

GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

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Global markets

According to the final estimate, US Q3 GDP growth was revised upwards to a higher-than-expected annualized rate of 3.2% from 2.9% previously estimated, mostly driven by real consumer spending growth which was revised up from 1.7% to 2.3%. Separately, US initial jobless claims for the week ending December 17 edged up by 2k to a still low level of 216k and continuing claims fell by 6k to 1.672mn a week earlier, suggesting that, aside some nascent signs of cooling, the labor market remains tight. In reaction to yesterday's positive US data which supported the view that the economy still has enough momentum to allow the Fed to maintain restrictive monetary policy for longer than many market participants may had hoped, Asian equity markets ended mostly lower today, tracking Wall Street's losses overnight, fixed income markets remained under pressure on both sides of the Atlantic and the USD gained some ground, with the DXY index rising above 104 ahead of today's US personal income and spending data for November.

Greece

According to ELSTAT, the turnover of the enterprises in retail trade divisions obliged to double-entry accounting bookkeeping stood at €3.2bn in October 2022, printing an annual increase of 12.8% and a monthly decrease of 4.3%. The respective turnover excluding vehicles, food and fuel, was at €0.93bn in October 2022, marking an annual increase of 9.9% and a monthly decrease of 5.4%. According to the Bank of Greece, the balance of travel services recorded a surplus of €15.4bn in January – October 2022 (surplus of €1.3 bn in October 2022). The current account was significantly negative in January-October 2022 registering a deficit of €13.6bn increased by €6.3bn on an annual basis. Travel receipts posted an annual increase of 70.4% in the January-October 2022 period (annual increase of 16.7% in October 2022). Compared with the record high level of 2019, travel receipts, registered a decrease of 2.6% in the January-October 2022 period (and an increase 3.3% in October 2022).

CESEE

The Executive Board of the IMF approved a two-year Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) for Serbia amounting to approx. €2.4bn. The Board's decision also made approx. €1bn available immediately, which the Serbian authorities intend to purchase. The authorities also intend to make the two purchases that will become available in 2023, of €206.8mn and €399.9mn respectively, and treat the remainder as precautionary. The SBA replaces the existing Policy Coordination Instrument (PCI), approved in Jun-21, and builds on the PCI reform agenda with appropriate modifications for recent policy challenges. Key policy priorities include: 1) energy tariff adjustments and structural reforms to restore the financial balances of the state-owned energy utilities, 2) tight monetary and fiscal policies to control inflation and provide support for the stabilized exchange rate, 3) further fiscal transparency and budget reforms to support fiscal discipline and 4) ongoing reforms to strengthen State-owned enterprises governance and oversight.

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