financial system given the size and importance of these institutions. Therefore, of the eligible institutions, Banco Angolano de Investimento (BAI) will have the highest level of mandatory reserves (2.00%), while Banco Sol SA and Standard Bank de Angola must have a minimum level of 1%; BFA and other banks at 1.5% of assets.

Last week the tender for the privatization of 7 industrial units in the Luanda-Bengo Special Economic Zone (ZEE) was concluded. According to a statement from IGAPE, public tender no. 06/21 for privatization was carried out, referring to the 3rd wave of industrial units located in the ZEE, with 7 units awarded to 7 different entities.

In the foreign exchange market, the week was marked by a 4.20% appreciation of the Kwanza against the Dollar and 4.62% against the Euro, closing the week at USD/AOA 500.7 and EUR/AOA 568.1. Since the beginning of the year, the Kwanza has already appreciated by around 10.85% against the Dollar and 10.73% against the Euro.

The oil market remains volatile, at the beginning of last week Brent was quoted at USD 96 and closed the week just above USD 93. At a time of high anxiety in the market, mainly due to geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine, the price of oil has reflected the impact, since the beginning of the year, Brent has already registered an increase of around 18%, trading above USD 90 a barrel for more than 10 days now.



Macroeconomic Forecasts

Indicator	2021*	2022*	2023*
GDP change (%)	1.3	3.9	2.6
Average Inflation (%)	25.8	21.0	14.8
Current Account (% GDP)	10.4	3.8	1.9

*BFA forecasts

Sovereign Rating

Rating Agency	Rating	Outlook	Last change
Fitch	B-	-	21/01/22
Moody's	B3	Stable	13/09/21
Standard & Poor's	B-	Stable	04/02/22
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Monetary and ForEx data*

		Change		
	18/02/22	7 days (p.p./%)	YTD (p.p./%)	12 months (p.p./%)
LUIBOR O/N	18.96%	0.00	0.00	13.32
USD/AOA	500.7	-4.03%	-9.79%	-22.67%
AOA/USD	0.00200	4.20%	10.85%	29.32%
EUR/AOA	568.1	-4.42%	-9.69%	-27.34%
EUR/USD	1.132	-0.25%	-0.42%	-6.37%
USD/ZAR	15.13	-0.51%	-5.04%	3.71%

*Change of USD/AOA (or EUR/AOA) shows the appreciation/depreciation of the USD (or EUR) against the Kwanza; the change of AOA/USD shows the appreciation/depreciation of the Kwanza against the USD.









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