

# GLOBAL WEEKLY ECONOMIC NEWS IN THE ADVANCED ECONOMIES

(27 September 2021 – 1 October 2021)

Countries	Highlights
<p><b>US</b></p> <p><b>Consumers ramped up spending in August as inflation remained elevated</b></p>	<p>Consumer spending picked up in August, a sign the US economic recovery is gaining steam heading into the fall. Personal outlays on goods and services rose 0.8% in August from the month before, after a 0.1% decrease in July, the Commerce Department reported. Personal income increased 0.2% in August, reflecting wage gains and the federal government's distribution of child tax credits. Those were partly offset by declines in unemployment insurance as many states ended pandemic-related supplemental payments. The highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus triggered a summer slowdown in spending on meals out, hotels and airline tickets. Still, consumers remain in a strong position to help power the economic recovery. They have accumulated high levels of savings and are benefiting from an abundance of job openings and rising wages.</p> <p><i>(Source: WSJ, 1 October 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>UK</b></p> <p><b>UK economy up more than expected in Q2 before slowdown</b></p>	<p>Britain's economy grew by more than previously thought in the April-June period before what looks like a sharp slowdown more recently as post-lockdown bottlenecks, including a shortage of truck drivers, mount. GDP increased by 5.5% in the second quarter, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said, stronger than its preliminary growth estimate of 4.8%. The ONS said the data had been adjusted to take account of more complete data from the health sector as well as an update of its sources and methodology for calculating British economic output. The figures provided a more complete picture of Britain's swift economic bounce-back from its coronavirus lockdown earlier this year, but there are now signs of a loss of momentum due to shortages of supplies and staff as the global economy reopens.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Star, 1 October 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>JAPAN</b></p> <p><b>Japan's economy opens as state of emergency ends</b></p>	<p>Japanese businesses are cautiously opening up on the first weekend since the government lifted the COVID-19 state of emergency across the country. Theme parks and shopping districts were bustling on a sunny Saturday morning, a day after a strong typhoon swept through Tokyo and nearby areas yesterday. Fun-seekers lined up outside Tokyo Disneyland and DisneySea, both of which yesterday raised the limit on visitors from 5,000 people a day to 10,000. The parks said they will also begin selling alcoholic beverages at restaurants again. Tickets to both parks are sold out through early November, according to the company's website.</p> <p><i>(Source: Nikkei, 1 October 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>CHINA</b></p> <p><b>China's manufacturing activity unexpectedly shrinks in September, services offer support</b></p>	<p>China's factory activity unexpectedly shrank in September due to wider curbs on electricity use and elevated input prices, while services returned to expansion as COVID-19 outbreaks receded, offering some relief to the world's second-biggest economy. The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) was at 49.6 in September versus 50.1 in August, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed, slipping into contraction for the first time since February 2020. China's economy rapidly recovered from a pandemic-induced slump last year, but momentum has weakened in recent months, with its sprawling manufacturing sector hit by rising costs, production bottlenecks and electricity rationing.</p> <p><i>(Source: CNBC, 29 September 2021)</i></p>