

Global Economics Intelligence

Critical Trends and Risks January 2023

(data from December 2022 and January 2023)



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Growth in most surveyed economies exceeds pessimistic expectations; inflation moderates but is still high and central banks stay tightening course.

Versus previous period: Significant improvement Some improvement Some deterioration Significant deterioration No significant change

Consumer and households	 Consumer confidence improved globally and in most surveyed economies, though the prevailing mood falls well short of optimism.
	 Consumer caution and high prices have constrained retail sales, which slowed or contracted at the end of 2022.
Business and industry	 The global purchasing managers' indexes (PMIs) for both manufacturing and services finished the year in contraction territory, amid weaker demand and high input costs.
	 The manufacturing sector in most surveyed economies showed contraction in December; exceptions were India and Russia; the services sector is also contracting generally, with the notable exception of India, where the sector is experiencing robust expansion.
	 The OECD composite leading indicators continue to point to slower growth.
Trade and external	 The most recent trade data, the Container Throughput Index for December, shows a year-end trade revival: the index reached 124.3 (121.9 in November) and both Chinese and European components improved.
	 Earlier data from November and October showed declining imports and exports.
Prices	Consumer and producer-price inflation slowed in December in developed economies; high core inflation levels are still a concern.
	 In emerging economies, producer-price inflation has slowed rapidly; consumer price inflation is also declining. Inflation expectations implied in the yield spreads of US Treasuries remain in the range of 2.3% to 2.5%.
	• Energy prices generally declined in November and December, due to lower demand and a warmer winter in the northern hemisphere.
	 Food-price inflation has moderated but is still elevated.
Employment	Unemployment rates in most surveyed economies remain stable within an historically low band.
Financial markets	 Many equity indexes rebounded in December and January after experiencing losses previously; in the US, the S&P and Dow Jones indexes regained some of the extensive ground lost in 2022. The volatility index for equity markets remains at elevated levels but moderated lately.
	 In December and January, the US dollar depreciated against many currencies; the pound reached \$1.23 and the euro \$1.09.
	 Yields on long-term government bonds eased in December and January.
Government and policy	 At their final policy meetings of 2022, the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, and the Bank of England hiked their policy interest rates by 50 basis points to levels of 4.25% to 4.50% (Fed); 2% to 2.75% (ECB), 3.5% (BoE). Expectations are for further hikes in 2023.
	 China accelerates the shift away from its "zero-covid policy" while stepping up vaccination programs; its Center for Disease Control notes risk of rising infections.
	 Forecasting institutions have retained relatively positive growth estimates for 2022, mainly based on better performance in the first half of the year; estimates for 2023 have also been made less dire.

Consumer confidence improved globally and in most surveyed economies, though prevailing moods fall well short of optimism



OECD consumer confidence indicators for individual economies¹

Index, long-term average = 100^{1}



¹Data for China till October 2022 and Russia through November 2022.

Source: OECD; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

Consumer caution and high prices have constrained retail sales, which slowed or contracted at the end of 2022

Retail sales growth¹

Year over year (monthly)



¹Data for Brazil, eurozone, and Russia through December 2022.

Source: Banco Central do Brasil; Eurostat; National Bureau of Statistics of China; Rosstat; U.S. Census Bureau; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

The global purchasing managers' indexes (PMIs) for both manufacturing and services finished the year in contraction territory, amid weaker demand and high input costs





Diffusion index, seasonally adjusted (monthly)



JPMorgan Global Purchasing Managers' Index (Services)

Diffusion index, seasonally adjusted (monthly)



Note: A reading above 50.0 indicates an increase from the previous month, and a reading below 50.0 indicates a decrease. Country-level data are the PMIs for individual countries as sourced from Markit Economics or the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) and are not a breakdown of the JPMorgan Global PMI.

Source: Markit; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

The manufacturing sector in most surveyed economies showed contraction in December; exceptions were India and Russia



Note: A reading above 50.0 indicates an increase from the previous month, and a reading below 50.0 indicates a decrease. The country-level data are the PMIs for individual countries as sourced from Markit Economics and are not a breakdown of the JPMorgan Global PMI.

Source: IHS Global Insight; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

The services sector is also widely contracting, with the notable exception of India, where the sector is experiencing robust expansion





Note: A reading above 50.0 indicates an increase from the previous month, and a reading below 50.0 indicates a decrease. The country-level data are the PMIs for individual countries as sourced from Markit Economics and are not a breakdown of the JPMorgan Global PMI.

Source: IHS Global Insight; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

The OECD composite leading indicators continue to point to slower growth



OECD growth indicators: Emerging economies

¹Composite leading indicators (CLIs) attempt to identify turning points in economic activity approximately 6 months in advance. The horizontal line at 100 shows the long-term trend in industrial production (the reference series). An increase above 100 indicates expansion; a decrease but still above 100 indicates a downturn; a decrease below 100 indicates a slowdown; and an increase below 100 indicates a recovery.

