PREDICTING THE EURO TO CZECH CROWN EXCHANGE RATE

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Abstract: This paper explores the prediction of the exchange rate of the Czech Crown and its market position relative to larger currencies such as the Euro. The study examines the development of the EUR/CZK exchange rate from 2003 to 2023 using neural networks, revealing its volatile tendencies over twenty years. The analysis shows that the exchange rate fluctuated between 22 and 34 without a prolonged period of stagnation. Furthermore, a prediction for the exchange rate in the months of April, May, and June 2023 was conducted, indicating that most neural networks produced similar values and projected no significant increase or decrease. The paper emphasizes that the algorithm of neural networks relies on past values, implying that the actual exchange rate may differ significantly from the predicted outcome.

Keywords: Exchange Rate; Prediction; Euro; Czech Crown.

1 Introduction

The topic of this paper is a prediction of the exchange rate of a selected currency. Specifically, the authors focused on the currency pair Euro to the Czech crown. The euro was introduced 20 years ago and then quickly and confidently took its place as the world's second major currency. At that time, several works appeared that predicted that the euro in the next 10-15 years could surpass the US dollar as the dominant world currency. Currently, the use of the euro in the world is significantly wider than that of other currencies such as the pound and yen. However, the US dollar is still much more popular. Moreover, the last decade has seen a slowdown in the use of the euro in the world and even a decline in some segments in favour of the dollar (Polivach, 2020). The European Union is both an advocate and a symbol of multilateralism in international trade. The rise of the euro's international role may alleviate concerns about spill over brought about by the dollar-dominated global economy (Montfaucon, 2022).

Neck and Weyerstrass (2019) found that EU accession and the introduction of the euro bring a higher real gross domestic product, higher employment, and more sustainable public finances. The benefits of joining the euro area are due to productivity gains. The possibility of central banks issuing digital money is currently being discussed. On 2 October 2020, the European Central Bank presented a report on the issuance of a digital euro in the euro area. It is a way to respond to the growing interest in cryptocurrencies while assessing a possible new mechanism of governance and economic control. However, its benefits do not completely dispel the doubts it still raises (Fernandez, 2021).

Liquidity management is a key task of the central bank. In particular, the reasonable provision of banknotes requires understanding what drives currency demand. This challenge is even greater in the case of the European Monetary Union, where the euro continues to evolve into a well-established currency abroad. In this regard, a new indicator is proposed that reflects the development of foreign demand. In addition to the usual set of determinants, variables including financial and economic policy uncertainty are also considered. A full nominal distribution of banknotes is considered to reveal the diverse role played by several factors. External demand was found to be important for large denominations and that uncertainty was also important for cash demand. In addition, the ECB's recent announcement of the cessation of the issuance of topdenomination banknotes has reduced the overall demand for euro banknotes (Rua, 2020).

Gorman, Orlowski and Roessler (2020) found that the currencies of Central European countries that are not members of the euro area are increasingly moving together with the euro in foreign exchange markets. Gorman, Orlowski and Roessler (2020) from study the dynamics of cross elasticity between selected Central European currencies (Czech crown CZK, Polish zloty PLN, and Hungarian forint HUF) and euro exchange rates in US dollars based on daily data for the sample period from 4 January 2000 to 5 April 2019. They used the cross-elasticity model originally proposed and tested for EU currencies by Orlowski (2016). To test simultaneous currency movements over time, they used Bai-Perron regression with multiple breakeven points and two-state tests of Markov switching. Furthermore, Gorman, Orlowski and Roessler (2020) found evidence of increasing simultaneous movements of Central European currencies and the euro, which is particularly pronounced in times of financial distress. Current movements in local exchange rates with the euro are also more pronounced during the sovereign debt crisis in the eurozone periphery.

In 1999, when Belgium and Italy joined the euro, they were almost identical in two respects: both had a public debt of 110% of GDP and the same GDP per capita. In 2020, the situation in the two countries was hugely different. Sapir (2020) argues that Italy's troubles were not caused by the euro, as some suggest. On the contrary, as Belgium's experience suggests, Italy could have used the euro to make a fiscal adjustment large enough before the crisis to avoid the harsh adjustment that the crisis eventually necessitated. Radu and Horobet and Belascu (2021) evaluated in their article the benefits and risks of international investments in the Romanian stock market from the perspective of euro investors. They examined the share of exchange rate volatility in the overall risk of these investments over nine years, from January 2011 to December 2019, using monthly values of the Romanian leu and euro exchange rate and monthly values of the Romanian stock index. Radu, Horobet and Belascu (2021) found that the Romanian leu weakened against the euro on average, causing currency losses for the euro investor, which were offset by the average yield of the Romanian index, which was higher than the average yield of the euro area index over the period under review.

