

## Romania: Industrial production accelerated in April

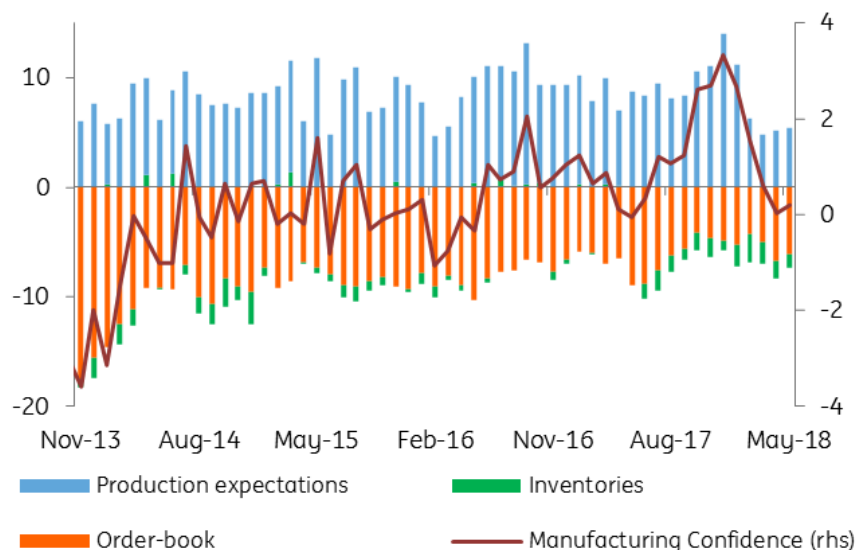
Romanian industrial production accelerated to 5.7% YoY (2.0% MoM) in April from 4.2% in March, but still contracted in sequential terms by -0.5% QoQ



Source: shutterstock

The manufacturing sector bore all the burden of growth in April, accelerating by 3.8% MoM as external demand is showing signs of stabilisation after the pronounced moderation we saw in 1Q18. The latest Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) also indicated a slight return of optimism in the manufacturing sector.

## Manufacturing confidence recovers slightly



Source: EC, ING

Mining and utilities on the other hand contracted 0.6% and 6.2% MoM, respectively. With industrial capacity utilization still below pre-crisis levels, there is enough slack to cover an eventual higher demand from existing production facilities.

The data is broadly in line with our call for a slower economic growth this year. We see 2018 GDP growth at 3.5%, well below the government's forecast of 5.5%. This should narrow the output gap and cool down inflation, but it will also put pressure on the public finances.

### Author

#### Valentin Tataru

Chief Economist, Romania

[valentin.tataru@ing.com](mailto:valentin.tataru@ing.com)

### Disclaimer

This publication has been prepared by the Economic and Financial Analysis Division of ING Bank N.V. ("ING") solely for information purposes without regard to any particular user's investment objectives, financial situation, or means. *ING forms part of ING Group (being for this purpose ING Group N.V. and its subsidiary and affiliated companies).* The information in the publication is not an investment recommendation and it is not investment, legal or tax advice or an offer or solicitation to purchase or sell any financial instrument. Reasonable care has been taken to ensure that this publication is not untrue or misleading when published, but ING does not represent that it is accurate or complete. ING does not accept any liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any use of this publication. Unless otherwise stated, any views, forecasts, or estimates are solely those of the author(s), as of the date of the publication and are subject to change without notice.

The distribution of this publication may be restricted by law or regulation in different jurisdictions and persons into whose possession this publication comes should inform themselves about, and observe, such restrictions.

Copyright and database rights protection exists in this report and it may not be reproduced, distributed or published by any person for any purpose without the prior express consent of ING. All rights are reserved. ING Bank N.V. is authorised by the Dutch Central Bank and supervised by the European Central Bank (ECB), the Dutch Central Bank (DNB) and the Dutch Authority for the Financial

Markets (AFM). ING Bank N.V. is incorporated in the Netherlands (Trade Register no. 33031431 Amsterdam). In the United Kingdom this information is approved and/or communicated by ING Bank N.V., London Branch. ING Bank N.V., London Branch is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and is subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. ING Bank N.V., London branch is registered in England (Registration number BR000341) at 8-10 Moorgate, London EC2 6DA. For US Investors: Any person wishing to discuss this report or effect transactions in any security discussed herein should contact ING Financial Markets LLC, which is a member of the NYSE, FINRA and SIPC and part of ING, and which has accepted responsibility for the distribution of this report in the United States under applicable requirements.

Additional information is available on request. For more information about ING Group, please visit <http://www.ing.com>.