Tajikistan Monthly Risk Monitoring & Warning Report

November 2009

FAST FACTS FOR NOVEMBER 2009

- **Health:** 3 cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 were detected in Tajikistan, among travelers arriving into the country. It is likely that cases will increase in the coming weeks among the population. There is no possibility to interrupt the spread of disease.

- **Weather Warning:** In December 2009 the monthly average temperature in all regions of Tajikistan is expected to be 1 - 2 degrees colder than last year. In the second half of the month, temperatures could reach between 0 and -5 °C, sharply increasing the energy demand in the country.

- **Energy:** The unresolved issue of transit for electricity from Turkmenistan and possibility of Sangtuda-1 hydropower station reducing electricity supply to Tajikistan raises the prospect of worsening electrical shortages during the winter of 2009-2010.

- **Remittances:** Rremittances have dropped by 4% compared to the previous month and by 27% in year-to-year terms, reinforcing Tajikistan's vulnerability.

- **Food insecurity:** With the anticipated reduction in economic growth in 2009 and the possible return of migrant workers and widespread underemployment, under current projections of the IMF, U.S. dollar income per-capita would decline by around 10 % further deteriorating food insecurity in the country.

- **Unemployment:** In the country unemployment figures have grown significantly.

- **Agriculture**: An outbreak of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) in 400 goats is reported. None survived.

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Annexes

I. HEALTH

Three cases of H1N1 are detected in Tajikistan[1]

On 04 October 2009, the Ministry of Health reported the detection of 3 cases of the H1N1 virus to the WHO Coordination Office in Tajikistan. The cases were detected by active surveillance among travelers arriving to Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Health has not reported any significant changes in the trend of morbidity and mortality from the seasonal influenza pattern so far. The clinical features of the disease are mild to moderate. No severe cases have been observed.

Government is expecting to receive vaccine to cover only 10% of the total population against H1N1. The first installment of vaccine, for 2% of the total population is scheduled to arrive only in January 2010.

Concerns[2]

It is likely that H1N1 incidence will increase in Tajikistan, and this will occur outside government surveillance systems. This could lead to a situation similar to what occurred in Ukraine, in which large numbers of people reported for treatment only after becoming seriously ill, overwhelming the public health system. This could be coupled by government failures to take prompt action, due to a lack of early warning systems—further increasing infection rates. Government actions at that point could be ineffectual or of too short duration. While a "high impact" spread of such a pandemic would be of relatively short duration (6-8 weeks), this could be outweighed by problems associated with inadequate access to care and disruption to other areas of government and community life.

II. ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

2.1 Forecasted Precipitation and Temperatures in December 2009[3]

The average monthly temperature of air is expected to be 1-3 °C above the climatic norm (4-6°C). At low altitudes, the average temperature will be about 5 to 7 °C. In the third week of the month, temperatures are expected to drop sharply, reaching 0 to -5 °C at night and to 3 to 8 °C during daytime. Day time temperature in the south valley areas are expected to be around 3-4°C; in the north, they might fall to -2 to -4 °C. In mountainous areas, temperatures should vary between -2 and -6 °C. The amount of monthly precipitation is expected to fall short of the norm, which is 15-70 mm in valleys, 15-16 mm in the mountains and foothills, and 3-15 mm in the high mountains of GBAO.

(Detailed regional forecasts are provided in Annex A)

III. ENERGY

3.1 Electricity

Although electricity production was 5% less in October 2009 compared to last year, in October 2009, this year Tajikistan had relatively better situation in terms of

[1] Source: Dr. Liduvina Maria Gonzales Venero, Technical Officer, Communicable Diseases, WHO Office, Tajikistan

[2] Comments made by Allan Bellm Regional Planning Officer for Europe and Central Asia, Pandemic Influenza Contingency (PIC), Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

[3] Data and information from the Hydro-Meteorological Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan (Hydromet)

electricity supply. This was due firstly to the flow of electricity from the Central Asian grid. Secondly, along with the functioning of 38 new small to medium size HEPS (with a generation capacity 40 million kWh annually)[4], thanks to launching HEPS Sangtuda-1 (with a generation capacity of 670 MWh). This has increased electricity generation in Tajikistan by 20%. Thirdly, payment discipline and increased tariffs[5] on electricity significantly decreased consumption (18% compared to October 2008) making supply more efficient. In addition, in Nurek more water is stored this year compared to 2008.

However, as of 31 October 2009 import of electricity from neighboring countries, such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, has stopped due to their decision to pull out from the Central Asian electricity grid. While Tajikistan signed an agreement with Turkmenistan on the import of 1.2 billion kWh of electricity during autumn-winter seasons until 2012, transit matters through Uzbekistan remain unresolved.

