

GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

July 4, 2023

Global markets

According to yesterday's US data releases, the ISM manufacturing index dropped by a higher-than-expected 0.9pts in June, coming in at a three-year low of 46.0, the eighth consecutive sub-50 reading. In a knee-jerk reaction, USTs firmed, but gains proved limited with yields closing above post-data lows, as focus swiftly shifted to new orders, a key forward-looking component, which rose sharply from 42.6 to 45.6 (US bond markets are closed today for the Independence Day holiday). Meanwhile, EGBs opened lower today following a fresh string of hawkish comments from ECB officials, with markets pricing in almost fully a 25bps rate hike in July and they even assign a 62% chance of an additional hike in September, that would take the deposit rate at 4.00%. Turning to equity markets, Asian bourses ended mostly higher today after the RBA, Australia's central bank, opted to pause interest rate hikes, while in FX markets, the DXY USD index remained at around 103, with the EUR/USD continuing to struggle to rise much above 1.09.

Greece

Yesterday, a new Parliament was sworn (in total 300 MPs) following the results of the general elections held on June 25th 2023. Today, the new Parliament will convene to elect the Parliament's Speaker and the Presidium, whereas on Saturday the new government will seek a vote of confidence following a 3-day debate on its policy statement. On the data front, according to ELSTAT, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 10.8% of the labour force in May-23 (the second highest rate in the Euro Area after Spain), from 11.3% in Apr-23 and 12.7% in May-22. Employment growth decelerated to 1.1% YoY in May-23, from 1.6% YoY in Apr-23 and 5.1% YoY in May-22. Finally, the retail sales volume index posted a monthly increase of 2.1% in Apr-23, from a drop of 4.8% in Mar-23, while on an annual basis it decreased for a second month in a row (-5.1% in Apr-23 and -8.0% in Mar-23).

CESEE

The latest PMI surveys indicate a stronger weakening of economic activity in June in two of the major economies in the region. In Poland, the manufacturing PMI fell by 1.9pts, to 45.1pts, hitting the lowest level since November 2022. The indicator remained below the 50pts threshold, which implies a downturn in the activity of the sector, for the 14th consecutive month. Four out of five PMI components (new orders, output, employment, stocks of purchases) stood in June at lower levels relative to the previous month. Contraction in manufacturing PMI was much sharper in Hungary, as the index lost 12.9pts in just one month in June, sliding to 44.2pts. This was the worst reading for June in the history of the index, which returned to the contractionary territory for the first time since September 2022. The fall was mainly driven by the demand component, which contracted by 21.7pts, implying a downturn for the first time in almost three years, with the downscaling in employment plans being the other major cause of the PMI downfall.

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