Eurobank Research



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Global markets

US non-farm payrolls rose by a lower-than-expected 150k in October, dragged down by around 33k United Auto Workers who were on strike during that period, following a downward revision by a hefty 101k of the prior two months. Adding to recent signs that point to softening labor market conditions, the unemployment rate rose by 0.1ppts to 3.9% and average hourly earnings rose by a subdued 0.2%MoM, taking the annual rate down by 0.2ppts to 4.1%. Coming on the heels of last week's dovish leaning FOMC policy outcome, the labor market data added to the view that the Fed is done hiking rates and may embark on a more aggressive than earlier expected rate easing cycle in 2024. Markets are currently pricing in only 5.5bps in hikes by the January 2024 meeting, while the rate priced in for December 2024 has dropped to 4.40%. Against this backdrop, risk-on sentiment prevailed, UST yields were trading close to Friday's multiweek lows, and the USD remained under pressure ahead of today's US Senior Loan Officers Opinion Survey.

Greece

According to ELSTAT's monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS), the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased marginally to 10.0% in Sept-23, from 10.6% in Aug-23. This marks the lowest unemployment rate since Sept-09. The number of employed individuals rose by 1.3%, adding 55.2k jobs while the number of unemployed persons fell by 5.0%; a reduction of 24.6k persons. On an annual basis, the unemployment rate was lower by 2.1ppts; a decrease of 18.2% or 104.2k persons with respect to Sept-22, with employment increasing by 1.7% or 70.7k jobs. The labour force participation rate — the ratio of the labour force to total population — dropped to 60.1% in Sept-23, from 60.2% a year earlier. According to Eurostat data, Greece's median equivalized disposable income — the median income after tax and transfers, adjusted for household size — stood at 10,841 Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) per person, significantly lower than the EU average of 18,706 PPS, indicating a disparity in economic well-being compared to other EU countries.

CESEE

In Turkey, headline inflation edged down to 61.4%YoY in October from 61.5%YoY in September. The unexpected marginal disinflation beat market expectations for a moderate increase to 62%YoY to the downside. On a monthly basis the CPI increased by 3.4%, a 5-month low, after a 4.8% rise in the previous month. Contrary to these trends, core inflation slightly rose, reaching 67.6%YoY from 67.2%YoY in September, implying that the slowdown in the headline index is most possibly related to prices of items pertaining to energy, food and beverages. Indeed, prices of alcoholic beverages – tobacco (-5.2ppts, to 62.0%YoY), transport (-4.1ppts, to 72%YoY) and food – non-alcoholic beverages (-3.1ppts, also to 72%YoY) posted the strongest deceleration on an annual basis. In other country news, foreign reserves rose further in the week ending October 27, by 0.3% on a weekly basis, to \$126.56bn, an almost 9-month high, exclusively driven by higher gold reserves.

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