The NewsLine

September 13, 2010

MACROECONOMICS

NANCIAL MARKETS

CONOMIC POLICY

SECTORS

CHINA

Further evidence against a slump

The August data on the Chinese economy are a further pointer that, although economic momentum is likely to slow in the second half of the year, overall it is likely to remain solid. In all probability a slump in growth is not on the cards this year.

As the Chinese statistical office announced over the weekend, industrial production rose in August by 13.9% on a year earlier. In the preceding months industry had been successively losing momentum. Having topped 18% in March, the increase in July was a "mere" 13.4%. Along with the improvement in sentiment among Chinese purchasing managers reported in early September, the positive development in August production suggests that, although economic growth in the second half of 2010 is likely to be slower than in the first half, there can be no question of a slump or indeed a hard landing. Retail sales also performed well in August, with sales of consumer goods up by 18.4% on a year earlier. The increase was thus slightly higher than the average in the first eight months of this year as a whole.

Less encouraging was the development of consumer prices in August. They climbed by 3.5% on a year earlier, with a particularly steep rise in food prices (+7.5%).

All in all we are sticking to our forecast of 10% growth this year. For the third quarter we are expecting GDP growth of 9% on a year earlier. In the fourth quarter the increase is likely to come in at 8.5%.

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Allianz SE



The NewsLine

page 2 of 2

September 13, 2010

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Allianz SE is one of the leaders of the insurance sector in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, listed in FTSE4GOOD and in the Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index (Carbon Disclosure Project, CDP6).

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