

Macroeconomic modeling in the NBU

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General Overview

Changing environment for our modeling and forecasting team

2001-2013 **Silent mode**

- Lack of interest in forecasts
- No involvement into forecasting process by the Board
- Requests for some analysis of individual events effects

2014-Today Active mode

- Major interest in forecasts and policy simulations
- Focus on achieving targets
- The Board is involved into forecasting; interest in details
- Regular public communications of forecasts and policy decisions

Models in Forecasting and Policy Analysis System: Examples



Models for forecasting

- Nowcast and Near-term forecast models
 - A suite of models for GDP nowcasting (current quarter)
 - A suite of models for short-term inflation components forecasting (1-7 months)
 - Web-scrapping for inflation nowcasting
 - Unemployment and wages nowcasting
- Economy stance models
 - Equilibrium (trend) REER
- Core model
 - Quarterly Projection Model (QPM)
- Satellite models
 - Small scale QPM to assess the role of FX interventions



Why we need QPM

Medium-term forecasting

- monetary transmission mechanism
- alternative simulations
- Part of the Forecasting and Policy Analysis System (FPAS)
 - allows inputs from satellite models and expert judgments
 - organizational framework

The QPM

NBU's Quarterly Projection Model (QPM)

- Small open-economy New-Keynesian with specific extensions
- Model in "gaps"
 - measures trend variables and explains deviations
- Similar models are used by many other central banks
 - Amarasekara et al. (2018), Beneš et al. (2017)
- Describes monetary policy transmission mechanism
 - variables actively respond to shocks in the short run
 - shocks dissipate in the long run



Transmission mechanism





Main Channels: Aggregate demand





Main Channels: Inflation





Main Channels: Exchange rate





Main Channels: Policy interest rate





QPM's external sector

Foreign sector (autoregressive, white noise, random walk)

- trade partners' output, inflation and bilateral exchange rates
- foreign nominal short-term and real neutral interest rates
- commodity terms of trade, food price index
- sovereign risk premium
- fiscal impulse
- domestic harvest



Parameters

"It is better to be roughly right than precisely wrong."

- John Maynard Keynes
- About 150 parameters in the model (coefficients, shock variations, steady states)
- Full model estimation is highly problematic (lack of data, numerous unknowns, nonlinearities, endogeneity)

Remedies:

- Estimations from satellite studies
- Calibration based on the literature
- Bayesian estimation of separate parameters



Impulse Response Functions: Positive Demand Shock



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Forecasting with the Model

Regular forecasting exercise

- 1. Project exogenous variables (outside the model)
 - foreign sector, administratively regulated prices
- 2. Filter variables into unobservable trends and gaps
- 3. Exogenise some domestic variables over particular horizons
 - short-term forecasts
 - conditional scenarios
 - add-factors
- 4. Discuss at an expert panel
- 5. Reiterate until consensus



Exogenous judgments





QPM Filtration (1) GDP vs Trend





QPM Filtration (2) Real Indicators vs Trends





Pseudo-real-time forecasting (1) Inflation and Policy rate

Pseudo-real-time forecasting (2) Exchange rate and Output

Shock Decompositions (1) Headline Inflation, % y-o-y

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Conclusions and perspective developments

- □ The QPM is an essential tool for monetary policy decisions and analyses
- □ The model is good for forecasting and can benefit from external judgments
- Historical simulations help assess past policy decisions
- Perspective developments
 - external assessment of trends and steady states
 - new empirical findings and Bayesian estimation to support calibration
 - reassessment of forecasting performance with more data and sophisticated benchmarks
 - satellite QPM-type models to account for FX interventions and endogenous policy credibility

References and further reading

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Additional Slides

Impulse Response Functions

Impulse Response Functions (1) Positive Demand Shock

Impulse Response Functions (2) Negative Supply Shock

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Impulse Response Functions (3) Negative Risk Premium Shock

IRFs (4) Monetary Policy Shock Comparison

- Central Bank of Sri Lanka Amarasekara et al. (2018)
- National Bank of Serbia Dukic et al. (2010)
- Central Bank of Hungary Bekesi et al. (2016)

Shock Decompositions

Shock Decompositions (1) Headline Inflation, % y-o-y

Shock Decompositions (2) GDP Gap, %

Shock Decompositions (3) GDP Trend growth, % q-o-q ann.

Shock Decompositions (4) Terms of Trade Gap, %

Shock Decompositions (5) REER gap, %