3.2 Cuts and Restriction

From the middle of October, most regions of the country began facing electricity restrictions and cuts. Open Stock Holding Company (OSHC) “Barqi Tojik” considers these interruptions rather as “cuts” than “restrictions”, mainly referring to winter preparation measures such as repairing lines and transformers, as well as households’ debts. However, due to limited electricity supply from OSHC “Barqi Tojik”, regional electric systems introduced restrictions accordingly.

In Khatlon, population receives only 2 hours of electricity in the morning and 3 hours at night. Some villages were completely out of electricity for several days in a row, such as Vakhsh during the first 5-6 days of November.

In the DRR province, the situation is even worse, with the population receiving only 2 hours of electricity in the morning.

In Sughd, only main cities are unaffected by the restrictions. Villages and rural areas have the same restriction schedule as in Khatlon. Possible electricity cuts in the main cities are due to debts or technical problems.

GBAO is much better off in terms of electricity supply for the past 2 years already, as this province, including very remote areas such as Shughnan, Rushan, Roshtkala and Ishkashim, receive electricity 24 hours a day.[6]

Many transformers are outdated and cannot bear the overload occurring due to increased electricity consumption for heating and cooking in winter. Therefore, even if sufficient amounts of electricity are generated, Tajikistan will face electricity cuts during cold periods.[7]

3.3. Thermal Power and Heating Station

The two thermal power and heating stations are waiting instructions to begin operations for the cold season.

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[4] The total quantity of small and medium size HEPS has reached 185. 96 of them work all-year-round, and the remaining 89 are launched only during the autumn-winter seasons when the country faces energy shortages; Source:

[5] As of 01 August 2009 tariffs for electricity was raised by 25% for all categories of consumers; Source:

[6] 86% of GBAO population is served by electricity produced by Pamir Energy.

[7] Contribution by the RMWS energy expert G. N. Petrov

OSHC "Barqi Tojik" and Tajiktransgas have an agreement to supply the Dushanbe TPS with 180 million cubic meters of natural gas during the autumn-winter period.[8] In addition, the Dushanbe TPS's has 12 thousand tons of mazut (low sulphur heating oil) in reserve.

Last year the Dushanbe TPS began operation on 1 November providing 20 thousand kWh of electricity 40 Gkal of heat per day.

3.4 Natural gas supply[9]

Gas is mainly imported from Uzbekistan, which is now requiring advance payment. This requirement, in addition to price increases and the low purchasing power of commercial and residential consumers has resulted in a highly variable supply of gas for Tajikistan.

Gas imports in October 2009 were significantly lower compared to 2008. For the first 10 days of November 2009 Tajikistan has imported 12-16 thousand m^3 of gas from Uzbekistan on a daily basis. Almost all of the gas imported from Uzbekistan is supplied to industrial companies, and only 5 to 6% goes to the population. To import gas from neighbor countries, Tajikistan pays 700-800,000 USD every 10 days against future consumption.

The advance payment requirement puts pressure on commercial users, which are facing liquidity issues. As a result, some commercial consumers may not be able to operate at full capacity.

3.5 Energy outlook

Short-term risks: While the current outlook of electrical supply is relatively positive, the dissolution of Central Asian integrated power grid may cause difficulties with the import and export of electricity from neighbouring countries.

In addition, there are the unresolved issues of the transit of Turkmen electricity and the threat of Russian shareholders of Sangtuda-1 to stop supplying Tajikistan with electricity due to the long-standing debts (9.5 million USD) of Tajikistan's main state electric company "Barqi Tojik".[10] Faced with this issues a sharp drop in winter temperatures may result in the collapse of the Tajik energy supply system (as occurred in the winter of 2007-2008), causing severe damage to social well-being (food, health, water and sanitation, education) and the economy of the country.

Even if the winter turns out to be mild, like in 2008-09, with its limited amount of energy sources the Tajik Government will have to introduce restrictions to electricity consumption. But these restrictions may be smaller than in previous years. The population could cover the energy deficit by using coal and fuel oil, but these are rather expensive.

Medium-term risks: As a result of closure of the Central Asian integrated power grid, Tajikistan will need to use its newly launched 500 kWh "South-North" electric

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[8] Source: Asia Plus new line from 10 November 2009, Link: http://www.asiaplus.tj/news/31/59079.html

[9] Source: Shoimov Sh., First Deputy Director of State Unitary Enterprise "Tajiktransgas"

