Budget 2024: Navigating the fiscal adjustment path

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Fiscal challenge in context: chronic, but not yet acute

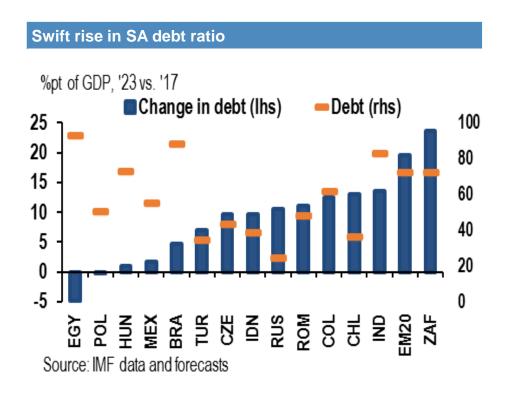
- Somewhat elevated macro risk score due to fiscal dynamics
- "light orange": still better than some highyielder peers, EM fiscal deficits generally are wider than in 2015-2019
- Required market yield has increased
- To address this, SA authorities stepped up fiscal consolidation efforts post-COVID
- Prior efforts since 2012 curbed slide but with no noticeable/limited improvement that was undone:
 - primary fiscal balance stuck at around-1% FY14/15-FY18/19
 - worse in FY19/20 (-2.5%)
 - SOE support increased FY19 onwards

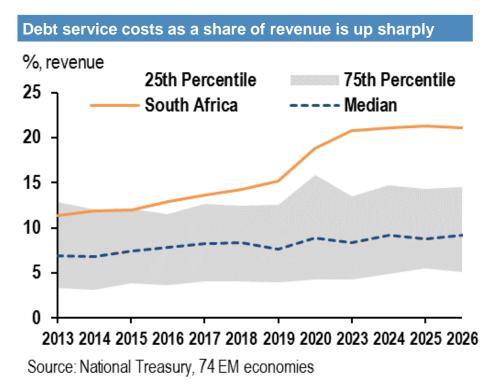
EM Macro Risk Score - 2024 forecast 7-score from EM 2005-19 average

Z-score from Eivi 2005-19 average						
	CPI/Gap	CA*	Fiscal	Gov't debt	FX res.	MRS
tur	4.84	1.20	1.06	-0.56	3.92	1.81
hun	-0.36	1.24	0.65	1.32	1.91	0.71
rom	0.59	0.91	1.19	0.59	0.30	0.71
zaf	0.20	0.96	1.55	1.88	0.55	0.58
bra	-0.15	0.52	1.89	2.69	-0.74	0.55
chn	-0.41	0.37	1.88	2.53	-0.39	0.53
ind	-1.33	0.62	2.20	2.24	-0.22	0.41
mex	0.22	0.31	1.20	0.71	0.36	0.40
mys	0.03	-0.17	0.69	1.38	1.77	0.33
phl	0.29	0.69	0.78	0.87	-0.30	0.33
pol	-0.13	0.29	1.01	0.57	0.47	0.32
col	-0.38	0.52	0.65	0.73	-0.25	0.22
tha	0.58	-0.03	0.25	1.16	-0.04	0.09
chl	-0.33	0.53	-0.12	-0.05	0.57	0.07
cze	-0.25	0.32	0.14	0.14	0.88	-0.04
idn	-0.01	0.28	-0.02	-0.19	-0.02	-0.04
kor	-0.44	0.53	-0.71	0.76	0.17	-0.06
per	-0.24	0.22	-0.17	-0.45	-0.80	-0.13
rus	0.21	-0.38	0.12	-1.12	-0.99	-0.23
isr	-0.72	-1.22	-0.18	0.82	-1.76	-0.56
tw n	-0.58	-1.97	-0.80	-1.04	-0.83	-0.97
EM	0.08	0.27	0.63	0.71	0.22	0.24

Source: J.P. Morgan Global Economics, Haver. Details on request.

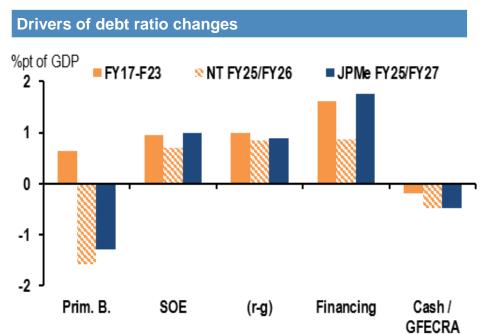
What will it take for SA debt and fiscal policy to be "sustainable"?





