

# GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

April 2, 2024

## Global markets

The US ISM manufacturing index surprised positively in March, rising by a higher than expected 2.5pts to 50.3, the highest level since August 2022 and above the threshold of 50 for the first time since September 2022, raising questions about the extent of Fed rate easing this year. In reaction, the implied Fed policy rate was repriced higher. The probability of a cut at the June meeting fell to around 55% from near 80% last week and the implied cumulative easing by year-end to 66bps, the lowest since the end of October. USTs came under selling pressure, with the short-end of the curve underperforming, while subdued liquidity as many markets are still on holiday and high-grade corporate issuance announcements on Monday, may have also contributed to the sell-off. Supported by strong US data and higher Treasury yields, the USD broadly firmed, taking DXY index above the 105 level for the first time since November ahead of today's US February JOLTs report and Friday's US non-farm payrolls survey for March.

## Greece

According to ELSTAT's data released yesterday, the non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose on an annual basis, to 11.7% in Feb-24 from 11.5% a year earlier. Both the number of unemployed and the number of employed persons increased. The former by 27.3K or by 5.3% (to 543.2K) and the latter by 121.1K or by 3.0% (to 4,103.7K). Hence, the workforce rose by 148.5K people (to 4,647.0K), whereas the inactive population – persons under the age of 75, that neither work nor look for a job – dropped by 171.9K (to 3,140.5K). In other news, according to ERGANI database, in Feb-24 the recruitment-dismissal balance was positive by 24.5K jobs YoY (196.5K recruitments and 171.9K dismissals) and higher by 1.4K or 5.9% compared to the respective month of 2023 (+23.2K, with 183.2K hirings and 160.1K dismissals). In the first two months of 2024, the balance was negative by 7.5K jobs compared to a negative balance of 4.4K jobs in the respective period of 2023.

## CESEE

Based on the freshly released spring macroeconomic forecast, the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance kept growth forecast for 2024 unchanged, compared to the autumn release, at 3.2% from 1.8% in 2023 while forecasts for both 2025 and 2026 were revised downwards to 2.7%, from the previously envisaged 3.0%. The rationale for 2024 is that growth will be driven by stronger consumption and investments with the contribution of inventories rendered neutral. The imprint of net exports on growth dynamics is expected to be negative as household consumption will support imports. A few days earlier, the central bank released banking sector data according to which, the cumulative profit of the local banking system widened by 22.8%YoY reaching BGN483.6mn in Jan-Feb. Profit growth remained robust, in line with the previous year's trend on the back of increasing income from interest rates, fees and commissions with February alone posting BGN300.2mn profits, up by 7.7%YoY.

## Contributing Authors:

**Paraskevi Petropoulou**  
Senior Economist  
[ppetropoulou@eurobank.gr](mailto:ppetropoulou@eurobank.gr)

**Dr. Konstantinos Peppas**  
Research Economist  
[kpeppas@eurobank.gr](mailto:kpeppas@eurobank.gr)

**Maria Kasola**  
Research Economist  
[mkasola@eurobank.gr](mailto:mkasola@eurobank.gr)

## Research Team



**Dr. Tasos Anastasatos** | Group Chief Economist  
[tanastasatos@eurobank.gr](mailto:tanastasatos@eurobank.gr) | + 30 214 40 59 706



**Marcus Bensasson**  
 Research Economist  
[mbensasson@eurobank.gr](mailto:mbensasson@eurobank.gr)  
 + 30 214 40 65 113



**Dr. Stylianos Gogos**  
 Research Economist  
[sgogos@eurobank.gr](mailto:sgogos@eurobank.gr)  
 + 30 214 40 63 456



**Maria Kasola**  
 Research Economist  
[mkasola@eurobank.gr](mailto:mkasola@eurobank.gr)  
 + 30 214 40 63 453



**Dr. Konstantinos Peppas**  
 Research Economist  
[kpeppas@eurobank.gr](mailto:kpeppas@eurobank.gr)  
 + 30 214 40 63 520



**Paraskevi Petropoulou**  
 Senior Economist  
[ppetropoulou@eurobank.gr](mailto:ppetropoulou@eurobank.gr)  
 + 30 214 40 63 455



**Dr. Theodoros Rapanos**  
 Research Economist  
[trapanos@eurobank.gr](mailto:trapanos@eurobank.gr)  
 + 30 214 40 59 711



**Dr. Theodoros Stamatou**  
 Senior Economist  
[tstamatou@eurobank.gr](mailto:tstamatou@eurobank.gr)  
 + 30 214 40 59 708



**Michail Vassiliadis**  
 Research Economist  
[mvasileiadis@eurobank.gr](mailto:mvasileiadis@eurobank.gr)  
 + 30 214 40 59 709

**More available research at:** <https://www.eurobank.gr/en/group/economic-research>  
**Subscribe electronically at:** <https://www.eurobank.gr/el/omilos/oikonomikes-analuseis/forma-ekdilosis-endaferontos>  
**Follow us on twitter:** [https://twitter.com/Eurobank\\_Group](https://twitter.com/Eurobank_Group)  
**Follow us on LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/eurobank>

### DISCLAIMER

This report has been issued by Eurobank S.A. ("Eurobank") and may not be reproduced in any manner or provided to any other person. Each person that receives a copy by acceptance thereof represents and agrees that it will not distribute or provide it to any other person. This report is not an offer to buy or sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell the securities mentioned herein. Eurobank and others associated with it may have positions in, and may effect transactions in securities of companies mentioned herein and may also perform or seek to perform investment banking services for those companies. The investments discussed in this report may be unsuitable for investors, depending on the specific investment objectives and financial position. The information contained herein is for informative purposes only and has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable but it has not been verified by Eurobank. The opinions expressed herein may not necessarily coincide with those of any member of Eurobank. No representation or warranty (express or implied) is made as to the accuracy, completeness, correctness, timeliness or fairness of the information or opinions herein, all of which are subject to change without notice. No responsibility or liability whatsoever or howsoever arising is accepted in relation to the contents hereof by Eurobank or any of its directors, officers or employees. Any articles, studies, comments etc. reflect solely the views of their author. Any unsigned notes are deemed to have been produced by the editorial team. Any articles, studies, comments etc. that are signed by members of the editorial team express the personal views of their author.