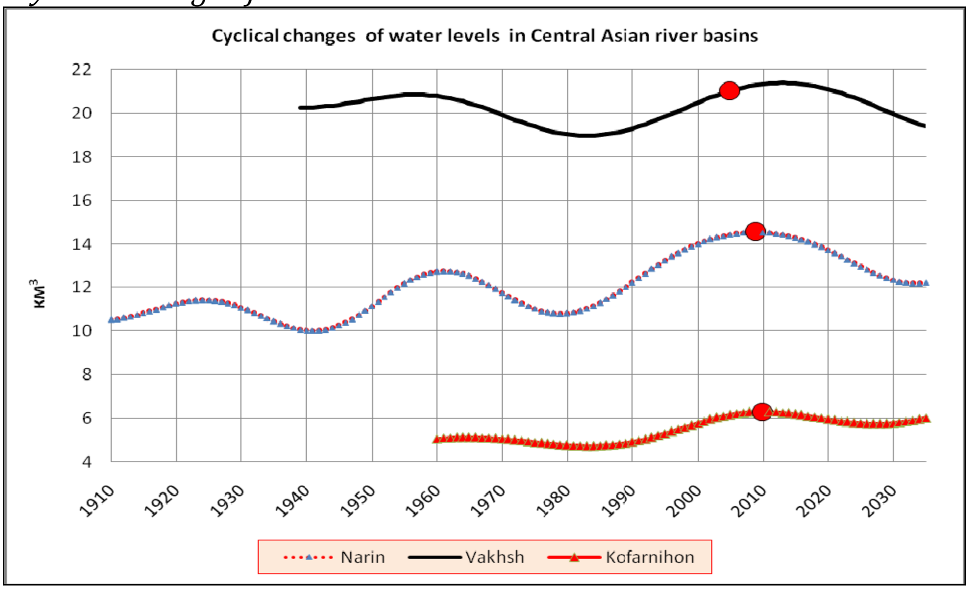
[10] Source: Asia Plus website from 11 November, 2009, link: http://www2.asiaplus.tj/news/31/59380.html

transmitting lines immediately to support the north of Tajikistan with electricity. This will remove northern Tajikistan's reliance on electricity imports. However, this turn of events could jeopardize imports of Turkmen electricity, particularly if domestically produced electricity is not sufficient to meet demand during severely cold winter weather. Also, in times of crisis or/and emergencies, Tajikistan would lose the opportunity of benefiting from immediate help.

In the case where Tajikistan is obliged to maximize electricity generation of Kayrakkum HEPS during the winter for the needs of northern Tajikistan, the amount of water in the reservoir may not be sufficient for irrigation requirements in vegetation period of 2010. This will impact negatively on 200,000 ha of Uzbekistan cotton fields and 80,000 ha of Kazakhstan rice fields.

Long term risk: Ninety five percent of electricity in Tajikistan is produced by Hydro Electric Power Stations (HEPS), which makes the country's energy system heavily dependent on water levels in the rivers and reservoirs. Long-term forecasts indicate that water level in the Vakhsh River, which feeds the main HEPS in the country, has entered a cycle of decreased water flows which may last up to 2035. The same situation is observed in other river basins of Aral Sea.

Graph #1 Cyclical Change of Water Levels in Central Asian River Basins

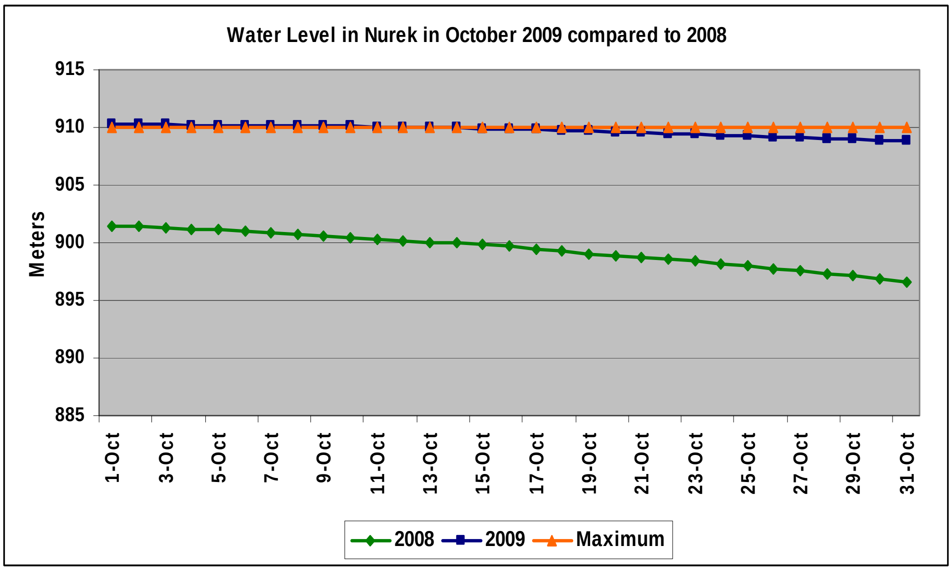


The daily data of water level in Vakhsh and electricity generation of Nurek HEPS in 2009 confirms the above statement.

The figures for actual water inflow show that the annual average of water inflow to Nurek reservoir will be approximately 18.3 km^3 in 2009, which is 10% less than the average of 20.4 km^3. The water flow in 2008, a drought year, was 18.57 km^3.

Under these conditions, the question of optimization of water usage by storing water in reservoirs becomes very important. As the Graph #2 shows, water storage in Nurek reservoir in October 2009 is much better than during the same period of last year. This will help Tajikistan to be better prepared to face cold waves in the coming winter.

