



GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

HIGHLIGHTS

October 18, 2021

Global Markets

According to US data releases on Friday, retail sales unexpectedly rose by 0.7%MoM in September, while the August figure was revised upwards showing a 0.9%MoM gain instead of 0.7%MoM previously reported. Meanwhile, commodity prices continued to move higher, with Brent crude rising above \$86/bbl earlier today for the first time since October 2018, while WTI ended at another post-2014 peak of \$82.39/bbl on Friday. Mounting inflation concerns pushed Asian bourses lower today, while the deceleration in China's GDP to a slightly lower than expected 4.9%YoY in Q3 from 7.9%YoY in Q2 and hawkish comments by BoE Governor Andrew Bailey, also dented sentiment. Risk-off risk sentiment and firmer-than-expected US retail sales data favored the USD, with the dollar index DXY rising above 94, ahead of today's US September IP.

Greece

According to the ELSTAT 2nd estimate of the Annual National Accounts, real GDP in 2020 dropped by 9.0% vs. 8.2% in the 1st estimate (Mar-21). In volume terms, final consumption in 2020 fell by 5.5% (vs -3.4% in the 1st estimate), imports of goods and services decreased by 7.6% (vs 6.8% in the 1st estimate), and exports of goods and services decreased by 21.5% (vs. 21.7% in the 1st estimate). Meanwhile, according to ELSTAT, for the enterprises in retail trade obliged to double-entry accounting bookkeeping, with monthly available data, the turnover in Aug-21 amounted to €2.72bn, +14.4%YoY. The activity with the biggest annual increase was retail sale of cosmetic and toilet articles in specialized stores (+59.3%), while the only activity with an annual decrease was retail sale of textiles in specialized stores (-10.3%).

CESEE

SERBIA: The yields of the RSD denominated T-bonds extended their upward trend on the back of rising inflation that is currently moving beyond the higher end of the Central Bank's target tolerance band (3±1.5%). Headline inflation stood at 5.7% YoY in September up from 4.3% YoY in August. Yields increased by 20-30bps on a weekly basis, with 4-year, 6-year and 11-year bonds currently trading at 2.60%, 3.10% and 3.80%, respectively. Turning to the FX market, the dinar has remained stable within its range of 117.54-58 in the past week. A possible RSD bond sell-off is not likely to hit the EUR/RSD rate as the Central Bank, with the FX reserves at a historic high, is ready to intervene by selling euros in the FX market.

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