# **Scotiabank**

**GLOBAL ECONOMICS** 

# **LATAM DAILY**

November 3, 2023

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### Chart 1

# Chile: Level of GDP



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, BCCh.

# Latam Daily: Chile GDP and Peru CPI Recap; BanRep Minutes Ahead

- Chile: GDP recorded zero year-on-year change in September
- Peru: Inflation surprises lower again; September growth indicators are mixed

Closed Japanese markets and only a Caixin Chinese PMIs miss on the data front meant mostly range-bound trading overnight, leading up to a European morning that also only had second-tier releases to count down the hours until US and Canadian jobs data. BoE chief economist Pill speaks at 8.15ET to give us some more colour on the bank's new forecasts in yesterday's MPR and maybe express his bias on the odds of another hike or how long they may remain at the current 5.25% bank rate (see our recap *here*). Fifteen minutes later markets will forget about what Pill is saying to focus on US and Canadian jobs data which are the G10 highlight followed by US ISM data.

The risk-mood is pretty much as North American markets left it, but disappointing earnings results from Apple have Nasdaq futures down 0.3/4% against a marginal drop in SPX contracts—and this comes after Thursday gains of 1.8/9% in the indices so it's only a scratch. The SPX is tracking a nearly 5% rise since Friday thanks to a combination of relatively benign BoJ, Fed, and BoE decisions, UST issuance plans undershooting long-end sales expectations, only mixed data, and an internalising of Middle East risks. This ~5% gain would mark the SPX's best week since November 2022, though there's still a challenging downtrend from the July peak that is coming into view.

USTs opened a few hours ago around where they closed yesterday with a very slight bear steepening bias after a 5bps flattening in 10s30s yesterday. Commodity prices are not doing much. Oil is down a touch, with a sharp \$1 move in WTI in the last hour on nothing obvious, that is also tracked by copper's 0.4% fall while iron ore is 0.2% firmer.

On the FX front, moves are small too, the USD is up/down 0.2% against most majors and there's no obvious trend overnight—if at all maybe a bit of a USD-negative mood ahead of US hours. The BBDXY's decline of 0.8% on the week is its largest since mid-July. The MXN is holding to a very narrow range just above the 17.50 mark as the cross closed on Thursday below its 50-day MA for the first tine since late-August, a firm break of the midfigure zone leaves a mostly unobstructed path to the 17 pesos level (with the 100-day MA at 17.3170 standing in between).

It has certainly been a good week for Latam FX, with gains ranging from 5% for the CLP (thanks to the BCCh's announcement last Thursday) to 1.2% for the BRL (MXN  $\pm$ 3.5%, PEN  $\pm$ 2.3%, COP  $\pm$ 1.5%). In fact, the CLP, MXN, and PEN are all in the top five expanded major currencies this week against the USD.

Brazilian and Mexican markets reopen today after holidays on Thursday, but the Latam day ahead has little major to drive price action. Mexican gross fixed investment data out at 8ET is the data highlight where we're watching the evolution of investment as far as nearshoring may be concerned—so far, the bulk of the surge in investment spending has been in public infrastructure projects. BanRep's meeting minutes out at 18ET may be the most interesting release in the region today, as economists and markets debate whether Colombia's central bank may wait until next year to cut rates. Alas, the late release time means local markets will only be able to react until the next market open, which isn't until Tuesday given the holiday closures on Monday.

—Juan Manuel Herrera

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# CHILE: GDP RECORDED ZERO YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE IN SEPTEMBER

# • Positive surprise in terms of y/y GDP growth, although non-mining sectors disappoint at the margin

On Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Central Bank (BCCh) released the September GDP, which registered a null y/y variation, positively surprising market expectations (Economists' Survey: -0.6; Bloomberg: -0.5%) and ours (-0.8%). However, the dynamism of non-mining activity was only 0.2% m/m (SA), below our expectations, disappointing in almost all economic sectors. The surprise then came from the seasonal factor, accounting for a better-than-expected calendar effect. Along these lines, services grew by only 0.1% m/m and commerce showed a 0.7% m/m drop, while mining grew by only 2.9% m/m. Given this negative surprise in the monthly rate, despite the positive y/y record, we maintain our projection of a 0.5% decline for GDP in 2023 (chart 1), somewhat below market expectations.

Better-than-expected y/y GDP, concentrated in mining and electricity generation. With respect to the previous year, the main positive contribution came from the mining sector, although the value added provided by electricity generation also made a relevant contribution. In contrast, commerce, services and industry experienced y/y declines that completely offset the growth in goods GDP. This was reflected in the 1.2% y/y fall in non-mining GDP, which would have accumulated a contraction of 0.4% y/y in the Q3-23.

### Chile: Level of GDP By Sector 130 index. Feb. 2020 = 100 120 110 100 90 GDP Mining Industry Other goods Commerce Services 80 May-22 May-23 Jan-22 Sep-22 Jan-23 Jan-21 Sep-21

Sources: Scotiabank Economics, BCCh.

Chart 2

At the monthly level, GDP registered a growth of 0.6% m/m, positively impacted by the recovery of mining production and to a lesser extent by factors that we estimate to be transitory. Regarding non-mining activity, we highlight the low dynamism registered by the services sector, where the rebound in education activity (Personal Services) was almost entirely offset by a deterioration in business services (linked to investment) and transportation services (chart 2). Although the Q3-23 preliminarily closed with a better dynamism than the previous quarter, we do not see relevant factors contributing to the dynamism in the Q4, as the transitory factors (weather factors in electricity generation) that contributed to the dynamism in Q3 would not be present in the last quarter of the year.