Graph#2 Water Level in Nurek in October 2009 compared to 2008



IV. FOOD SECURITY

4.1 Food and Fuel prices[11]

As the Table #1 suggests, prices for main staple food items such as flour, rice and potatoes have decreased in almost all regions of the country. A significant decrease in prices for rice is observed in Gharm (32%), in Dushanbe (19%), in Khujand (14%) and in Kurgan Tyube (8%). Prices for potatoes have also decreased by 10% in Khorog, by 8% in Gharm, by 7% in Dushanbe and by 6% in Kurgan-Tyube. The price for wheat flour has decreased by 8% in Kurgan-Tyube and by 5% in Khujand and Gharm. However, in Dushanbe the price for wheat flour has increased by 6% and the price for milk by 10%. Prices for most of other food items remained unchanged.

Table #1 Month on Month Percent Change in Food Prices, October 2009

Commodity	Dushanbe	Gharm	Khorog	Khujand	Kurgan-Tyube
Rice	-18.75	-31.43	0.00	-14.29	-8.33
Wheat Flour 1st grade	5.56	-4.55	0.00	-5.26	-7.32
Vegetable Oil	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cotton oil	0.00	-7.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
Beef	0.00	-11.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
Potato	-6.67	-7.69	-10.00	0.00	-6.25
Pulses	0.00	-22.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
Milk	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eggs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

The price for wheat flour has decreased mainly thanks to the 394% (!) increase in wheat imports, although the import price has increased by some 4% in October 2009 compared to the previous month. On year-to-year comparison, in October 2009 the price for wheat has decreased by 29%, whereas import has increased by 70% compared to October 2008.

[11] Food and Fuel prices were obtained from WFP Food Security Weekly Market Monitoring, Tajikistan

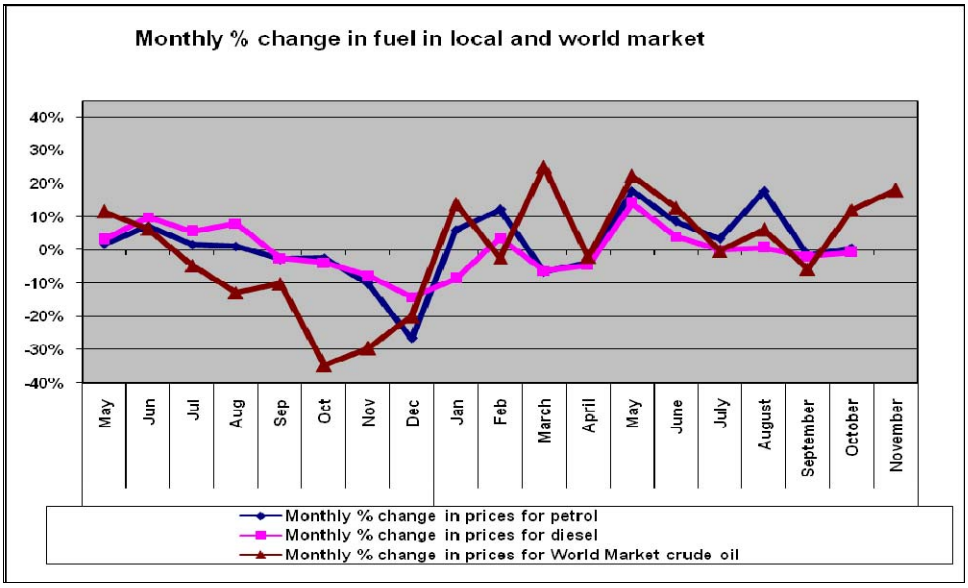
Also, decreasing prices for wheat flour and potatoes in October 2009 can be explained by a better harvest in 2009. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, from the beginning of havest season grain production was 74% higher and potato production 15% higher than during the same period of 2008. The total amount of grain harvested reached 1,153 thousand tons (80% of which is wheat), and 284 thousand tons for potatoes.

Fuel prices

In August-October 2009 the prices for petrol and diesel were stable. According to World Food Programme (WFP) data, the average price for petrol in the country in October 2009 was 3.82 TJS (0.8 USD) per liter, and the average price for diesel was 2.8 TJS (0.6 USD). Petrol prices on local markets increased slightly (by 0.5%), whereas diesel prices slightly decreased each month.

The TJS's slight (1.5%) appreciation vis-à-vis the US dollar did not affect these fuel prices. However, considering increasing world oil prices as well as possible growth in consumer prices and devaluation of the national currency in the months to come, as well as the oligarchic character of the country's fuel market, it is expected that toward the end of year prices for fuel and diesel will rise to 4 and 3.2 TJS per liter.