Source: OECD; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

In November, world trade volumes decreased -2.5% from the previous month, when trade volumes also decreased, by -1.4%. Trade was slower in all major regions





CPB World Trade Monitor details October 2022

SOURCE: Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

National data reveal a retreat in trade in October, when exports and imports declined in all surveyed economies





Note: Exports and imports are not seasonally adjusted.

1 Data for October 2022 vs September 2022.

2. Latest data for Russia is February 2022.

SOURCE: Haver Analytics; national statistics websites; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

Versus previous period:		rease Decline significant change 12-mo. % change Nov. 2021–Oct. 2022
		vs Nov. 2020–Oct. 2021
Exports		
US	-0.6	19.9
Eurozone	-2.8	18.3
China	-4.6	12.3
Brazil	-8.8	20.3
India ¹	4.5	24.2
Russia ²	N/A	61.2
Imports		
US	0.7	20.0
Eurozone	-5.2	42.1
China	-1.4	5.7
Brazil	-9.7	22.7
India	-1.2	38.8
Russia	-2.9	31.2

The most recent trade data, the Container Throughput Index for December, shows a year-end trade revival: the index reached 124.3 (121.9 in November) and both Chinese and European components improved

RWI/ISL Container Throughput Index



1. The current flash estimate for the Container Throughput Index is based on data from 64 ports, which account for about 85 percent of the handling represented in the index.

2. On January 2020, the RWI/ISL Container Throughput Index changed its base year to 2015.

3. The North range index summarizes throughput of the ports of Le Havre, Zeebrugge, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Bremen/Bremerhaven, and Hamburg.

Note: The RWI/ISL Container Throughput Index provides timely information on short-term trends in international trade. The database covers 91 international ports, which handle about 60% of global container transhipment. The monthly data do not include figures for Dubai. Data is seasonally and working day adjusted.

Unemployment rates in most surveyed economies remain stable within an historically low band





1 Data for India and China are annual and shown as a smoothed trend line. 2 China unemployment only shows urban rate.

Consumer- and producer-price inflation slowed in December in developed economies; high core inflation levels are still a concern

Consumer price indexes: Developed economies



Producer price indexes: Developed economies

% year over year (monthly)



In emerging economies, producer-price inflation has slowed rapidly; consumer-price inflation is also declining





% year over year (monthly)



Prices for industrial and precious metals lately increased, while the prices for other commodities oscillated

Commodities indexes¹

Moving 5-day average, indexed to Jan 2007



1. Updated through January 23, 2023; commodity data are taken from the GS Commodities Index, with components weighted by production. Precious metals: gold, 83%; silver, 17%. Energy: crude oil, 70%; oil products, 25%; natural gas, 4%. Agriculture: corn, 28%; wheat, 25%; soybeans, 15%; sugar, 14%; other, 19%. Livestock: cattle, 66%; hogs, 34%. Industrial metals: copper, 46%; aluminum, 31%; other, 23%.

Source: Haver Analytics; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

The price of gold has climbed in the new year, reaching \$1,940 per ounce at the end of January

Gold spot price¹



Gold spot price over past 3 weeks 5-day moving average, USD/troy ounce (daily)



¹Updated through January 23, 2023.

Source: Haver Analytics; World Gold Council; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

Energy prices generally declined in November and December, due to lower demand and a warmer winter in the northern hemisphere



Natural-gas price²

\$ per million Btu, 5-day moving average











²Henry Hub, LA; prices as of January 23, 2023.
 ⁴Global Coal RB Index; coal prices as of April 6, 2022.

Source: Haver Analytics; US Energy Information Administration; World Bank; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

Metal prices increased in January, led by the gains in copper prices

Copper¹ \$/pound, 5-day moving average 5 4 3 2 1 0 Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020 2022 2006 2008



\$/Mt, 5-day moving average



Steel²

\$/gross metric ton (monthly)



Nickel⁴

\$/Mt, 5-day moving average



¹Copper, high grade: COMEX Spot Price, updated through January 23, 2023.

²Steel, 2.75-millimeter hot-rolled coil (\$/gross metric ton); data estimated since May 2012 using 0.5-millimeter cold-rolled sheet prices; data from July 2022. ³Aluminum, LME spot (\$/metric ton), updated through January 24, 2023. ⁴UK: LME nickel, closing cash price (\$/metric ton), updated through January 23, 2023. Source: Haver Analytics; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

Inflation expectations implied in the yields of US Treasury products have declined to 2% for the medium and long-term, compared with 3.5% in early 2022



Implied inflationary expectations from 5- and 10-year TIPS yields¹ (spread between T-bill and TIPS of same maturity) % (daily), 5-day moving average

¹Updated through January 13, 2023.

Source: Haver Analytics; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

Food-price inflation has slowed but remains at elevated levels









¹The values of the 5 indexes are compiled and then weighted by the average export shares of each group in 2002–04. The final figure represents the current value of the FAO Food Price Index.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

Equity markets in the US, Europe, and China have been on an upward trajectory in the new year.

