

Romania | Instant Comment

Weak energy sector weighed on industrial production

Industrial Output (y/y)

Actual, Nov:	-3.5%	Previous:	0.6%	Erste:	-1.6%	Consensus:	n.a.
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Industrial production dropped -1.1% m/m and -3.5% y/y in November and fell short of our expectations of -1.6% y/y. In October, industry was positive at +0.6% y/y.

We expect full-year contraction for industrial production by -1.8% in 2022, while in 2023 it could be close to zero. Fragile Eurozone economic growth and limited competitiveness for local manufacturing due to, among other things, strong real appreciation of the leu and infrastructure bottlenecks should weigh on industrial production in 2023. Improving external confidence indicators should be sustained for several months in a row before changing the outlook for the Romanian manufacturing industry, though China post-Covid reopening offer glimpses of hope.

Manufacturing dropped -0.4% m/m and -1.2% y/y, mining was up +0.9% m/m and +2.3% y/y, while energy was very weak at -4.3% m/m and -18.1% y/y.

External confidence indicators improved lately. S&P Global Eurozone Manufacturing PMI signalled that manufacturing downturn eased in December as supply conditions stabilised and inflation cooled. Ifo Business Climate Index for Germany brightened considerably in December on reduced uncertainty and shrinking orders backlog.

Local manufacturing confidence deteriorated to -1.0 in December from -0.3 in November due to weaker production expectations as well as a rise in inventories.

Romanian manufacturing vs China Li Keqiang Index



Source: Bloomberg, NIS, BCR Research

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