Monthly GDP: September 2021

Signs of moderation in growth momentum

The update estimate of the monthly real GDP indicates a flat m/m growth in September (1.3% y/y). The industrial production index reported a slight dip in August (-0.2% m/m from 1.0% in July, revised by + 0.2pp), but activity levels are still 1.5 % above pre-crisis values. The sectoral trends show a contraction for consumer goods (-2.0%) and intermediate goods (-1.3%), as well as energy (-2.1%), in the face of a positive evolution of capital goods (+0.8%). The performance reveals a certain resilience of the Italian manufacturing sector despite of the ongoing supply chain disruptions, being less dependent on chip inputs than other major European countries.

The September economic surveys show signs of moderation in the pace of expansion. The confidence climate of manufacturing firms softened (to 113.0 from 113.2), however remaining at high levels. Similarly, the sector PMI eased slightly (to 59.7 from 60.9). The survey reveals the early consequences of the delays in supplies and the shortage of materials.

The service surveys offer mixed signals. The sector PMI showed a moderation in growth in September (to 55.5 from 58.0 points), against a stronger optimism pointed out by the ISTAT confidence indicator (at 112.3 from 111.8).