- Debt sustainability: politically and economically feasible policies that stabilize the debt ratio and deliver acceptable rollover risk.
- Debt carrying capacity: buffered by structure of debt, size of local market
- Service costs of debt is a pressure point as it crowds out other spending:
 - this is the phase we are currently in

Debt dynamics: culmination of fiscal stance, r-g gap, issuance profile, SOE support



Source: National Treasury, J.P. Morgan forecasts, financing includes stock-flow adjustments for linkers, FX adjustments, and issuing at discount to par

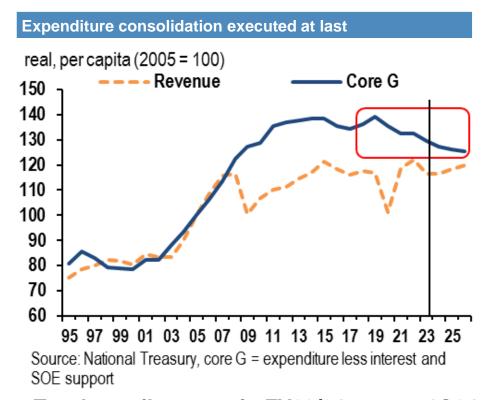
% of GDP Forecast JPMe (multi-90 pronged) JPMe 80 70 Treasury 60 50 2017 2019 2021 2023 2025 2027 2015 2029

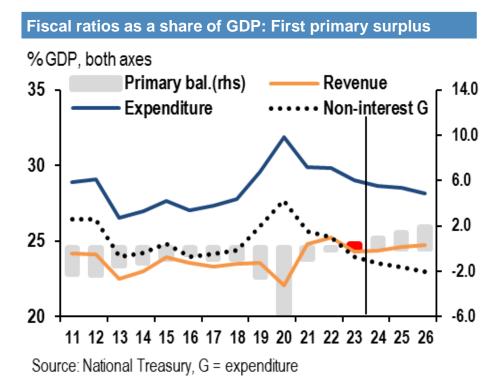
Source: National Treasury, J.P. Morgan calculations and forecasts

Treasury targets debt stabilization in FY25/26

- The debt ratio rose an average annual 4%pts FY17-FY23; Treasury projects this to drop to 0.4%pts in FY25/FY26 with debt declining after next year.
- Fiscal stance: Primary deficit account for 0.6%pts of average annual debt rise (excl. SOEs) in FY17-FY23 (Treasury: swing to a 1.6% surplus in FY25/FY26)
- SOE injections added a further 1%pts in FY17-FY23 (Treasury: 0.7% in FY25/FY26)
- (r-g) pull debt ratio higher by 1%pts of GDP
- Financing items: Stock-flow adjustments (FX reval., CPI-linkers, discount to par) were a substantial contributor at 1.6%pts, partly offset by a drawdown of cash and from GFECRA
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2024 Budget in context: Negative fiscal thrust was executed; framework "restored"





Two key milestones in FY23/24, as per 1Q24:

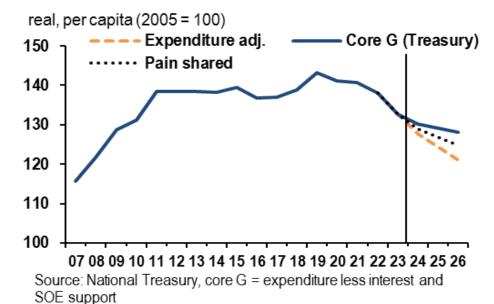
Integrity of fiscal framework restored – expenditure reduction executed (Budget-led);

First primary surplus since FY08/09 of 0.4%;

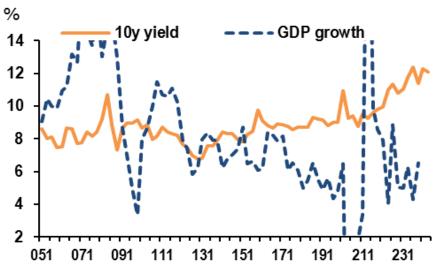
- Better primary balance on the back of expenditure reduction (real, per capita), exclusion of SOE support, and revenue tailwind
- On a real per capita basis, a 7% expenditure contraction has now been achieved with a further 3.5% to go

How much further to go?

Required expenditure drop for fiscal sustainability



(r-g) gap widening also on risk and term premium



Source: Bloomberg L.P. Finance, StatsSA

- Fiscal "progress" towards sustainability, but (only if)
 narrowly defined expenditure consolidation
 unfortunately necessary but by no means
 sufficient
- Nearing end of fiscal consolidation phase if:
 - stretched assumptions were to materialize
 - Other debt drivers also tackled: SOEs, (r-g)
 - set-backs (FY19/20), shocks (FY20/21) and unfunded mandates are avoided
- Pragmatically, (r-g) remains sizeable, SOE support continues, and risks skewed for revenue normalization
- If so, required total p.c. spending reduction is 16.5% (rather than 10.5%-11%) with about 40% or 7.3%pt now executed. Alternatively, if tax hikes are considered (beyond new mandates and tax shortfalls), then total p.c. adjustment could be 13.5%.

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