

GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

August 5, 2022

Global markets

Oil prices remained under pressure, with Brent crude dropping below \$95/bbl for the first time since the start of the Ukraine war amid fears over a global recession. Meanwhile, ahead of today's US non-farm payrolls report, yesterday's data showed that initial jobless claims remained on an upward trend in the week ending July 30, increasing from 254k to 260k, in line with expectations, while continuing claims rose by a much higher than anticipated 48k to 1.416mn during the week ending July 23, providing fresh evidence that the labor market, albeit still tight, appears to be slightly softening. In other news, the BoE raised the Bank Rate by 50bps, the biggest increase in 27 years, to 1.75%, the highest since 2008, and announced that it intends to commence gilt sales shortly after the September policy meeting. However, failing to capitalize on the BoE's rate policy decision, the GBP weakened as focus turned on the updated BoE projections which showed expectations of a five quarter GDP growth contraction starting in Q4 this year.

Greece

According to the latest Athens International Airport passenger traffic data, in July, the airport's passenger traffic amounted to 2.83mn, increased by 52.5% YoY, remaining however lower by 5.1% compared to the July 2019 level. Domestic passengers amounted to 0.91mn, lower by 0.3% compared to the 2019 level, while international air travelers amounted to 1.92mn, lower by 7.2% vs 2019. In the first seven months of 2022, the international passenger amounted to 7.87mn, increased by 200.3% YoY and lower by 20% compared to the respective 2019 level. In other news, Finance Minister Christos Staikouras announced that the government will submit a second supplementary budget to the parliament this year, however without clarifying the size of the additional support measures

CESEE

The Czech National Bank (CNB), which held yesterday its first monetary policy meeting under a new governor, decided to keep its Key Policy Rate (KPR) unchanged at 7.0%, in line with market expectations. According to the accompanying statement, the decision was underpinned by the shift of the monetary policy horizon, from 12-18 months so far, to 18-24 months ahead due to extraordinary cost pressures amid exceptionally high uncertainty. In other news, in Cyprus, headline inflation (measured by national standards) accelerated to a new record high of 10.9% YoY in June, up from 9.6% YoY in June, bringing the year-to-July performance to 8.2% YoY. The biggest annual increases were recorded in the categories of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (29.2%YoY) and Transport (25.3%YoY).

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