

GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

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Global markets

Markets were steady as the focus shifted to US economic data to be released later today after the early part of the session continued to be dominated by fluctuations in the Japanese yen. The October US jobs report will provide signs of whether labor market conditions are cooling enough to justify market expectations of dovish pivot from the Fed, with the consensus estimate being for the addition of 183k non-farm payrolls and an unchanged unemployment rate of 3.9% Futures are currently pricing in a 68% chance of a rate cut by March. The UoM will also release its consumer sentiment and inflation expectations survey. The USD/JPY exchange rate dropped as much as 1.1% today after falling 2.2% yesterday on speculation that the BoJ will soon end its negative interest rate policy. However, it later recovered most of today's losses to stand just 0.3% lower at 143.77 at the time of writing. The yield on 10yr USTs rose 2bps to 4.17% today after increasing 5bps yesterday, while JGB yields rose 1bps to 0.76% after rising 12bps yesterday.

Greece

The new tax bill aiming to restrict tax evasion was voted into law yesterday. The new bill introduces new rules on the taxation of freelancers and self-employed in Greece. According to the new bill, these are presumed to earn a minimum of $\leq 10,920$ per year, based on the minimum wage of ≤ 780 multiplied by 14 months. This change aims to address the disparity between the incomes declared by self-employed individuals and their employees and is expected to significantly increase the taxable income base. A Eurobank Research study, earlier this year, estimated the shadow economy at ca ≤ 40.0 bn or 20-30% of GDP. In other news, according to Eurostat data, Greece's total air passenger transport in 2022 increased by 79.5% on an annual basis and by 3.2% compared to the pre-Covid pandemic 2019. The 2022 increase, while significant, was among the lower rates in the EU; Ireland, and Finland were the top performers. Air passenger transport arrivals in 2022 increased by 77.3% on an annual basis but decreased by -0.9% compared to 2019.

CESEE

Similarly to the Central Bank of Poland, the Central Bank of Serbia, in line with market expectations, decided yesterday to keep the key policy rate unchanged at 6.50% for the fifth consecutive month, amid easing global inflationary pressures and decelerating domestic inflation. In Bulgaria, GDP growth eased to 1.5%YoY in Q3 compared to 1.9%YoY in the previous quarter, based on the detailed GDP data released yesterday. The reading came 0.2ppts lower compared to the flash estimate approaching its weakest level since the pandemic period in 2020. However, in quarterly terms growth held steady at 0.4%, the same as in Q2 and Q1, suggesting that despite the deceleration there is evidence of economic resilience given the adverse external environment. Preliminary GDP data in Romania came in brighter than those of mid-November with the Q3 growth rate being revised to 1.1%YoY from 0.2%.

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