12 March 2020

Flash Comment Denmark

Strong anti-coronavirus measures, recession likely

The Danish government has announced a **series of measures** to dampen the spread of the coronavirus. Among them are the following.

- All non-critical public employees are sent home with pay.
- All private employers are asked to keep employees home if possible.
- Schools, universities, day care etc. are closed.
- The government asks that events with more than 100 people be cancelled and that bars, nightclubs etc. are closed – within a few days, they expect to have the legal mandate to demand it.

These measures are in place for two weeks, but may be extended.

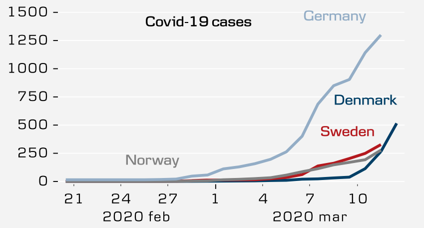
The background is that **Denmark has seen a sharp increase in the number of infected persons** in the past few days. There are now 514 confirmed cases, of which two are in critical condition, against 90 cases two days ago. The increase appears to be largely related to people who have travelled to Tyrol in Austria and authorities do not at this point suspect widespread domestic contagion. Nevertheless, the disease clearly poses a potential danger to the Danish healthcare system at this point.

We expect the **economic impact to be very significant** in the short run. Public service excluding healthcare represents 20.1% of employment and 15.7% of GDP. The decline in measured production will be smaller, as some can work from home and for example teaching might be done remotely. On the other hand, private production will be disrupted by workers staying home either to prevent contagion or to take care of children. There is set to be a large decline in GDP in Q1. It might not decline further in Q2 and hence a technical recession might not happen, but **the setback will be so large that this is likely a recession in non-technical terms**. For 2020 as a whole we expected 1.4% growth in our latest full forecast from 3 January. An estimate today might be something closer to 0.5%, with a clear risk that GDP will actually decline in 2020.

The new measures clearly represent a large supply shock to the Danish economy, but we also think that the economy is facing a significant demand shock from reduced spending not least on travel and leisure. The balance is likely to tip after 15 months of unchanged unemployment (including January), so we will see **higher unemployment this year**.

The new measures will clearly affect some businesses very severely and some, in tourism and travel for example, were already suffering. The government has announced a postponement of companies' payment of VAT and payroll taxes, which could boost liquidity and help companies survive. **It is likely that more measures are coming**, which could include support for credit to affected industries or a reduction of the countercyclical capital buffer. It would also make sense for the government to support demand through a fiscal easing, as the economy will not be supported from monetary policy, which is as always only targeting the exchange rate.

Sharp increase in cases



Source: ECDC, Danish government, Macrobond Financial

Chief Economist
Las Olsen
+45 45 12 85 36
laso@danskebank.dk

Disclosures

This research report has been prepared by Danske Bank A/S ('Danske Bank'). The author of this research report is Las Olsen, Chief Economist.

Analyst certification

Each research analyst responsible for the content of this research report certifies that the views expressed in the research report accurately reflect the research analyst's personal view about the financial instruments and issuers covered by the research report. Each responsible research analyst further certifies that no part of the compensation of the research analyst was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations expressed in the research report.

Regulation

Danske Bank is authorised and subject to regulation by the Danish Financial Supervisory Authority and is subject to the rules and regulation of the relevant regulators in all other jurisdictions where it conducts business. Danske Bank is subject to limited regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (UK). Details on the extent of the regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority are available from Danske Bank on request.

Danske Bank's research reports are prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Danish Securities Dealers Association.

Conflicts of interest

Danske Bank has established procedures to prevent conflicts of interest and to ensure the provision of high-quality research based on research objectivity and independence. These procedures are documented in Danske Bank's research policies. Employees within Danske Bank's Research Departments have been instructed that any request that might impair the objectivity and independence of research shall be referred to Research Management and the Compliance Department. Danske Bank's Research Departments are organised independently from, and do not report to, other business areas within Danske Bank.

Research analysts are remunerated in part based on the overall profitability of Danske Bank, which includes investment banking revenues, but do not receive bonuses or other remuneration linked to specific corporate finance or debt capital transactions.