Graph #3 Monthly Percent Change in Fuel in Local and World Market



In October and November 2009, prices for fuel on the world market have been significantly increasing, by 12% in October and about 18% during the first two weeks of November.[12]

As the Graph #3 shows, local prices for petrol and diesel have been fluctuating in line with the prices on the world market. As world market prices have increased, it is expected that in the months to come, local fuel prices may also increase, which may then have negative repercussions on food prices.

[12] Source: http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_wco_k_w.htm

4.2 Food Security outlook[13]

The food security situation in Tajikistan during this pre-winter season is stable. Households have been able to cope fairly well thanks to a good harvest but due to local shocks (notably flooding and mudflows in the Rasht valley, Ghonchi and Shahristan and in the Khuroson area) as well external, such as underemployment and decrease of remittances, pockets of food insecurity are still present and require support. The situation should remain stable with severe food insecurity affecting around 9% of the population.

Moderate food insecurity is lower than last year at the same period mainly due to a good access to food via own production. In the coming months, food security is likely to slightly deteriorate due to the depletion of stocks, seasonal increases in prices and decreased availability of certain nutritious products in some parts of the country. Round tables with food security actors and local authorities in Sughd and Rasht indicate that special attention should be paid to Jirgatol and Nurobod as well as Zafarabad, Mastchoh and remote villages of Asht district. Final results from the Food Security Monitoring system will be available early December. Goskomstat also released its Food Security and Poverty Information bulletin for the second quarter of 2009.

V AGRICULTURE[14]

5.1 Outbreak of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP)

In November 2009, the Tajik State Veterinarian Department of the Ministry of Agriculture reported an outbreak of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) in 400 goats. All goats were killed.

Reportedly, this is the first case of CCPP in Tajikistan. It began in the middle of May 2009 in DRR province. The sources of the outbreak are suspected to be illegally imported goats from neighboring Afghanistan. Diagnostic tests were confirmed at the OIE Reference Laboratory for contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development). According to the diagnosis, the outbreak was caused by mycoplasma.

Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia is one of the most severe diseases of goats. This disease, which affects the respiratory tract, is extremely contagious and frequently fatal for flocks. The Veterinarian Department of the Ministry of Agriculture appealed for vaccines from Turkey and Jordan, however the vaccines's exact arrival date is not known yet. Therefore, the extremely contagious affect of the disease (morbidity rate may reach 100% and the mortality rate can be as high as 80%) raises the possibility of huge livestock losses in the months to come. This could negatively impact the economy in Tajikistan, particularly the financial situation of farmers, as well as food security.

VI. ECONOMY AND MIGRATION

6.1 Macroeconomic Trends[15]

In October 2009, in the structure of Gross National Product (GDP) share of production has increased by 1.1% compared to September 2009. This was mainly due

[13] Source: Cedric Charpentier, Food Security Programme Officer, UN World Food Programme, Tajikistan
[14] Source: Nassim Jawad, FAO Coordinator, Tajikistan
[15] Source: State Statistical Committee of Tajikistan

to growth of agricultural production (18% of GDP).[16] It may raise some concern as such growth bears a seasonal character.

The total spending of the country continues to exceed the GDP, which is a worrying trend. Whereas in September spending exceeded the GDP by some 27%, in October this gap rose to 33%.[17] This tendency shows the growing vulnerability of the national economy toward the influence of external shocks and the lack of internal sources for maintaining macroeconomic stability and growth. In the coming months this will undoubtedly affect the growth of inflation on consumption prices and devaluate the Tajik national currency.

In medium-term prospect, due to decreasing migrants' remittances and lack of stimulus for the development of industrial activities as well as export in the country, national economy will lack growth. Besides, as financial support of International Financial Institution is mainly directed toward social expenditures of the country, rather development, situation with national economy may deteriorate further.

In October 2009 over 32% of Tajik industrial enterprises were not functioning. From 811 industrial enterprises, 258 were completely idle. Over the 10 first months of 2009, the industrial output amounted to slightly more than 1,122 million Tajik Somoni, which is 8.6% less than during the same period of 2008.

In general, prices for agricultural outputs have not changed much in October 2009. A seasonal tendency of decrease in the volumes of production of grain (by 8.9%), vegetables (27.6%), milk (12.4%) and eggs (55.5%) was observed. Also, during the same period, a seasonal tendency for growth of production was observed for potatoes (19.7%) and meat (9.6 %). Considering the seasonal decrease in production of agricultural goods, it is expected that toward the end of the year, prices for these types of goods will increase.

6.2 Remittances[18]

The volume of remittances received by Tajikistan during the 10 first months of 2009 dropped by 34% compared to the same period of 2008. In October 2009, Tajikistan received slightly over 194 million USD, which is 4% less than during the previous month and a 27% drop in year-to-year terms, reinforcing Tajikistan's external vulnerability.

