

FIRST LIGHT 09 September 2024

RESEARCH

BOB ECONOMICS RESEARCH | MONTHLY ECONOMIC BUFFET

Economic Round-up: August 2024

SUMMARY

INDIA ECONOMICS: MONTHLY ECONOMIC BUFFET

Markit global manufacturing PMI shows further contraction in global activity as the index slipped to 8-month low of 49.5 in Aug'24 from 49.7 in Jul'24. Of the 32 countries surveyed, 18 registered deteriorating conditions. New export orders declined the most, and employment also fell. Input prices rose at a slower rate, but output prices accelerated. Country-wise, US is showing signs of slowdown with labour market cooling (ADP employment, increase in continued jobless claims, drop in job openings) and drop in existing home sales and consumer survey also highlighting concerns around muted job prospects in the coming months.

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BOBCAPS Research





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Sonal Badhan Economist

These factors, along with stable CPI trajectory is likely to allow the Fed to lower rates by 25bps in its Sep'24 meeting. Elsewhere, in Europe economic conditions still remain bleak with downturn worsening in Germany and France. Recovery in China is uneven, with retail sales doing well, but factory output and investment still showing sluggish growth, dragged by troubles in the real estate sector. In contrast, India remains a bright spot, as it maintains the title of fastest growing major economy in quarter ending Jun'24. High frequency indicators (rainfall, Kharif sowing, GST collections, air passenger traffic, and port cargo volumes) suggest that similar momentum is being maintained in Q2FY25 as well.

Global Central Banks: In Jul/Aug'24, in line with market expectations, major central banks (US Fed, ECB, BoE) kept their policy rates unchanged. However now in Sep'24, it is widely expected that both US Fed and ECB will lower their rates by 25bps each. In the Eurozone, while the decision is expected to be driven by weaknesses economic growth, in the US, cooling labour market and inflation scenario will help make FOMC the decision to cut rates. In case of US, analyst are pricing in 100bps rate cut in CY24. ECB is expected to lower rate only in Dec'24 after Sep'24. Bank of England (BoE) faces a dilemma with headline CPI falling as per projected trajectory, but services inflation and wage growth remaining sticky. Hence it is unlikely that BoE will cut rates in Sep'24. Earliest bet for BoJ hiking rates is in Oct'24.

Key macro data releases: GDP growth in Q1 moderated to 6.7% from 7.8% in Q4Y24 on a YoY basis. **GVA growth rose** by 6.8% in Q1FY25, up from 6.3% in Q4FY23. Most significant increase was noted in power and gas, construction and mining and quarrying. **Rainfall** is currently 8% above the LPA till 5 Sep 2024. There is also an improvement noted in the **sown area** (+1.9% YoY), with higher acreage of paddy, oilseeds, sugarcane and coarse cereals exceeding its normal sown area. INR depreciated by 0.2% in Aug'24 (-0.4% in Jul'24).





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Registered office Address: 1704, B Wing, Parinee Crescenzo, G Block, BKC, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051

SEBI Research Analyst Registration No: INH000000040 valid till 03 February 2025

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