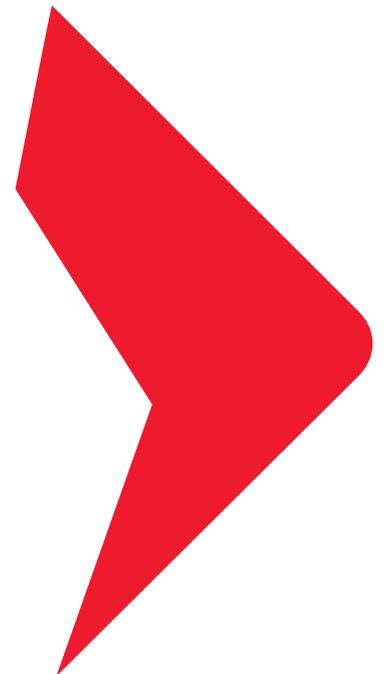


MARKET COMMENTARY

# Top Economics News

September 2024



## Malaysia

- ▶ Malaysia's CPI, inflation in August was 1.9% YoY vs BBG consensus 2.0% (July 2.0%). Core inflation (ex volatile and administered prices) was also 1.9% YoY (July 1.9% YoY). DoSM attributed the inflation to increases in several key categories: restaurant and accommodation services (3.2 per cent), personal care social protection, and miscellaneous goods and services (3.2 per cent), housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (3.1 per cent), and recreation, sports and culture (2.0 per cent).
- ▶ Malaysian manufacturing sector stays muted in September's PMI. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global Malaysia manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) dipped to 49.5 in September from 49.7 in August, indicating a continued, though slight, weakening in the health of the manufacturing sector. (The Star)

## United States

- ▶ Private payrolls show better-than-expected growth of 143,000 in September, ADP says. Private sector hiring picked up in September, indicating the labor market is holding its ground despite some signs of weakness, payrolls processing firm ADP reported Wednesday. Companies added 143,000 jobs for the month, an acceleration from the upwardly revised 103,000 in August and better than the 128,000 consensus forecast from economists polled by Dow Jones. (CNBC)
- ▶ US services sector activity jumped to a 1-1/2-year high in September amid strong growth in new orders, more evidence that the economy remained on a solid footing in the third quarter. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said on Thursday that its nonmanufacturing purchasing managers (PMI) index accelerated to 54.9 last month, the highest level since February 2023, from 51.5 in August. (CNBC)

## Euro: Sovereign Debt Crisis Update

- ▶ Inflation in the 20 countries that use the euro has dropped to 1.8% in September, falling below the European Central Bank's (ECB) target of 2% for the first time in over three years due to decreasing energy prices providing consumers with relief from a surge of inflation that once reached double digits.
- ▶ HCOB's final euro zone manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, dropped to 45.0 in September. This was just ahead of a 44.8 preliminary estimate but further from the 50 mark separating growth from contraction. A drop in oil prices helped bring down input costs in the region but there are worries escalating Middle East tensions could impact output and drive them back up. (Reuters)

## Disclaimer

This document is prepared for information purposes only and may not be published, circulated, reproduced or distributed in whole or part, whether directly or indirectly, to any other person without the prior written consent of Eastspring Investments Berhad. It should not be construed as an offer or solicitation for the subscription, purchase or sale of any securities mentioned herein. Whilst we have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the information contained in this document is not untrue or misleading at the time of publication, we cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. Any opinion or estimate contained in this document is subject to change without notice. Investors may wish to seek advice from a professional adviser before making a commitment to invest in units of any of our funds. Eastspring Investments Berhad and its related and affiliated corporations together with their respective directors and officers may have or may take positions in the securities mentioned in this document and may also perform or seek to perform other investment services for the corporations whose securities are mentioned in this document as well as other parties. The graphs or charts are included for illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The predictions, projections, or forecast on the economy, securities markets or the economic trends of the markets are not necessarily indicative of the future or likely performance of Eastspring Investments Berhad or any funds managed by Eastspring Investments Berhad. The value and any income accruing to the investments, if any, may fall as well as rise. An investment is subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. Eastspring Investments is an ultimately wholly owned subsidiary of Prudential plc. Prudential plc, is incorporated and registered in England and Wales. Registered office: 1 Angel Court, London EC2R 7AG. Registered number 1397169. Prudential plc is a holding company, some of whose subsidiaries are authorized and regulated, as applicable, by the Hong Kong Insurance Authority and other regulatory authorities. Prudential plc is not affiliated in any manner with Prudential Financial, Inc., a company whose principal place of business is in the United States of America or with the Prudential Assurance Company Limited, a subsidiary of M&G plc. A company incorporated in the United Kingdom.