

# GLOBAL WEEKLY ECONOMIC NEWS IN THE ADVANCED ECONOMIES

(29 November 2021 – 3 December 2021)

Countries	Highlights
<p><b>US</b></p> <p><b>US economy hits speed bump in November jobs report</b></p>	<p>US job growth slowed in November, posting the smallest increase this year, underscoring employers' struggle to attract workers to fill millions of vacancies as the pandemic continues. The US economy added about 210,000 jobs last month, well short of the roughly half-million gain that was forecasted, data from the US Labour Department show. The unemployment rate fell to 4.2% while the labour force participation rate edged up to 61.8%. Overall, the November jobs figures point to an economic recovery that looks resilient though under threat from a spike in inflation and the potential impact of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.</p> <p><i>(Source: The National, 3 December 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>UK</b></p> <p><b>UK economy will grow faster than the EU in 2021 and 2022</b></p>	<p>The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has predicted the UK economy will grow by 6.9% in 2021 and then 4.7% in 2022. That is higher than the 5.2% in 2021 and 4.3% in 2022 which has been forecast for the Eurozone. The numbers also mean the UK is expected to enjoy the fastest growth of any of the world's seven most advanced economies. But the OECD has also issued a stark global warning on the threat posed to the worldwide economy by the new Omicron coronavirus variant. The OECD's predictions suggest the UK economy is on course to outpace its G7 rivals both this year and next year. The 2021 forecast marks an upgrade from the 6.7% predicted in September, and, while the 2022 outlook is downgraded from the 5.2% previously pencilled in, it would still see the UK lead the G7 pack.</p> <p><i>(Source: Daily Mail, 1 December 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>JAPAN</b></p> <p><b>Japan's Q3 GDP slump seen slightly bigger than expected</b></p>	<p>Japan's economy contracted much faster than expected in the third quarter as global supply disruptions hit exports and business spending while new COVID-19 cases soured the consumer mood, undermining efforts to stoke a virtuous growth cycle. While many analysts expect the world's third-largest economy to rebound this quarter as virus curbs ease, worsening global production bottlenecks pose increasing risks to export-reliant Japan. The economy shrank an annualised 3.0% in July-September after a revised 1.5% gain in the second quarter, preliminary gross domestic product (GDP) data showed on Monday, much worse than a median market forecast of a 0.8% contraction. The weak GDP contrasts with more promising readings from other advanced countries such as the United States, where the economy expanded 2.0% in the third quarter on strong pent-up demand.</p> <p><i>(Source: Reuters, 3 December 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>CHINA</b></p> <p><b>China alert to global economic risks from Omicron</b></p>	<p>The new Omicron variant adds more uncertainty to the global economic recovery and China will closely follow its potential impact on trade and international supply chains, the Ministry of Commerce said. How the new variant will affect China's manufacturing sector is not yet clear, but it might be a double-edged sword for exports. Though exports have continued to defy expectations this year, analysts have been warning of a possible slowdown. Despite adding to uncertainty, the Omicron variant may create only a small shock, rather than considerable turmoil for the global economy, as governments are more experienced in dealing with the virus, according to economists. While the new variant has effectively impeded the reopening plan of many countries, China is likely to continue with its zero-tolerance policy in 2022.</p> <p><i>(Source: South China Morning Post, 2 December 2021)</i></p>