

# GLOBAL WEEKLY ECONOMIC NEWS IN THE ADVANCED ECONOMIES

(22 November 2021 – 26 November 2021)

Countries	Highlights
<p><b>US</b></p> <p><b>US economy eyes strong 2021 finish as labour market tightens, spending accelerates</b></p>	<p>The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits dropped to a 52-year low last week, suggesting economic activity was accelerating as a year ravaged by shortages, high inflation and an unrelenting pandemic draws to a close. The economy's strengthening tone was confirmed by other data showing strong consumer spending in October as well as business orders for equipment, excluding transportation. The goods trade deficit narrowed sharply last month as exports surged. But prices remained stubbornly high, with annual inflation jumping by the most in nearly 31 years. The raft of solid reports ahead of Thursday's Thanksgiving holiday prompted economists to boost their fourth-quarter growth estimates to as high as an 8.6% annualized rate.</p> <p><i>(Source: Reuters, 25 November 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>UK</b></p> <p><b>UK businesses pushed to raise prices amid record jump in costs</b></p>	<p>British companies came under intense pressure to push up prices this month after they suffered the fastest rise in the costs of production on record. Steep increases in the price of raw materials, higher fuel costs and strong wage demands in November combined to increase the average cost burden at the most rapid rate since 1998 when comparable records began. According to a monthly survey by IHS Markit, while all private sector businesses were hit equally by the higher input costs, only manufacturers reacted by accelerating the rate at which they increase their own charges. The price of manufactured goods rose at the highest rate in 20 years. Service industry firms reported that on average they were unable to pass on all the extra costs after stiff resistance from customers.</p> <p><i>(Source: CNN, 17 November 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>JAPAN</b></p> <p><b>Spending at Japan's shops rises in Oct as economy reopens, outlook murky</b></p>	<p>Sales at Japan's supermarket and department stores rose in October as the end to coronavirus curbs lifted consumption but the modest rebound suggested a full recovery will take time. Sales at Japanese department stores rose 2.9% in October from a year earlier thanks to robust demand for jewellery and women's clothing, according to data from the Japan Department Stores Association. Those at chain stores, which include supermarkets such as Aeon (8267.T) and furniture stores such as Nitori Holdings (9843.T), grew 3.7% in October from a year earlier, data from the Japan Chain Stores Association showed. While the data points to a pick-up in spending, it casts doubt on how quickly the world's third largest economy can bounce back from the pandemic doldrums in the fourth quarter, after state of emergency curbs were lifted on Sept. 30.</p> <p><i>(Source: Reuters, 25 November 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>CHINA</b></p> <p><b>China urged to be 'vigilant' to rising grain prices in battle for food security</b></p>	<p>China is under pressure to stabilise grain prices and should roll out more support to counter price volatility in domestic and international markets, said the Economic Daily in the latest warning on food security. Domestic prices of corn and wheat are high, while rice has fallen below the minimum purchase price. High corn prices caused by production shortages could be made worse by continuous rainfall and an unusually cold winter in northern China, it added. Beijing has repeatedly underscored the importance of food security in recent months, as grain prices have increased and relations with some exporting countries have soured. Concerns about rising corn and wheat prices have been compounded because the rest of the food basket, including meat and vegetable prices, has also been going up.</p> <p><i>(Source: South China Morning Post, 26 November 2021)</i></p>