

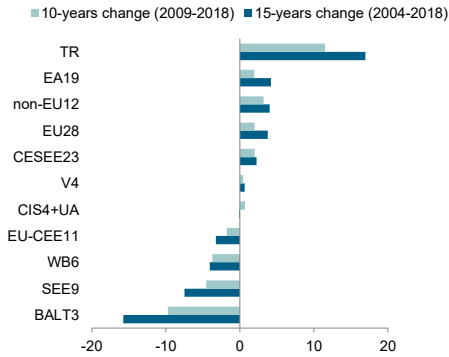
Preface

POPULATION SHRINKAGE AND A FAVOURABLE BUSINESS CYCLE HAS LED TO A DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGHOUT CESEE. In 2018 compared to 2017 average unemployment rates dropped in all the 23 countries of Central, East and Southeast Europe (CESEE23) covered by wiiw, with the exceptions of Kazakhstan and Turkey where they stagnated. This year, the Statistical Handbook includes data on Moldova for the first time. In terms of GDP per capita at purchasing power parities, Moldova is the second poorest European economy, after Ukraine. As a consequence, the country experiences mass migration. While Moldova had more than 3.5 million inhabitants in 2009, the population was down to 2.7 million in 2018. However, more recently, the economy in terms of gross domestic product, was growing at a robust 4% real growth rate. This led to a reduction of the unemployment rate to just 3% in 2018, which is about half of the value a decade earlier. This is the second lowest unemployment rate in the region. Only the Czech Republic had a lower rate of 2.2%. Overall, unemployment in CESEE23 has fallen over a decade from levels close to 10% to some 6% in 2018. Many economies, particularly the Visegrád countries and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, are approaching full employment.

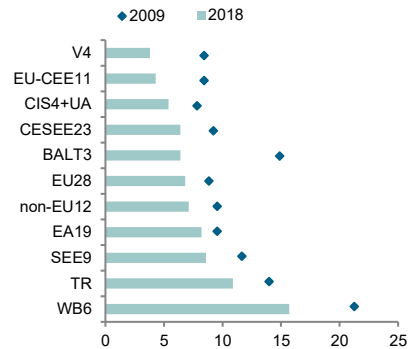
FOR MORE THAN 45 YEARS THE VIENNA INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES (wiiw) HAS ISSUED REGULAR STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS ON CESEE, with special attention given to comparability, quality control and documentation of the data. The current issue represents the twenty-fifth volume in the annual wiiw Handbook of Statistics series. For those who want to analyse, for instance, the CESEE convergence path, the Handbook offers a wide variety of key variables such as indicators of industrial development, information on average wages by activities, income relative to the EU average and economic growth dynamics. A detailed collection of structural economic data is a unique feature of this publication. Another specific characteristic is that it contains statistics for “peripheral” European countries which are neglected in international databases more often than not. Overall the reader will find here a rare comprehensive and up-to-date English-language collection of cross-country comparable statistical information on recent economic developments in the EU Member States from Central and East Europe and the key emerging markets of East and Southeast Europe.

Overview

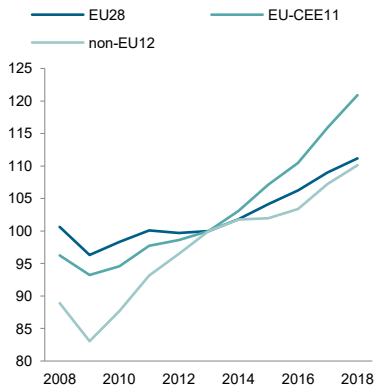
Population, change in %



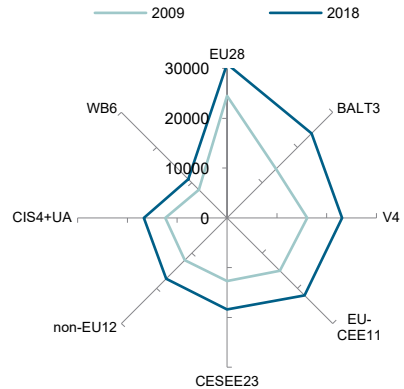
Unemployment rate (LFS), in %



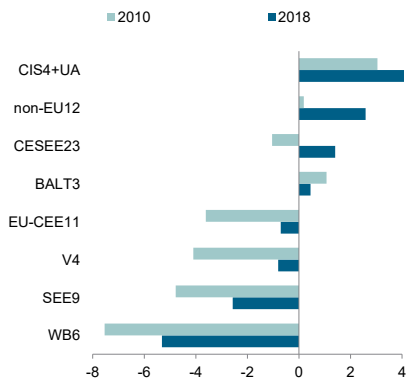
Gross domestic product, 2013=100



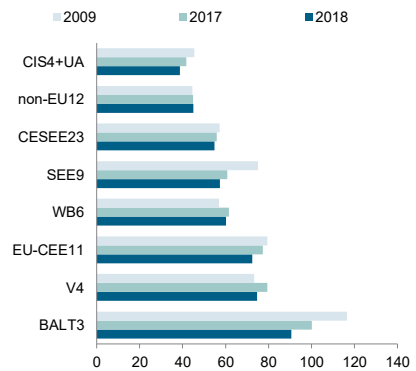
GDP per capita in EUR at PPP



Current account in % of GDP



Gross external debt, in % of GDP



Source: wiw Annual Database incorporating national and Eurostat statistics.

The individual time series, tables and maps in this Handbook have been directly extracted and processed from the wiiw Databases which are maintained and regularly updated by wiiw. The Handbook has been designed and edited by the wiiw statistics department.

The tables and maps in the Handbook reflect information and updates of the wiiw Databases as of the beginning of November 2019.

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