—Aníbal Alarcón

# PERU: INFLATION SURPRISES LOWER AGAIN

Inflation continues to surprise downwards. The Lima CPI fell -0.32% m/m, below all forecasts, including the market consensus (+0.19% according to Bloomberg survey), Scotiabank (+0.10% according to our last update) and the historical average of the last 20 years (0.17%). With this, year-on-year inflation continued to slow, going from 5.0% to 4.3%, reaching its lowest rate since July 2021.

The inflation surprise in October came from the reversal in the prices of some perishable foods and poultry prices greater than we expected and which together contributed to a decrease of 0.66 percentage points (only in five prices).

The effects of El Niño on prices appear to be moderating even though the probability of a moderate/strong El Niño scenario for the coming months rose from 88% to 96% in the most recent reading.

| Groups of Consumption                       | Base<br>2021 | % m/m | % <b>y</b> /y |
|---|--------------|-------|---------------|
| Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages            | 22.97        | -2.00 | 6.8           |
| Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, Drugs         | 1.61         | 0.26  | 4.3           |
| Apparel and Footwear                        | 4.20         | 0.09  | 3.2           |
| Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Others | 10.55        | 0.31  | -2.2          |
| Furniture and Home Maintenance              | 5.11         | 0.06  | 2.2           |
| Health                                      | 3.48         | 0.17  | 3.0           |
| Transport                                   | 12.40        | 0.37  | 2.1           |
| Communications                              | 4.77         | -0.03 | 0.6           |
| Recreation and Culture                      | 3.96         | 0.17  | 4.5           |
| Education                                   | 8.61         | 0.00  | 6.5           |
| Restaurants and Hotels                      | 15.89        | 0.36  | 7.5           |
| Other Goods and Services                    | 6.47         | 0.37  | 5.1           |
| Total CPI                                   | 100.00       | -0.32 | 4.3           |

With inflation data from October, there are 29 months in which inflation remains above the upper limit of 3% of the inflation target (table 1). Inflation at the national level (not just in Lima) went from 5.3% to 4.5%, exceeding Lima's inflation for 26 consecutive months. In October, of the 586 products that make up the consumption basket (2021 base), 316 increased (54%), 149 decreased (25%) and 121 remained unchanged (21%), similar proportions to those posted in September reflecting that the slowdown in inflation is concentrated in a few products with a high weighting in the basket but remains structurally slow.

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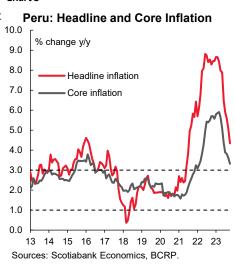
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Core inflation rose 0.22%, above its historical average (0.14%, last 20 years). In year-on-year terms it went from 3.6% to 3.3%, slowing for the seventh consecutive month and in line with what we expected (chart 3). Cost pressures remained low, with year-on-year variations close to zero. The PEN continued to depreciate in October, although in year-on-year terms it accumulated an appreciation of 3%.

Looking ahead, we expect inflation to continue to decline in November, approaching 4%. The comparison base effect will play in its favour since inflation in November 2022 (0.52%) was relatively high for the historical average for the months of November (+0.10). However, factors such as higher wholesale inflation, the depreciation of the PEN and the lagged effects of rising oil prices could put upward pressure on headline inflation. We recently reduced our inflation forecast from 5.0% to 4.6% by the end of 2023. The reduction could have been greater had we not considered a strong El Niño scenario that we expect for the following months.

The BCRP indicated that inflation was affected by temporary supply factors and expects the correction of food prices to continue in 2024 in a moderate El Niño scenario, although they warned of their concern about the probability of a strong El Niño scenario. With this result, we predict that the BCRP would continue to cut its key rate by 25bps to 7.00% at its meeting on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chart 3



-Mario Guerrero

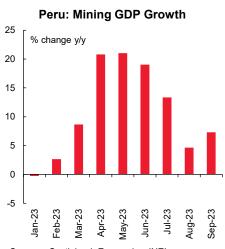
#### SEPTEMBER GROWTH INDICATORS ARE MIXED

Advance indicators for September GDP growth were published on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The information was mostly positive. Mining GDP rose 7.3% y/y. This was quite good, especially considering that the new Quellaveco copper mine had already come on stream in September 2022. In fact, copper output itself was only up 2.0% y/y, and it was other metals, namely molybdenum (41% y/y) iron (25%), gold (13%) and zinc (8.6%) that led the way in mining growth. Even more impressive was the 19.6% increase in Oil & Gas, although the sector doesn't really have enough weight in global GDP to make too much of a difference (chart 4).

Fishing GDP rose 17%, y/y, in September. Here again the weight is low. However, the positive aspect is that the figure contrasted with the El Niño-induced huge negative growth of earlier months.

Electricity growth of 3.1% y/y was mildly hopeful. Mining companies are strong demanders of electricity, so the new Quellaveco operations had been distorting the y/y growth figures. However, this base factor has largely ended, and electricity growth is once again more indicative of GDP growth.

Chart 4



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, INEI.

That's the good news. The bad news is that domestic cement consumption fell 10.5% y/y in September, with negative growth dipping back into double-digit figures, which is quite a disappointment after much softer declines in August (-9.5%) and July (-5.6%).

September GDP growth will depend more on domestic-demand sectors such as industrial manufacturing, services and commerce, but these tend to be a bit less volatile. Our main concern is industrial manufacturing. We need industrial manufacturing performance to improve for positive GDP growth to be more secure. However, having said this, if we take the recently published indicators all together, September GDP should outperform the dismal growth figures of the previous months. Furthermore, there is a good possibility that growth will not be negative, although it will be low. Peru is coming out of a long negative growth period lasting three quarters very slowly and with insufficient conviction. Moreover, positive growth is barely starting to raise its head just as another El Niño looms on the quickly approaching horizon.

-Guillermo Arbe

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