Equity markets¹



5-day moving average, daily, index (Jan 2007 = 100)

Change from prior month



USS&P 5000.10.3UKFTSE 1001.43.6GermanyDAX0.84.6FranceCAC 400.74.8JapanNikkei 225-2.5-3.3ChinaSSE Composite Index1.81.6IndiaBSE Sensex-300.3-2.0BrazilBovespa-4.02.1RussiaRTSN/AN/AVersus previous period:Nikkei 225; Russia: RTSISignificant increaseIncreaseSevere declineNo significant change					_
Germany DAX 0.8 4.6 France CAC 40 0.7 4.8 Japan Nikkei 225 -2.5 -3.3 China SSE Composite Index 1.8 1.6 India BSE Sensex-30 0.3 -2.0 Brazil Bovespa -4.0 2.1 Russia RTS N/A N/A Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase December ²	US	S&P 500	-0.1	0.3	
France CAC 40 0.7 4.8 Japan Nikkei 225 -2.5 -3.3 China SSE Composite Index 1.8 1.6 India BSE Sensex-30 0.3 -2.0 Brazil Bovespa -4.0 2.1 Russia RTS N/A N/A December ² January ³ Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase December	UK	FTSE 100	1.4	3.6	
Japan Nikkei 225 2.5 3.3 China SSE Composite Index 1.8 1.6 India BSE Sensex-30 0.3 2.0 Brazil Bovespa 4.0 2.1 Russia RTS N/A N/A Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase December ² Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase December ² December ²	Germany	DAX	0.8	4.6	
China SSE Composite Index 1.8 1.6 India BSE Sensex-30 0.3 2.0 Brazil Bovespa 4.0 2.1 Russia RTS N/A N/A December ² January ³ Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase December	France	CAC 40	0.7	4.8	
India BSE Sensex-30 0.3 2.0 Brazil Bovespa 4.0 2.1 Russia RTS N/A N/A Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase December ²	Japan	Nikkei 225	-2.5	-3.3	
Brazil Bovespa -4.0 2.1 Russia RTS N/A N/A December ² January ³ Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase December	China	SSE Composite Index	1.8	1.6	
Russia RTS N/A N/A December ² January ³ Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase	India	BSE Sensex-30	0.3	-2.0	
December ² January ³ Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase December ³ Nikkoi 225: Puscia: PTSI	Brazil	Bovespa	-4.0	2.1	
Versus previous period: Significant increase Increase Dec	Russia	RTS	N/A	N/A	
			December ²	January ³	
	Nikkei 225; Ru				

¹Brazil: Bovespa; China: SSE Composite Index; France: CAC 40; Germany: DAX; India: BSE Sensex-30; Japan: Nikkei 225; Russ Index; UK: FTSE 100; US: S&P 500. ²Growth rate calculated as average value of each index in December over average value in November.

³Growth rate calculated as average value of each index in January (January 24) over average value in December.

Source: Haver Analytics; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

The US dollar depreciated against many major currencies in January 2023

Relative change in currency value against previous month USD as base

	% change ¹	Currency price	
JPY	3.50%	130.3	(JPY per USD)
AUD	2.85%	0.69	(USD per AUD)
RMB	2.69%	6.80	(RMB per USD)
EUR	1.67%	1.08	(USD per EUR)
BRL	0.94%	5.20	(BRL per USD)
INR	0.66%	81.92	(INR per USD)
 GBP	0.31%	1.22	(USD per GBP)
USD		Base currency	
NEER	-2.12%	5.17	(index)
RUB	-4.81%	6.98	(RUB per USD)

Relative change in currency value against 2007 values USD as base

Currency ranking		% change	
	USD NEER RMB	27.47%	
Outperforming		11.82%	
	USD	Base currency	
	Derforming USD NEER RMB	-9.69%	
	AUD	-17.20%	
	EUR	-21.47%	
Underperforming	g GBP	-38.94%	
	INR	-49.80%	
	RUB	-62.71%	
	BRL	-63.90%	

Note: Data updated to January 30, 2023, except USD NEER data, which are for December 2022. ¹Positive change indicates appreciation, and negative change depreciation of the currency against the US dollar.

Source: BIS; Haver Analytics; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

The volatility index for equity markets remains at elevated levels



¹Based on United States Oil Fund (USO) option prices. ²Based on SPDR Gold Shares (GLD) options. ³Updated through January 23, 2023.

CBOE Crude Oil Volatility Index (OVX)^{1, 3}



³Updated through January 23, 2023.

In January, the yields on government bonds have declined.

10-year government bonds¹

5-day moving average,² % (daily)



¹5-year government bond yields used for China. ²Updated through January 23, 2023.

Source: Haver Analytics; McKinsey's Global Economics Intelligence analysis

While energy prices have come down, core inflation readings remain high and central banks are sustaining a tightening course.

Central-bank interest rates

% (monthly)



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