Financial models and/or methodology used in this research report

Calculations and presentations in this research report are based on standard econometric tools and methodology as well as publicly available statistics for each individual security, issuer and/or country. Documentation can be obtained from the authors on request.

Risk warning

Major risks connected with recommendations or opinions in this research report, including as sensitivity analysis of relevant assumptions, are stated throughout the text.

Date of first publication

See the front page of this research report for the date of first publication.

General disclaimer

This research has been prepared by Danske Bank A/S. It is provided for informational purposes only and should not be considered investment, legal or tax advice. It does not constitute or form part of, and shall under no circumstances be considered as, an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to purchase or sell any relevant financial instruments (i.e. financial instruments mentioned herein or other financial instruments of any issuer mentioned herein and/or options, warrants, rights or other interests with respect to any such financial instruments) [('Relevant Financial Instruments').]

This research report has been prepared independently and solely on the basis of publicly available information that Danske Bank A/S considers to be reliable but Danske Bank A/S has not independently verified the contents hereof. While reasonable care has been taken to ensure that its contents are not untrue or misleading, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to, and no reliance should be placed on, the fairness, accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of the information, opinions and projections contained in this research report and Danske Bank A/S, its affiliates and subsidiaries accept no liability whatsoever for any direct or consequential loss, including without limitation any loss of profits, arising from reliance on this research report.

The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the research analysts and reflect their opinion as of the date hereof. These opinions are subject to change and Danske Bank A/S does not undertake to notify any recipient of this research report of any such change nor of any other changes related to the information provided in this research report.

This research report is not intended for, and may not be redistributed to, retail customers in the United Kingdom (see separate disclaimer below) and retail customers in the European Economic Area as defined by Directive 2014/65/EU.

This research report is protected by copyright and is intended solely for the designated addressee. It may not be reproduced or distributed, in whole or in part, by any recipient for any purpose without Danske Bank A/S's prior written consent.

Disclaimer related to distribution in the United States

This research report was created by Danske Bank A/S and is distributed in the United States by Danske Markets Inc., a U.S. registered broker-dealer and subsidiary of Danske Bank A/S, pursuant to SEC Rule 15a-6 and related interpretations issued by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The research report is intended for distribution in the United States solely to 'U.S. institutional investors' as defined in SEC Rule 15a-6. Danske Markets Inc. accepts responsibility for this research report in connection with distribution in the United States solely to 'U.S. institutional investors'.

Danske Bank A/S is not subject to U.S. rules with regard to the preparation of research reports and the independence of research analysts. In addition, the research analysts of Danske Bank A/S who have prepared this research report are not registered or qualified as research analysts with the New York Stock Exchange or Financial Industry Regulatory Authority but satisfy the applicable requirements of a non-U.S. jurisdiction.

Any U.S. investor recipient of this research report who wishes to purchase or sell any Relevant Financial Instrument may do so only by contacting Danske Markets Inc. directly and should be aware that investing in non-U.S. financial instruments may entail certain risks. Financial instruments of non-U.S. issuers may not be registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and may not be subject to the reporting and auditing standards of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Disclaimer related to distribution in the United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, this document is for distribution only to (I) persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the 'Order'); (II) high net worth entities falling within article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order; or (III) persons who are an elective professional client or a per se professional client under Chapter 3 of the FCA Conduct of Business Sourcebook (all such persons together being referred to as 'Relevant Persons'). In the United Kingdom, this document is directed only at Relevant Persons, and other persons should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

Disclaimer related to distribution in the European Economic Area

This document is being distributed to and is directed only at persons in member states of the European Economic Area ('EEA') who are 'Qualified Investors' within the meaning of Article 2(e) of the Prospectus Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/1129) ('Qualified Investors'). Any person in the EEA who receives this document will be deemed to have represented and agreed that it is a Qualified Investor. Any such recipient will also be deemed to have represented and agreed that it has not received this document on behalf of persons in the EEA other than Qualified Investors or persons in the UK and member states (where equivalent legislation exists) for whom the investor has authority to make decisions on a wholly discretionary basis. Danske Bank A/S will rely on the truth and accuracy of the foregoing representations and agreements. Any person in the EEA who is not a Qualified Investor should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

Report completed: 12 March 2020, 00:18 CET

Report first disseminated: 12 March 2020, 07:15 CET