WEEKLY UPDATE

The ECB opens the Autumn sales

The European Central Bank (ECB) opted for a third rate cut at its October meeting. This decision had been largely prepared over the last few days, against a backdrop of easing in inflation and economic slowdown more marked than expected. The FCB stance remained relatively dovish, even though the ECB did not wish to pre-commit to a future pace of rate cuts. In our view, the economic context should encourage the ECB to continue a fast monetary easing, with a further cut as early as December. 2025 Budgetary plans in the euro area major economies should also push the ECB towards additional rate cuts

The ECB caught up by the fundamentals. Although it had clearly signalled in September its intention to make a pause in its easing cycle, the ECB finally decided to make a third rate cut in October, of 25 basis points, taking the refinancing rate to 3.25%. This U-turn came in the wake of disappointing economic data since the previous ECB meeting. Inflation fell back below the 2% target for the first time in three years, to 1.7% year-over-year in September.

Since 2022 (the war in Ukraine), the ECB has faced a fragile economic backdrop, with lingering risks of recession, but it has opted for a restrictive policy to combat the high level of inflation. What is new now is that inflation is low, with core inflation also confirming its downward trend.

In a sign of the ECB members' concerns about economic activity. the rate cut was taken unanimously, whereas in mid-September a large majority of these members seemed to prefer a pause in October.

The easing cycle should continue unabated. In our view, the economic environment remains conducive to an acceleration in the rate-cutting cycle, with the next cut as early as December. Admittedly, the ECB did not want to pre-commit to a future path of rate cuts, insisting that decisions will be taken on a meeting-bymeeting basis and will be data-dependent –albeit still leaving open the possibility of a fourth rate cut in December. Over the coming months, headline inflation may rebound, as a result of energy price increases, without however calling into question the downward trend in underlying inflation.

Furthermore, it seems unlikely that economic data will improve significantly, particularly in the current context of political and geopolitical tensions. The markets are now expecting between 25bp and 50bp of rate cuts in December, and cuts of at least 25bp are fully priced in for the next three meetings (until March). Against this backdrop, the euro continued to lose ground against the dollar, reaching its lowest level since the end of July (a movement also explained by the publication of robust data in the United States).

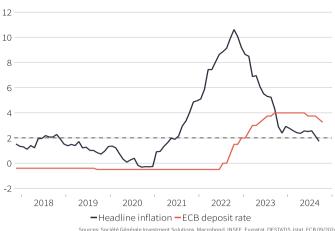
Monetary easing versus fiscal tightening. Beyond the current bout of economic weakness, budgetary plans for 2025 also argue in favour of an acceleration in monetary easing. While the extent of this fiscal consolidation has yet to be determined, legislative debates on the 2025 budgets point to a significant tightening of fiscal policy in France, Italy and Germany. These policies would have a negative impact on economic growth and ultimately on inflation, which should play a role in future ECB's decisions.

Past performance is not a quarantee of future performance. All data is from Bloomberg, Macrobond as of 10/18/2024, completion date of this publication. In accordance with the regulations in force, we inform the reader that this document is qualified as a promotional document

EURO AREA - BUSINESS SURVEYS



ECB RATE AND INFLATION (YEAR-OVER-YEAR)



Sources: Société Générale Investment Solutions, Macrobond, INSEE, Eurostat, DESTATIS, Istat, ECB 09/2024



OUR MACRO COMMENTS

Events of the week

United Kingdom: inflation data in line with a more accommodating monetary policy

The UK economic data for the UK have been firm, with the unemployment rate dropping one-tenth to 4% and retail sales remaining robust at 4% year-over-year. Meanwhile, statistics closely monitored by the Bank of England were favourably oriented. Headline inflation fell below the BoE's 2% target in September, at 1.7% year-over-year. Services inflation dropped below 5% year-over-year for the first time since 2022. Moreover, wage growth eased further, reaching 3.8% year-over-year in August. These statistics may allow the BoE to set a more accommodating tone for its monetary policy.

China: GDP growth below target

The Chinese economy continues to display a degree of economic fragility. Growth in O3 came in at 4.7% year-overvear, slightly below the 5% target set by Beijing, However, given the still very buoyant trade balance figures, the composition of this growth remains primarily export-led. and domestic demand remains muted.

