

## Of Beatles and the end of a dream

Louis Armstrong, the Beatles, [Franco](#) (the rumba giant of Zaire) and a few other artists were so transformational that, according to one theory, their work can't be rated on the same scale as that of mere mortals. Their entire output is of AAA quality, so an internal scale has to be used to measure the difference between, say, "Sgt. Pepper" and "Let it Be." Both are gifts from the gods, but the gods were having an especially good day when they created "Sgt. Pepper." The U.S. used to be the Louis Armstrong of sovereign debt, with its AAA rating and its awe-inspiring reserve currency. It's now been downgraded to mere Frank Sinatra status, AA+, but it's clear that with the world teetering on the edge, the debt-rating scales have been inflated. The world wasn't listening when John sang that the [dream is over](#). The all-but-bankrupt U.S. is actually more like a Barry Manilow. Officially, the Czech Republic's A rating puts in the league of a minor goddess like Tina Turner. Adjusted for credit-rating inflation, it's more like a one-hit [Kim Wilde](#).



# DOUBLE IMPACT

with PATRIA PLUS

Get Patria Plus 2 year licence (or 2 licences for 1 year) + stylish and powerful PC Dell in our action package for special price!

(you save 25.000 CZK)

More details on [www.patriaplus.cz](http://www.patriaplus.cz)

