

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit ratings.

## The Czech Republic (security code: -)

### <Rating Change>

Foreign Currency Long-term Issuer Rating: from A+ to AA-  
Outlook: from Positive to Stable  
Local Currency Long-term Issuer Rating: from AA- to AA  
Outlook: from Positive to Stable

### Rationale

- (1) The Czech National Bank (CNB) removed the exchange rate floor in April 2017, moving to the course of monetary policy normalization. However, this has not had any major impact on the economy or the financial system so far, and the economy has been expanding. Also, fiscal consolidation has been progressing with the fiscal balance turning around into a surplus and the general government debt/GDP ratio continuing to decline. Following the general election in October 2017, a new coalition government led by ANO and the Social Democratic Party (CSSD) was finally formed in July 2018. It is a minority government but secures a majority in the parliament with the support of the Communist Party from outside the cabinet. Mr. Babis, the ANO leader and the new prime minister, will likely cooperate with the EU except for the immigration policy, while the CSSD and the Communist Party are expected to support fiscal policies in line with the EU rules. In addition, a framework that ensures fiscal discipline has been strengthened with the Act on the Fiscal Responsibility Rules taking effect in 2017, which calls for budget compilation based on the medium-term objective and defines a cap on the government debt. Therefore, JCR holds that the government's fiscal soundness will be maintained amid continuation of a stable economic growth, and has upgraded its ratings and changed their outlook from Positive to Stable.
- (2) With its per capita GDP exceeding USD 35,000 in PPP terms, the Czech Republic is one of the most advanced countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Its economy has an export-oriented structure led by the automotive sector where foreign direct investment (FDI) has accumulated, and is closely linked with the economy of the EU, its main trading partner. The real GDP growth rate accelerated to 4.3% in 2017 from 2.5% in 2016. The growth was supported by the expansion of private consumption on higher wages and employment and the recovery of investment on accelerated corporate investment and inflow of the EU funds amid solid external demand prompted by the growth of the EU economy. Against this background, the CNB has raised its policy rate four times by a total 95bp since the lift of the exchange rate floor. JCR projects that the economic growth will slow down to the 3% level toward 2019 amid continued monetary tightening and appreciation of the koruna.
- (3) The country's current account balance has turned around into a surplus on higher exports and its net external assets excluding FDI stood at close to 30% of GDP at the end of 2017. Its gross external debt has increased mainly in the banking sector, but this was a result of massive capital inflows in koruna-denominated assets ahead of the removal of the exchange rate floor. That has had little effect on the country's net external position as its foreign exchange reserves also increased as a result of foreign currency intervention by the CNB (The CNB's balance sheet has expanded to around 60% of GDP). Stability in the financial system has also been maintained. Bank lending and housing prices have not grown excessively and the banking sector has been retaining stable earnings and high capital adequacy ratios.
- (4) Fiscal consolidation has been making progress amid continuation of the economic growth and prudent fiscal policies. The general government fiscal balance (ESA2010) registered its first surplus in 2016. The fiscal surplus widened to 1.6% of GDP in 2017 from 0.7% a year earlier as the pay increase for public-sector employees was more than offset by higher tax revenues, contained social benefits and reduced interest payments. The general government debt/ GDP ratio declined to 34.7% at the end of 2017, relatively low among the sovereigns rated by JCR in the AA range.

Toshihiko Naito, Haruna Saeki

## Rating

Issuer: The Czech Republic

<Rating Change>

	Rating	Outlook
Foreign Currency Long-term Issuer Rating	AA-	Stable
Local Currency Long-term Issuer Rating	AA	Stable

Rating Assignment Date: July 20, 2018

The criteria used for identifying matters which serve as assumptions for the assessment of the credit status, and the criteria used for setting of grades indicating the results of the assessments of the credit status are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

Outline of methodology for determination of the credit rating is shown as "Sovereign and Public Sector Entities" (November 7, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

The aforementioned credit ratings are unsolicited. Except in cases of a credit rating for a sovereign, JCR indicates affix "p" after a rating symbol to distinguish it from a rating with solicitation. The undisclosed information, which has material influence on the credit rating, was not obtained from the rating stakeholder.

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JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

### Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	The Czech Republic
Rating Publication Date:	July 25, 2018

1

The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

2

The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

3

The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.

