Recovery loses momentum

The preliminary GDP estimate still points to marked growth in Q3 (2.6% q/q; 3.8% y/y), consolidating the pace of expansion observed in the previous quarter and exceeding the consensus forecasts. The update estimate of the monthly real GDP indicates a flat m/m growth in October (4.9% y/y).

The indications from the quantitative data completing the information relating to Q3 are positive. Industrial production shows a marginal increase in September (0.1% m/m), surprising to the upside expectations of a slight decline and bringing the seasonally adjusted index 1.5 pp above the levels of February 2020.

The outlook for the current quarter still remains favorable, despite a moderation in the pace of expansion of the economic activity.

The manufacturing PMI index, after the setback in September, returned to growth reaching record levels (61.1 from 59.7). The ISTAT business confidence survey improved (114.9 from 113.2), although the share of firms that are reporting a significant shortage of materials and labor force as a relevant obstacle to production is increasing. Surveys in the services sector are softening, with both the ISTAT confidence climate (112.1 from 112.3) and the PMI sectoral index (52.4 from 55.5) edged down in October.