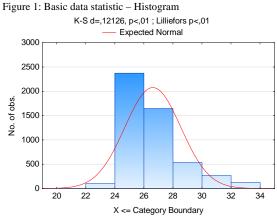
It is also necessary to work with information about future economic, political, or other developments. If their development can be predicted, they can then be projected into the monitored variable. Optically, the best option is linear regression, where the curve obtained by the least squares method using negative exponential appears by smoothing. In terms of the correlation coefficient, neural networks are applicable (Horák and Machová, 2019). Many authors have dealt with neural networks in connection with other currencies, such as Vrbka, Horák and Krulický (2022), who used the neural network method to predict the value of the Chinese currency and the influence of oil price developments on the world market. They concluded that fluctuations in oil prices on world markets would affect the CNY/USD price; However, it was not clear to what extent. Vochozka, Horák and Šuleř (2019) used artificial neural networks for exchange rate prediction, which have brought highquality and valuable results in several research programs. Data on currency exchange rates for a period longer than 9 years (a total of 3303 input data) were used for the analysis. Vochozka, Horák and Šuleř (2019) found that when aligning time series, other variables (such as year, month, and day) had higher accuracy.

In the past, exchange rate forecasting models performed poorly outside the sample and were worse than the random walk model. Monthly panel data from 1973 to 2014 for ten OECD currency pairs are used for out-of-sample forecasts using artificial neural networks and XGBoost models. Most approaches show the significant and considerable informative value of directional forecasts. Moreover, evidence suggests that information regarding forecast timing is a key component of forecasting performance (Pfahler, 2022).

2 Materials and Methods

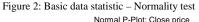
To analyse the problem, i.e., to predict the exchange rate of the selected currency (in this case EUR/CZK), the neural networks method will be used. It will be used to predict the price of the euro for the next 60 trading days. The data will be used from the Yahoo.com website from 200 3-2023, where the prices of a given currency are during each day that the currency was traded on the stock markets. Daily data from the New York Stock Exchange will be used. The New York Stock Exchange uses two indices. One is the NYSE Composite Index, which is used for all traded titles, and the other is the DJIA (Dow Jonas Industrial Average), which serves the 30 largest stock companies in the US. The New York Stock Exchange is traded every day from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time (in the Czech Republic it is around 3:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.). The price is determined every business day, except when the U.S. is a public holiday.

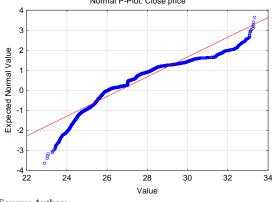
The basic statistical characteristics of the used time series of the EUR/CZK price are shown in the following figures 1-3.



Source: Authors

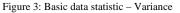
As you can see from the figure, the histogram has a normal distribution and the data that was used to construct the histogram was fine. The histogram should always have the shape of a "scoop". This histogram shows that the data was in the range of 22 to 34. 5047 data were used to construct this histogram.

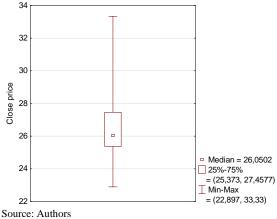




Source: Authors

The normality test makes it possible to assess whether the observed values come from some known probability distribution. If the sample distribution of data coincides with the theoretical distribution, all points lie in a straight line. If the sample and theoretical distributions do not match, the displayed points will form a curve different from the straight line. This figure shows that the sample distribution almost coincides with the theoretical distribution. Only at the beginning and at the end are the values different from the straight line. From this point of view, the data used can therefore also be considered relevant.





This figure shows that the variance was from 23 to 33, with the minimum value of 22.90 and the maximum value of 33.33. The median, in this case, was 26.05. It can also be seen that the highest values in the monitored period ranged from 25.37 to 27.46.

