Eurobank Research



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Global markets

According to the flash estimate, Eurozone headline CPI rose by a further 0.2ppt in August to a fresh record high of 9.1%YoY, and core inflation also surged to a higher than expected 4.3%YoY from 4.0%YoY in July, supporting the arguments of several hawkish ECB policymakers for a 75bps rate hike at next week's policy meeting. In reaction, European sovereign bonds came under further pressure, while US Treasuries also lost further ground pressured by new Fed hawkish remarks, failing to capitalize on the ADP August employment report which showed a much lower than anticipated increase of 132k in private payrolls. Turning to markets, risk-off sentiment prevailed during the Asia session today and European and US stock futures point to a lower open. The EUR/USD lost some ground against a broadly firmer USD but remained slightly above parity in early Europe trade, ahead of today's US ISM manufacturing reading for August.

Greece

The seasonally adjusted retail trade volume index, a variable that is highly and positively correlated with real GDP (correlation coefficient of +0.86 in terms of annual changes), decelerated steeply in Q2 2022 registering a growth rate of just +0.3% YoY (-0.7% QoQ) from +10.4% YoY (-0.1% QoQ) in Q1 2022. This result reflects two factors: 1st the fade out of base effects from the second prolonged lockdown and 2nd the negative effect of inflation on the quantity of goods demanded. The store categories with the highest deceleration in Q2 2022 were: automotive fuel (-4.8% YoY from +13.4% YoY) and clothing and footwear (-16.0% YoY from +21.2% YoY). In other news, according to Eurostat's flash estimate, the inflation rate – based on the HICP – decreased marginally to 11.1% YoY in Aug-22 (9.1% YoY in EA) from 11.3% YoY in Jul-22 (8.9% YoY in EA) and 11.6% YoY in Jun-22.

CESEE

Robust economic growth continued in Turkey in Q2-2022, as the GDP increased by 7.6%YoY, following a similar increase in Q1-2022 (+7.5%YoY). Despite the soaring inflation (average Q2-2022: 77.2%YoY), growth came mainly from the much higher consumption of households (+22.5% YoY). The expansion of exports, supported by the devaluation of the TRY (-15.0% against USD in Q2-2022), was the second determinant of growth in Q2-2022 (+16.4%YoY). It also improved the external balance (surplus of 6.2% of GDP, from 5.9% in Q1-2022). Moderate investment increase (4.7%YoY), as strong credit expansion to businesses continued (+59.3%YoY in Q2-2022).

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