The announcements made by the Politburo at the end of September have still not been translated into concrete measures and will in any case take time to be reflected in the economic data

THE WEEK IN DATA

Country	Data	Actual	Last	Forecast
_	Unemployment Rate	4%	4,1%	4,1%
	Inflation Rate september	1,7%	2,2%	2%
Euro Area	ECB Interest Rate Decision	3,25%	3,50%	3,25%
China	GDP Growth Rate YoY Q3	4,60%	4,70%	4,50%
United-States	Retail Sales MoM september	0,4%	0,1%	0,3%
	Industrial Production MoM september	-0,3%	0,8%	0,1%

Source: Macrobond, October 18, 2024. The colors in the 'Actual' column correspond to the difference from the forecast





Wednesday

Euro Area

Consumer Confidence October

Thursday

Germany

Manufacturing PMI October

Euro area

Composite PMI October

United-Kingdom Composite PMI October

France

Business Climate INSEE October

Friday

Germany

Business Climate Ifo October

United-Kingdom Consumer Confidence Gfk October

United-States

Durable Goods Orders September



MARKET PERFORMANCES

Interbank rates

%	16/10/2024	17/09/2024	17/07/2024	01/01/2024	17/10/2023
US SOFR	4.908	5.34	5.34	5.34	5.32
Euro area €ster	3.414	3.67	3.66	3.88	3.90
UK SONIA	4.950	4.95	5.20	5.19	5.19
Swittzerland SARON	0.941	1.21	1.21	1.70	1.70
Japan TONAR	0.227	0.23	0.08	-0.04	-0.02

10Y Government rates

%	17/10/2024	17/09/2024	17/07/2024	01/01/2024	17/10/2023
US Treasuries	4.09	3.65	4.16	3.88	4.83
France OAT	2.94	2.85	3.04	2.55	3.45
Germany Bund	2.21	2.14	2.41	2.02	2.88
Italy BTP	3.32	3.42	3.72	3.70	4.89
Spain Bonos	2.91	2.93	3.15	2.98	4.00
Switzerland	0.43	0.39	0.54	0.66	1.10
UK Gilts	4.10	3.77	4.10	3.60	4.55
Japan JGB	0.95	0.85	1.02	0.62	0.75

Credit

%	17/10/2024	17/09/2024	17/07/2024	01/01/2024	17/10/2023
United States IG	4.93	4.66	5.21	5.06	6.30
United States HY	7.16	7.08	7.61	7.59	9.22
Europe IG	3.41	3.52	3.85	3.72	4.81
Europe HY	6.00	6.26	6.61	6.80	8.36
Emerging FX	6.13	6.06	6.69	6.77	8.10

Equity indices

17/10/2024 vs	-1w	-1m	-3m	01/01/2024	-1 y
World	0.82	3.71	3.555	19.56	29.96
United States	1.32	3.90	4.979	22.61	35.22
Euro area	0.19	1.75	1.512	10.99	21.16
France	0.61	1.53	1.004	3.76	11.88
Germany	1.40	4.29	5.677	15.43	26.49
United Kingdom	1.90	1.01	3.218	11.71	15.40
Japan	-0.94	6.16	-6.671	16.00	20.93
Emerging	- 1.28	4.54	1.967	16.35	23.59
China USD	-6.77	17.37	13.789	19.83	16.83
India USD	-1.04	-2.78	0.817	22.05	36.27
Latin America USD	-0.93	-3.90	-5.131	-15.05	2.37

Foreign exchange rates

	_				
	17/10/2024	17/09/2024	17/07/2024	01/01/2024	17/10/2023
EUR/USD	1.08	1.11	1.09	1.11	1.06
GBP/USD	1.30	1.32	1.30	1.27	1.22
EUR/CHF	0.94	0.94	0.97	0.93	0.95
USD/JPY	149.98	141.61	156.55	141.03	149.71
USD/CNY	7.12	7.09	7.26	7.08	7.31

Commodity prices

17/10/2024	17/09/2024	17/07/2024	01/01/2024	17/10/2023		
74	74	85	77	91		
9,380	9,242	9,533	8,476	7,847		
2,693	2,570	2,459	2,063	1,923		
32	31	31	24	23		
1,040	1,086	971	1,136	1,135		
999	982	1,020	1,000	895		
	74 9,380 2,693 32 1,040	74 74 9,380 9,242 2,693 2,570 32 31 1,040 1,086	74 74 85 9,380 9,242 9,533 2,693 2,570 2,459 32 31 31 1,040 1,086 971	74 74 85 77 9,380 9,242 9,533 8,476 2,693 2,570 2,459 2,063 32 31 31 24 1,040 1,086 971 1,136		

Source: Bloomberg on 18 October 2024, 1W = 1 week change, 3M = 3 month change, 12M = 12 mont change, YTD = year to date change, Equities; total return in local currency. Government bonds = 10 year returns. Figures are rounded...



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