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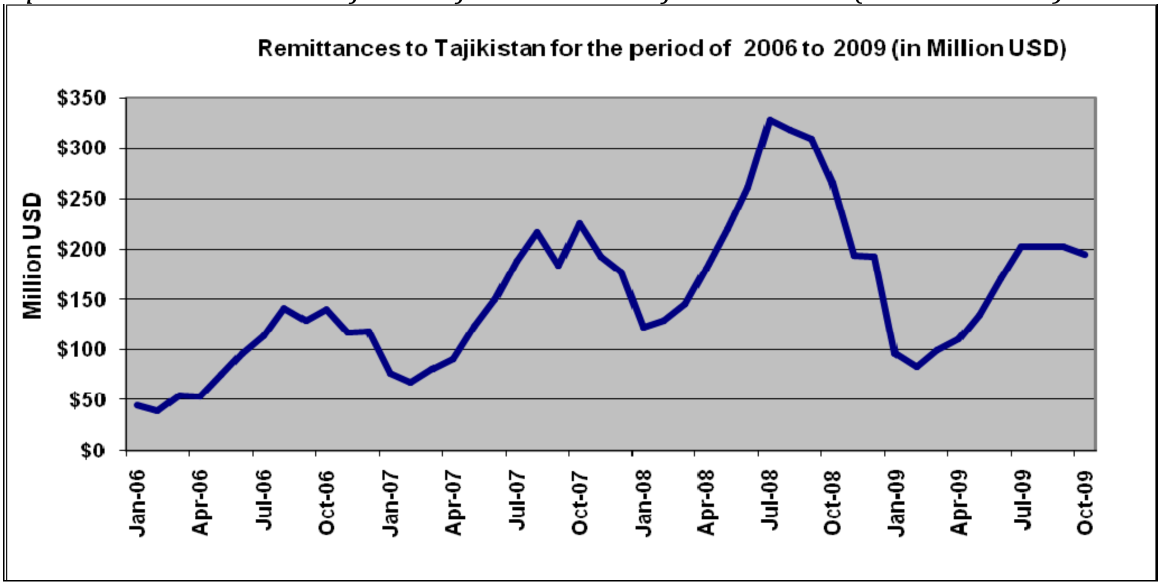
[16] Structure of GDP: I. 38.9**%** - Production (industrial – 12.6%, agricultural– 18.1% and construction – 8.1%); II. Service – 50.4% (market service 42%, non market service – 8.4%; III. Taxes– 10.7%

[17] Annual growth of spending over the GDP: in 2004 – 11.9 %, in 2005 – 13.8 %, in 2006 – 14.6 %, in 2007 – 18.4 %, in 2008 -26.6 %)

[18] Source: Lucas Moers, IMF Resident Representative in Tajikistan

Graph #4 Remittances to Tajikistan for the Period of 2006 – 2009 (in Million USD)



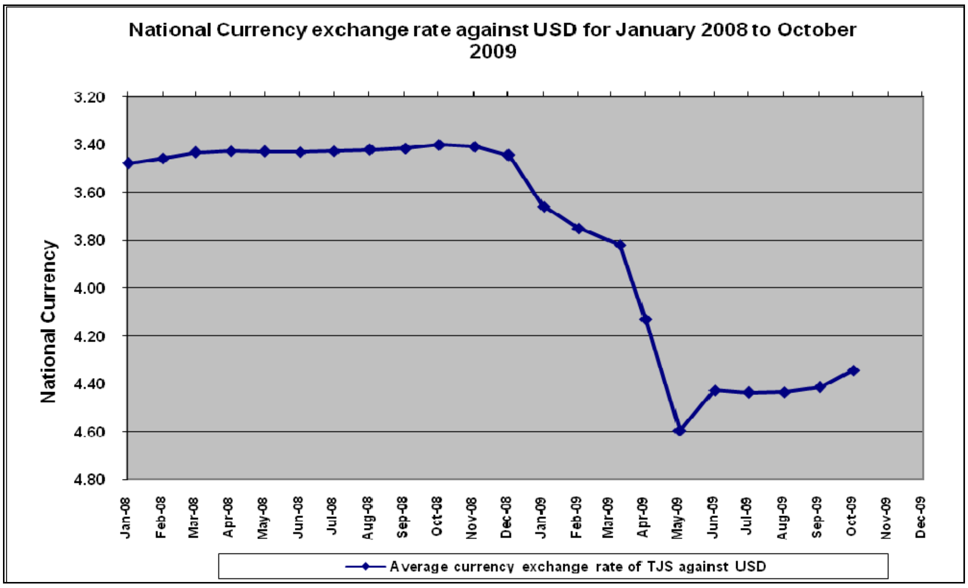
The overall decline in remittances for the first nine months of 2009 certainly played a role in the 17% reduction in imports recorded through October. Perhaps more importantly, the significant decrease in remittances in 2009 and the continuing inflation — especially for foodstuffs – raises concerns about household incomes; and consequently, about household capacity to purchase food and other basic goods. These concerns are particularly important for the most vulnerable households.