A) Economic Base

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to the issuing government's ability to maintain/expand the economic base into the future with maintaining soundness of financial systems.

B) Fiscal Base

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly correlated to fiscal balance, public debt and other factors of the issuing government's fiscal condition.

C) External Positions

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly correlated to the liquidity positions which change along with the international balance of payments and the international investment position.

D) Social and Political Bases and Economic Policy

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to the social and political stability, effectiveness of economic and monetary policies as well as international economics.

E) Related Parties' Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Government

The likelihood of a given debt payment is affected by the stance of the credit enhancement provider and other related parties with regard to their stance of support/ assistance for the issuing government.

F) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuing government's will, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same government in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by international practice, etc.

## 4 The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.

## 5 Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7

- The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.

## 6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

## 7 Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.

## 8 The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule 17g-7

- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.
- A) Informational and explanatory materials published by the rating stakeholders with regard to the economy and fiscal management policy, etc. of the issuing government
- B) Statistics and reports published by an independent organization with regard to the economy and fiscal status, etc. of the issuing government

## 9 Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(I) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the publication by the issuer or some independent media, etc.
- JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.

## 10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR does not receive payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR did not receive in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

## 11 Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7

### A) Economic Base

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is an improvement or deterioration of the issuer's economy or financial systems, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

### B) Fiscal Base

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its fiscal deficit/ surplus and its public debt and thereby makes given debt payment liability less/ more bearable. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

### C) External Positions

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's international balance of payments and international investment position and thereby an improvement/ deterioration of its liquidity positions. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

### D) Social and Political Bases and Economic Policy

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's social and political conditions or economic/ monetary policies, etc. and thereby an improvement/ deterioration of its economy and fiscal positions. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

#### E) Related Parties' Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the credit enhancement provider or other related parties with regard to their stance of support/ assistance for the issuing government and thereby an improvement/ deterioration of its economy, fiscal positions and liquidity positions. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

#### F) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts, due to improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's fiscal condition and/or will. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

#### G) International Economies

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the international economies, commodity or foreign exchange markets, etc. and thereby, through international balance of payments, an improvement/ deterioration in the issuer's fiscal balance or debt payment capacity. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

#### H) Various Events

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as domestic unrest, war, natural disaster, etc. which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's economy, fiscal positions, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

12

Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- Historical records of the credit rating herewith presented are posted in the end of this paper.
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/>

13

Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

#### A) Economic Base

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's economy or financial systems, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's economy or financial systems on some drastic change in environments, etc.

#### B) Fiscal Base

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's fiscal conditions in terms of annual balance or public debt. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's fiscal condition on some drastic change in its economy.

#### C) External Positions

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's liquidity positions reflecting

improvement or deterioration of the international balance of payments and the international investment position. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's liquidity positions on some drastic change in the country's economic/ fiscal conditions and financing activities, etc.

D) Social and Political Bases and Economic Policies

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's social and political bases and economic/ monetary policies. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the country's situation changes drastically, making the issuer's social and political bases and economic/monetary policies significantly improved or deteriorated.

E) International Economics

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the prospects of the international economies or commodity/ foreign exchange markets, etc. JCR expects the change should be most likely by a notch but could be as much as a few notches, should the economy or the markets change so greatly.

14 Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Asset-backed Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

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## The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	May 25, 2001	A-	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	May 15, 2002	A-	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	May 1, 2003	A	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	September 9, 2005	A	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	August 30, 2006	A	Positive
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	April 23, 2007	A	Positive
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	December 18, 2008	A	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	March 1, 2010	A	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	May 27, 2011	A	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	December 21, 2012	A	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	March 24, 2014	A+	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	June 25, 2015	A+	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	September 30, 2016	A+	Positive
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	May 1, 2003	A+	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	September 9, 2005	A+	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	August 30, 2006	A+	Positive
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	April 23, 2007	A+	Positive
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	December 18, 2008	A+	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	March 1, 2010	A+	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	May 27, 2011	A+	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	December 21, 2012	A+	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	March 24, 2014	AA-	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	June 25, 2015	AA-	Stable
The Czech Republic	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	September 30, 2016	AA-	Positive

## Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Atsushi Masuda, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:

- A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.
- B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.
- C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.



Atsushi Masuda  
General Manager of International Rating Department

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