

GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

December 14, 2022

Global markets

According to yesterday's US data, both core and headline CPI surprised to the downside in November for the second consecutive month. In detail, headline CPI rose by 0.1%MoM, the smallest monthly gain in 15 months, with the annual rate decelerating for a fifth consecutive month to 7.1% from 7.7% in October. Core CPI rose by 0.2%MoM from 0.3%MoM in the prior month, taking the annual rate down to 6.0% from 6.3%. Core goods prices continued to decelerate, falling by 0.5%MoM following October's 0.4%MoM decline, and core services inflation, instead, continued to rise steadily, mainly on the back of shelter inflation, though by a slower pace of 0.4%MoM compared to 0.5%MoM in the prior month. In reaction to the weaker than expected US CPI data ahead of today's Fed monetary policy decision, US Treasuries rallied amid reduced Fed rate tightening expectations (the terminal fed funds rate pricing fell to 4.85%). Risk sentiment improved and the DXY USD index fell sharply, briefly marking a five-month low below 103.60.

Greece

According to press reports, the share of Russian gas to domestic consumption was almost zero in November 2022, while in the 11-month period of January-November 2022 fell to 14.4% from 40.4% in January-November 2021. The imports of Russian gas for domestic consumption decreased by 68.4% YoY to 8.12TWh and the imports of LNG from the Revithoussa LNG terminal increased by 56.5% YoY to 34.14 TWh in January-November 2022. In other news, passenger traffic in the 14 regional airports managed by Fraport, Greece hit a record high in January-November 2022 with approximately 30.5 passengers, posting an increase of 3.6% compared to the respective period of the pre-pandemic year of 2019. The strongest rebounds relative to 2019 were recorded in the airports of Aktion (23.6%), Santorini (19.7%), Skiathos (14.6%), Corfu (14.5%), Mykonos (11.0%), Kefalonia (5.6%), Zakynthos (5.1%) and Kos (4.3%).

CESEE

In Serbia, inflation increased by a tad to 15.1% YoY in November compared to 15.0% YoY in October while on a monthly basis the prices increase decelerated to 1.0% from 1.9% in the previous month. The main upward pressure on the annual headline index came from utility-related prices, as they increased by 18.4% YoY in November vs 17.9% YoY a month ago. The rattling trajectory of inflation did not stop the S&P ratings agency from affirming Serbia's BB+ sovereign credit rating and keeping the country's outlook stable. The agency forecast GDP growth to slow down to 2.1% in 2023 from 2.5% in 2022 with fiscal and current account deficits remaining elevated. Towards that end, the €2.4bn IMF agreed facility was cited, in the rating release, as supportive to fiscal and external financing needs while providing an anchor for policy prudence and reforms.

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