6.3 Exchange Rates[19]

In October, 2009 the Tajik Somoni (TJS) strengthened by some 2% in nominal terms against the USD. The average exchange rate for the month was $1 = 4.34, compared to $1 = 4.40 in September. However, the TJS depreciated against the Russian Ruble and Euro; in October 2009, the price for 10 Russian Ruble was 1.48 TJS, while 6.48 TJS were needed to by 1 Euro. These trends are in line with global exchange rate movements, in which the dollar is weakening against all major currencies.

[19] Source: National Bank of Tajikistan

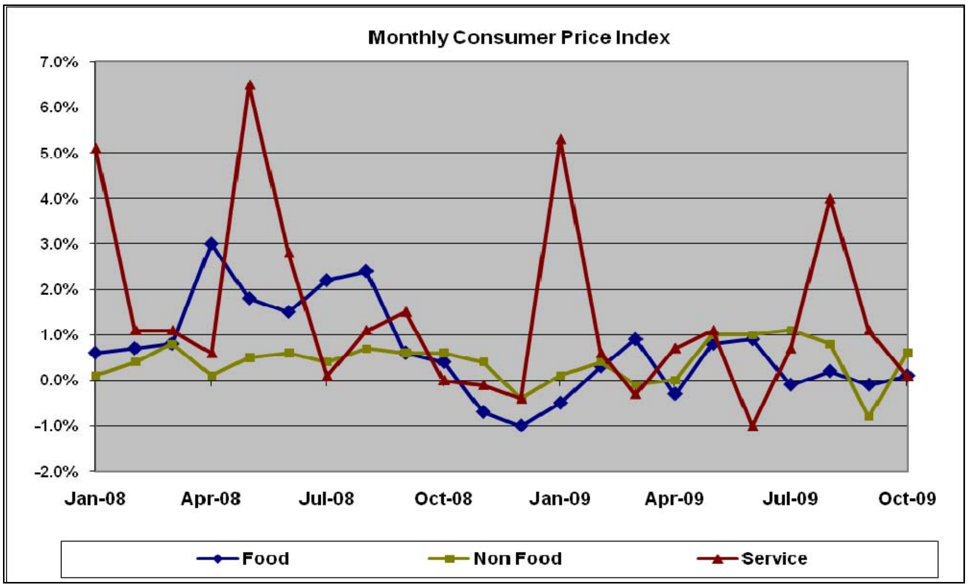
Graph # 5, National Currency Exchange Rate Against USD for Jan.2008-Oct.2009



6.4 Inflation [20]

In October 2009, the overall consumer price index (CPI) increased only slightly by 0.2%. The CPI has increased by 4.7% from the beginning of the year and by 3.8% compared to October 2008. The index for prices of industrial goods has increased by 2% in October compared to the previous month.

Graph #6 Consumer Price Index (CPI)



Prices for food items have increased by 0.1%, for non-food items by 0.6% and for services by 0.1%. This raises some concern, since—despite the TJS's appreciation against the dollar (the currency in which many imported food products are purchased) and stable or declining global food prices—food prices in Tajikistan continue to increase (albeit slowly). Seasonal factors (which usually increase food prices during the winter months) can now be expected to put further upward pressures on food price inflation during late 2009 and early 2010.

[20] Ibid.

Inflationary expectations continue to have a negative effect on the financial system. According to data from National Bank of Tajikistan, from the beginning of the year the share of credits given out in national currency is less than the share in foreign currency (44.5% vs. 55.5%). According to data received from the State Statistical Committee for October 2009, the share of TJS-denominated long-term credits given out to private commercial enterprises was only 26% of the total, against 63.6% in US currency. This indicates that banks expect downward pressures on the exchange rate to continue or intensify in the medium- to long-term.

In October the trade deficit has increased by 13% (from 1,108 million USD in September to 1,250 million USD in October 2009). During the given month export has fallen by 17% compared to September (92.9 million USD), whereas import has increased by 16 % (235.1 million USD). To a certain degree, this is connected with the intervention of the National Bank in regulating national currency during the past months. As a result, in October the import coverage by incomes from export remained low at only 39% (For reference: import coverage fell from 102% in 2002 to 43% in 2008). This certainly raises concerns about the economic security of Tajikistan, especially as the volume of gold and foreign currency reserves of the National Bank of Tajikistan remains twice less than the import coverage of the country.

6.7 Migration and Employment[21]

Unemployment data from the State Statistical Committee of Tajikistan shows that the number of officially registered unemployed people in October 2009 has reached 51,175. 39% of total unemployment is registered in Khatlon region, 30% in Sughd, 18% in DRR, 7% in GBAO; the remaining 5% is registered in Dushanbe.

The data shows that unemployment figures have grown in all regions. Significant increase in unemployment is registered in Khatlon with 41% in month-to-month comparison. Unemployment has increased by 5% in DRR, 3% in Sughd, and 2% in GBAO and Dushanbe compared to September 2009. The unofficial number may be even higher. These numbers do not include the seasonal migrants who have returned home mostly from Russia for winter vacation. The majority of the unemployed are women and people over 30 years old.