The data obtained will be evaluated using TIBECO's Statistica 13 software. First, we will create linear regression and as the next step, we will use neural networks for regression. We will examine the linear analysis on a sample for which we have determined the following functions: linear, polynomial, logarithmic, exponential, polynomial weighted distances, and polynomial negative exponential smoothing. First, the correlation coefficient will be calculated, that is, the dependence of the euro price on time, and a confidence level of 0.95 will be used, followed by regression using neural structures. Two types of networks will be constructed, namely MLP networks and RBF networks. For this purpose, 5047 data will be used, and the independent variable in our case will be time and the dependent variable will be the price of the currency. Time series (testing, training, and verification) will be divided into three groups. Each of these groups must contain a certain percentage of the data that will create neural structures. Training has 70% of the data, testing, and verification then 15% each. The test and verification groups are used to verify the reliability of the neural structure found. 1000 neural networks are used for the calculation and 10 neural networks are preserved. For MLP networks, a minimum of 2 neurons will be used, but the maximum will be 20 neurons, and for RBF networks, a minimum of 10 neurons will be used in the hidden layer, but the maximum will be 30 neurons. And for these two networks, the following functions will be used: linear, logistic, Atanh, Exponential, and Sine. We leave the other settings as default (within the ATS Automatic Mesh tool).

3 Results

Table 1 shows the 10 neural networks with the best characteristics out of 1000 generated neural structures.

Tab. 1: Summary of active networks (EUR/CZK - daily data 2003-2023)

Index	Net. Name	Train. Perf.	Test Perf.	Valid. Perf.	Train. Error	Test Error	Valid. Error	Train. Alg.	Error Function	Hidden Activation	Output Activation
1	MLP 1-13-1	0.983259	0.981622	0.985005	0.061198	0.065805	0.056042	BFGS 588	SOS	Tanh	Logistic
2	MLP 1-14-1	0.981610	0.979722	0.984382	0.067175	0.072506	0.058448	BFGS 389	SOS	Logistic	Logisti
3	MLP 1-18-1	0.981992	0.980536	0.984624	0.065789	0.069684	0.057616	BFGS 439	SOS	Logistic	Expon
4	MLP 1-19-1	0.985094	0.984062	0.986784	0.054541	0.057205	0.049498	BFGS 461	SOS	Logistic	Logisti
5	MLP 1-15-1	0.982721	0.980997	0.985049	0.063147	0.068078	0.056036	BFGS 589	SOS	Logistic	Logisti
6	MLP 1-9-1	0.982586	0.980555	0.985019	0.063644	0.069689	0.056281	BFGS 1080	SOS	Tanh	Logisti
7	MLP 1-20-1	0.983067	0.981367	0.985398	0.061900	0.066719	0.054647	BFGS 639	SOS	Logistic	Expon
8	MLP 1-19-1	0.982630	0.980622	0.984827	0.063476	0.069448	0.056836	BFGS 564	SOS	Logistic	Identit
9	MLP 1-20-1	0.986503	0.985521	0.988213	0.049423	0.051876	0.044085	BFGS 678	SOS	Tanh	Expor
10	MLP	0.982813	0.980901	0.985182	0.062814	0.068398	0.055506	BFGS 827	SOS	Logistic	Logisti

Source: Authors

As can be seen from Table 1, all the networks that have been preserved belong to MLP networks. It follows that the RBF networks met the performance parameters but had worse errors than the retained MLP networks. In the hidden layer, these stored networks had from 13 to 20 neurons and were created using the BFGS (Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shanno) training algorithm, always in a different variant. To activate the hidden layer of neurons, the hyperbolic tangent and the logistic function had to be used, and three functions were used for the outer layer – logistic function, exponential function, and identity function. What is important is the correlation coefficient, which determines the performance of all stored networks in individual data sets.

Tab 2: Correlation coefficients (EUR/CZK - daily data 200 3-2023)

	Price Train	Price Test	Price Validation
1.MLP 1-13-1	0.983259	0.981622	0.985005
2.MLP 1-14-1	0.981610	0.979722	0.984382
3.MLP 1-18-1	0.981992	0.980536	0.984624
4.MLP 1-19-1	0.985094	0.984062	0.986784
5.MLP 1-15-1	0.982721	0.980997	0.985049
6.MLP 1-9-1	0.982586	0.980555	0.985019
7.MLP 1-20-1	0.983067	0.981367	0.985398
8.MLP 1-19-1	0.982630	0.980622	0.984827
9.MLP 1-20-1	0.986503	0.985521	0.988213
10.MLP 1-14-1	0.982813	0.980901	0.985182

