Eurobank Research



GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

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Global markets

Strong economic data out of the US on Friday doused recent expectations about the extent of monetary policy easing from the Federal Reserve in 2024, causing bonds to retreat slightly. The jobs report showed that the US economy added a higher-than-expected 199k nonfarm payrolls in November and the unemployment rate dropped to 3.7% from 3.9% the month before. Meanwhile, the University of Michigan's December survey also showed a decrease in consumers' inflation expectations. The yield on 10yr USTs rose 12bps on Friday, followed by another 1bp in early trading today and currently stands at 4.26%. Futures markets are now pricing in 108bps of cumulative rate cuts by the FOMC by December 2024, about 20bps less than in the middle of last week. The week ahead is heavy on major economic events, starting with the release of the US November CPI print tomorrow. The FOMC meets on Wednesday, followed by the ECB, BoE and SNB on Thursday. All four central banks are expected to keep rates on hold in this week's meetings.

Greece

The annual inflation rate based on the HICP, retreated to 2.9% in Nov-23, from 3.8% in Oct-23, whereas in the 11-month period from Jan-23 to Nov-23, it decelerated to 4.2%, from 9.4% in the respective period of 2022. The main groups of goods and services with the highest readings in Nov-23, were food and non-alcoholic beverages (8.9%, from 14.9% in Nov-22), clothing and footwear (6.1%, from 11.2% in Nov-22) and health (5.5%, from 2.8% in Nov-22). Hotels-cafes-restaurants, a category with a high weight in the formation of the HICP, registered a relatively high rate of 3.1% (9.9% in Nov-22). On the contrary, the inflation rate in housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (-1.5%, from 5.1% in Nov-22), in transport (-2.1%, from 14.4%) and in communication (-3.3%, from -2.0% in Nov-22) stood in negative territory. According to the European Commission's autumn economic forecasts (Nov-23), the inflation rate in 2023, 2024 and 2025 is expected at 4.2%, 2.8% and 2.1% respectively.

CESEE

High-frequency data for Bulgaria showed some modest improvement in October following the slight growth deceleration revealed in the preliminary Q3 GDP data. Retail sales expanded by +3.1%YoY in October, an improvement from the flat year-on-year reading in September. October's print was the largest increase since February, while the monthly print also captured some improvement, increasing +1% from the previous month. Industrial output continued to contract by -5.4%YoY, though at a slower pace compared to the average -9%YoY decrease for the first nine months of the year, which got more pronounced in September (-11.6%YoY) and August (-9.7%YoY). As with retail sales, industrial output grew on a monthly basis, increasing 2.6% from October, which offset the almost identical monthly contraction of 2.7% in September.

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