The Government of Tajikistan is promoting intensive public-sector job creation. From the beginning of the year 45,303 positions were created in various governmental sectors, which were 12% less than the actual demand for work places. Nevertheless, due to low wages offered for the governmental positions, there is a lack of demand for increasing the number of such positions.

In the near future, tensions on the labor market may increase, due to labor market entry by some 7000 returning seasonal migrants in fall and winter as well as another 10,000 recently amnestied prisoners who are of active work age.

Migration

Over the first 10 months of the current year, 699,533 people have left Tajikistan while 679,062 arrived. During autumn and winter seasonal labor migrants traditionally return home for vacations. Also, with the impact of the financial crisis, it is expected that in December more people will arrive to Tajikistan compared to previous months, as well

[21] Source: Migration Department of Ministry of Interior, Tajikistan

as on year-on-year comparison. These returning migrants could further exacerbate labor market tensions.

***Internal migration*[22]**

As the territory allocated on which the Roghun HEPS is being constructed is to be flooded, the Government of Tajikistan decreed that by 2015 all inhabitants (about 5000 families) residing in the territories of Roghun and Nurabad need to resettled. From the beginning of this year, 112 families were moved to Darband, 200 families to Dangara, and 296 to Regar villages. Considering the fact that the resettlement sites lack socio-economic infrastructures and have high unemployment rates, one can expect higher tensions on local labor markets in the future. Besides, significant deficit of irrigated and drinking water in Dangara, may increase food insecurity in the region among the newly resettled population.

***Wages and pensions*[23]**

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection reports that the total debt owed by the State to households for unpaid wages and pensions in November 2009 was 95,804,000 TJS (22,000,000 USD). From this amount, 23,327,000 TJS is for wages and 72,477,000 for pension. The problem seems to be particularly acute in Khatlon and Sughd. While difficulties in collecting taxes are a key cause of these arrears, seasonal factors may also be at work: toward the end of the year local authorities are traditionally tasked with boosting income to the State budget, including tax revenues. Thus, most pension and wage arrears are likely be paid off by the end of first quarter of 2010. However, as the Khatlon and Sughd regions also report the highest unemployment rates, household incomes and purchasing power in these regions may continue to be depressed this winter, contributing to food and health insecurity.

[22] Source: Babaev A. A., Deputy Director of State Agency for Social Protection, Employment and Migration
[23] Source: State Statistical Committee of Tajikistan

The aim of the Tajikistan Monthly Risk Monitoring Reports is to provide regular information and succinct analysis on the evolution of natural, economic, food-related, energy-related etc. risk factors in Tajikistan.
Data and information in this report have been provided by different sources and compiled by the RMWS Group of Experts and UN Agencies in Tajikistan.
The United Nations in Tajikistan are not responsible for the quality of the data provided by external sources.

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Annex A: Detailed forecasts by regions and provinces

Khatlon and DRR (valleys)

The monthly average temperature in Khatlon and DRR is forecasted to be 1 to 3°C above the climatic norm. In the valleys, temperature is expected to be around 5-7 °C. During the first and third weeks of the month, the maximal temperature in the valleys of Khatlon and DRR will rise to 13-18 °C, which is 2-3 °C above the norm for December. The monthly amount of precipitation is expected to be 28-30% below the norm (the multiyear norm is 35-70mm) in most parts of the Khatlon and DRR regions.

Sughd

In the valleys of Sughd province, the monthly average temperature is expected to rise above the norm by 1-2 °C, reaching about 4 °C, whereas in mountainous areas of the province temperatures will drop to 1 to 3 °C below the climatic norm (between -2 and -5 °C). The monthly amount of precipitation in the valleys of the province, such as in Penjikent and Ayni, is expected to be above the norm, whereas in mountainous areas it will be below the norm (norm in the valleys: 15-35 mm; in the mountains: 15-25 mm).

Mountainous areas of DRR and Western GBAO

In the mountainous areas of DRR and Western GBAO, the monthly average temperature is expected to raise 1-4 °C above the norms, reaching between 0 and -4 °C. The monthly amount of precipitation in the mountainous areas of DRR (such as in Rasht, Jirgital and Tavildara) is expected to be below the norm (norm: 40 to 160 mm), whereas in Western GBAO (Khorog, Rushan, Darvoz) precipitation may exceed the norm (norm: 6 to 30 mm). Abundant precipitation may lead to more cases of avalanches in Western GBAO, which is prone to this type of hazard.

Eastern GBAO

In Eastern GBAO, the monthly average temperature is expected to be 1-2 °C below the climatic norm and will reach -17 to -20 °C. Temperatures could drop to between -24 and -29 °C at night and -8 to -13 °C at day.

Note: As this forecast bears a preliminary character, a more detailed analysis will be published every 10 days in December 2009.