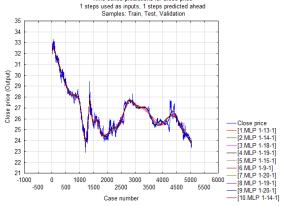
Source: Authors

The value of the correlation coefficient should always ideally be 1, which is why they try to find the neural network that most closely corresponds to this value. It is also important that all groups (training, testing and verification) have the same performance. It is therefore obvious that all structures that were created using the training data set are valid and subsequently verified on the next two data sets. It is also essential that in all data sets the neural network shows minimal error. As can be seen from Table 2, in all cases the value of correlation coefficients is higher than 0.979 for all neural networks and the differences between individual neural networks are minimal. It can therefore be said that the data is of extremely high quality. Also especially important is Table 3, which records the analysis of prediction statistics.

	1.MLP 1-13-1	2.MLP 1-14-1	3.MLP 1-18-1	4.MLP 1-19-1	5.MLP 1-15-1	6.MLP 1-9-1	7.MLP 1-20-1	8.MLP 1-19-1	9.MLP 1-20-1	10.MLP 1-14-1
Minimum Prediction (Train)	23.87282	23.62950	23.95749	24.00041	23.82133	23.86179	23.74859	23.88438	23.83938	23.72466
Maximum Prediction (Train)	32.73145	32.60002	33.05219	32.80494	32.74624	32.57954	32.82503	32.89649	32.86068	32.65979
Minimum Prediction (Test)	23.87311	23.64474	23.96496	24.00059	23.83381	23.87342	23.76116	23.88442	23.85556	23.73884
Maximum Prediction (Test)	32.68272	32.53948	32.89751	32.72720	32.67767	32.52166	32.73476	32.78598	32.86059	32.59220
Minimum Prediction (Validation)	23.87217	23.62698	23.95626	24.00261	23.81926	23.85986	23.74651	23.89689	23.83669	23.72231
Maximum Prediction (Validation)	32.67549	32.53089	32.87668	32.71610	32.66788	32.51344	32.72215	32.77078	32.86078	32.58263
Minimum Residual (Train)	-1.24302	-1.30282	-1.38997	-1.23659	-1.36102	-1.36446	-1.32998	-1.36280	-1.19276	-1.34303
Maximum Residual (Train)	1.95751	1.78228	1.60347	1.87788	1.66408	1.87065	1.72503	1.93883	1.68021	1.84357
Minimum Residual (Test)	-1.31383	-1.36118	-1.45225	-1.27898	-1.41968	-1.42415	-1.38962	-1.42401	-1.26296	-1.40126
Maximum Residual (Test)	1.25902	1.41368	1.26696	1.29779	1.35332	1.33432	1.36699	1.31157	1.32128	1.37713
Minimum Residual (Validation)	-1.09614	-1.28625	-1.38249	-1.23448	-1.38158	-1.30784	-1.35934	-1.22460	-1.27052	-1.27911
Maximum Residual (Validation)	1.32473	1.40772	1.27925	1.35995	1_34744	1.33320	1.36706	1.31826	1.38264	1.37234
Minimum Standard Residual (Train)	-5.02468	-5.02665	-5.41912	-5.29499	-5.41613	-5.40860	-5.34563	-5.40912	-5.36524	-5.35870
Maximum Standard Residual (Train)	7.91285	6.87655	6.25151	8.04092	6.62212	7.41507	6.93346	7.69546	7.55786	7.35583
Minimum Standard Residual (Test)	-5.12166	-5.05508	-5.50143	-5.34744	-5.44112	-5.39477	-5.37985	-5.40360	-5.54510	-5.35790
Maximum Standard Residual (Test)	4.90801	5.25003	4.79951	5.42609	5.18681	5.05449	5.29224	4.97692	5.80112	5.26566
Minimum Standard Residual (Validation)	-4.63030	-5.32035	-5.75958	-5.54869	-5.83637	-5.51283	-5.81497	-5.13670	-6.05114	-5.42926
Maximum Standard Residual (Validation)	5.59588	5.82282	5.32948	6.11267	5.69215	5.61969	5.84795	5.52956	6.58514	5.82496

Source: Authors

This table shows the analysis of prediction statistics. Residue levels can be seen here. Residues should ideally approach the value of 0, meaning that the input data's value corresponds to the predicted value. Here we see that they show some network residues and the; therefore, they cannot be said to be accurate. In the following Figure 1, these residues are shown graphically, where all the networks and the actual value history of the currency are. Figure 4: Evolution of the Euro price vis-à-vis the Czech crown



Source: Authors

Figure 4 shows that all neural networks in total managed to exactly copy the actual price movement. The coloured lines represent the ten preserved neural networks. But these neural networks cannot capture local minimum and maximum extreme fluctuations. For example, at 1200, there was an extreme downward swing, when the price of the euro fell, and neural networks did not notice this swing. This is because the Global Financial Crisis began in 2008. The figure also shows that the price of the euro fell from 2003 until 2008. Then it rose again very quickly. And it can also be seen that until 2023, the price of the euro has continued to fluctuate up and down. It is questionable to what extent they are the result of a turbulent environment that none of the preserved neural networks could reliably describe. However, despite this fact, we can accept the statement that all preserved neural networks are applicable in practice.

4 Discussion

Following the training of neural networks, predictions of oil prices for the next 60 trading days were made. In Table 4 you can see how the price will move just for the mentioned 60 trading days.

Tab. 4: Euro	price	prediction	for	the	month	of	April,	May,	and
June 2023									

1. Close 2. Close 3. Close 4. Close 5. Close 6. Close 7. Close 04.04.2023 23.31327 23.66012 24.04678 23.67254 23.33376 23.5 05.04.2023 23.3055 23.67577 24.04554 23.66611 23.7248 23.52442 23.5	
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10.04.2023 23.46648 23.66492 24.03932 23.64384 23.70291 23.50766 23.5	4696 24.13735 23.78363 23.03745
11.04.2023 23.45857 23.66240 24.03808 23.63892 23.69867 23.50330 23.5	4307 24.13645 23.78116 23.03002
12.04.2023 23.45063 23.65988 24.03683 23.63398 23.69443 23.49894 23.5	3918 24.13555 23.77869 23.02289
13.04.2023 23.44266 23.65736 24.03559 23.62901 23.69019 23.49458 23.5	3530 24.13466 23.77623 23.01605
14.04.2023 23.43466 23.65485 24.03435 23.62403 23.68594 23.49021 23.5	3141 24.13376 23.77376 23.00948
17.04.2023 23.41046 23.64733 24.03061 23.60894 23.67320 23.47710 23.5	1974 24.13109 23.76639 22.99142
18.04.2023 23.40233 23.64483 24.02937 23.60387 23.66895 23.47273 23.5	1585 24.13020 23.76393 22.98592
19.04.2023 23.39417 23.64234 24.02812 23.59878 23.66470 23.46835 23.5	
20.04.2023 23.38598 23.63984 24.02688 23.59367 23.66045 23.46397 23.59	
21.04.2023 23.37776 23.63735 24.02563 23.58853 23.65620 23.45959 23.5	
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Source: authors

In Table 4 it is possible to see how the price of oil will move in the period from 4.04.2023 to 24.06.2023. Most neural networks show remarkably similar values. And the fact that the price of the EUR to CZK will be around 23.5 in the coming months. Only the 3rd and 8th neural networks show a higher price, about 24 CZK. Interestingly, there are no major price fluctuations in either of the neural networks. All of them have a higher price at the beginning of the period, which decreases during the monitored period and increases again towards the end of most neural networks.

5 Conclusion

The topic of this paper was the prediction of the exchange rate of a selected currency and the euro currency was chosen. It has been found that the euro has an extraordinarily strong market position but cannot yet compete sufficiently with larger currencies such as the US dollar. This work also investigated the development of the euro price from 2003 to 2023 using neural networks. It was found that the euro had very volatile tendencies over twenty years and that there was hardly any period when the price was stagnant but still fluctuated between 22 and 34. A prediction of the euro price for three months ahead was also prepared. Specifically, for the months of April, May, and June 2023. It was found that most neural networks had similar values, and the price of the euro did not increase or decrease dramatically. This is because the algorithm of neural networks takes the previous values from the past days and follows them. It is therefore possible that in the end, the price of the euro will be completely different.

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List of Figure Legends

Figure 1: Basic data statistic – Histogram Figure 2: Basic data statistic – Normality test Figure 3: Basic data statistic – Variance Figure 4: Evolution of the Euro price vis-à-vis the Czech crown

Primary Paper Section: A

Secondary Paper Section: AH