

Global Economic Data Calendar

1 Mar 2023

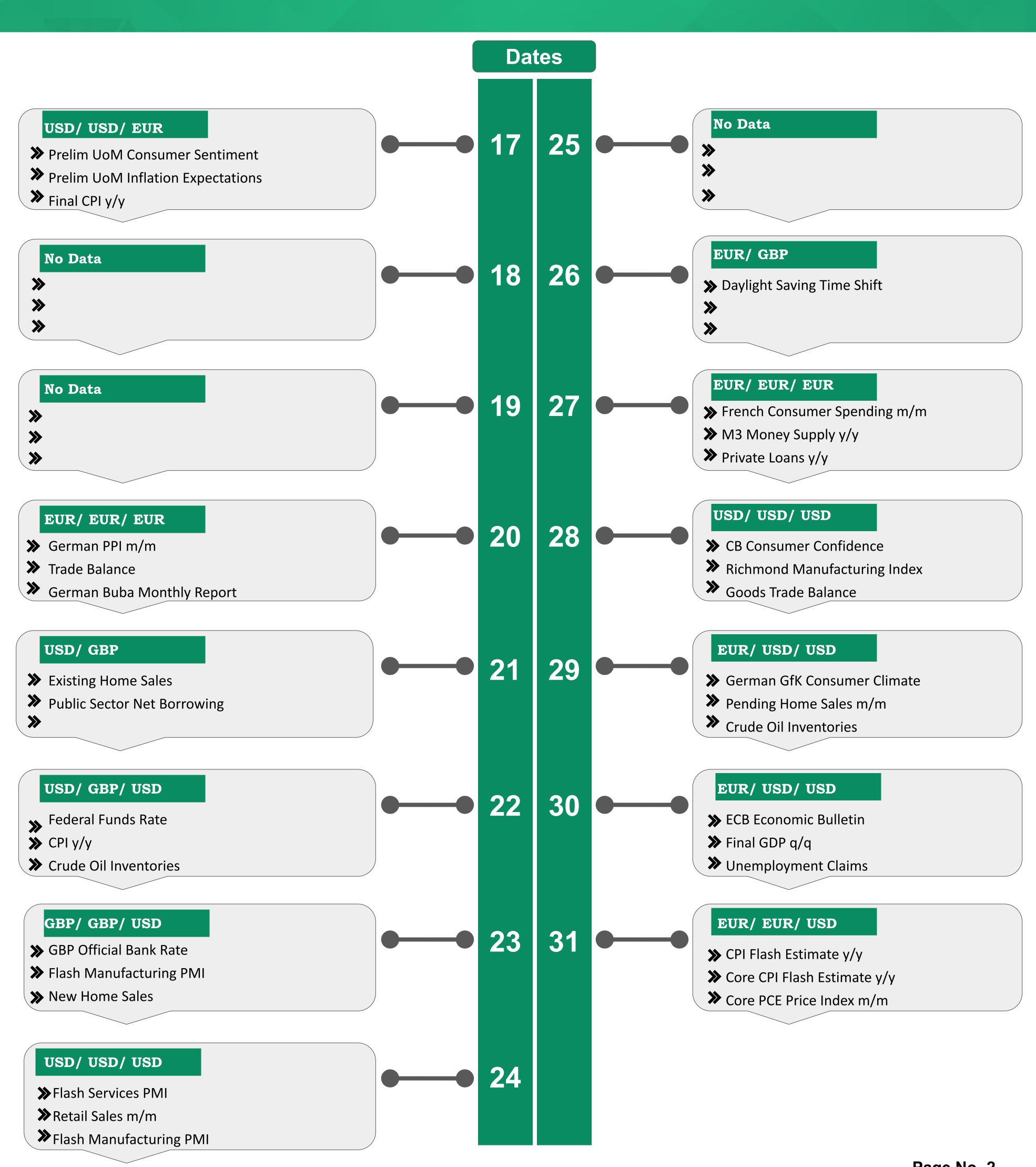






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ECONOMIC SPOTLIGHTS

1 Mar 2023

- China's manufacturing activity expanded as the fastest pace in more than a decade in February, official data showed, smashing expectations as production zoomed after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions late last year. The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) stood at 52.6 against 50.1 in January, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, above the 50-point mark that separates expansion and contraction in activity on a monthly basis. The world's second-largest economy recorded one of its worst years in nearly half a century in 2022 due to strict COVID lockdowns and subsequent widespread infections. The curbs were abruptly lifted in December as the highly transmissible Omicron spread across the country. Businesses accelerated their resumption of work and production, as the effect of economic stabilisation policies was felt by the sector while the impact of COVID-19 receded, said the statistics bureau in a separate statement. While the manufacturing sector has started to see more signs of recovery, it had remained under pressure with factory-gate prices falling in January due to still cautious domestic consumption and uncertain foreign demand.
- The U.S. trade deficit in goods increased moderately in January, with both imports and exports rising solidly, leaving trade on track to have little or no impact on gross domestic product growth early in the first quarter. The goods trade deficit widened 2.0% to \$91.5 billion, the Commerce Department said. This left the goods trade deficit slightly above the fourth-quarter average. Goods imports increased 3.4% to \$265.3 billion. Motor vehicle imports surged 9.0% while imports of consumer goods jumped 6.4%. There were also increases in imports of food and capital goods. But imports of industrial supplies, which include crude oil, fell as did those of other goods. Exports of goods shot up 4.2% to \$173.8 billion, boosted by a 14.8% jump in consumer goods. Motor vehicle exports accelerated 8.2%. Exports of capital goods and food also increased strongly. Shipments of industrial supplies, however, rose moderately and exports of other goods fell. A smaller trade deficit was one of the contributors to the economy's 2.7% annualized growth pace in the fourth quarter. The other boost to growth came from inventories.
- Contracts to buy U.S. previously owned homes rose by the most in more than 2-1/2 years in January, but a resurgence in mortgage rates could delay a much-awaited housing market turnaround. The National Association of Realtors (NAR) said its Pending Home Sales Index, based on signed contracts, jumped 8.1% last month, the biggest increase since June 2020. The second straight monthly increase in contracts could see existing home sales rebounding or posting another small decline after logging their 12th straight monthly decrease in January. Contracts increased in all four regions. Pending home sales decreased 24.1% in January on a year-on-year basis. The housing market has been walloped by the Federal Reserve's aggressive monetary policy stance, with residential investment contracting for seven straight quarters, the longest such stretch since 2009. Despite signs the worst is over, it could take a while for the housing market to turn around. Government data showed new home sales jumped to a 10-month high in January.
- Japan's factory output shrank at the fastest pace in eight months in January as shrinking overseas demand amid a global economic slowdown took a heavy toll on business activity. Factory output fell 4.6% in January from a month earlier on a seasonally adjusted basis, government data showed. The contraction was much larger than economists' median forecast of a 2.6% decline and followed an upwardly-revised 0.3% increase in December. Output of auto products slumped 10.1%, dragging down the overall index. Outputs of items such as production machinery and electronic parts dropped 13.5% and 4.2%, respectively. Manufacturers surveyed by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) expect output to rise 8.0% in February and gain 0.7% in March, the data also showed, although the official poll tends to report an optimistic outlook. Separate data showed Japanese retail sales rose 6.3% in January from a year earlier, beating a median market forecast for a 4.0% gain and posting an eleventh consecutive month of expansion. Japan's economy, the world's third-largest, is expected to post an annualised 1.4% expansion in January-March according to a poll, after weaker-than-expected 0.6% growth in the final quarter of 2022.

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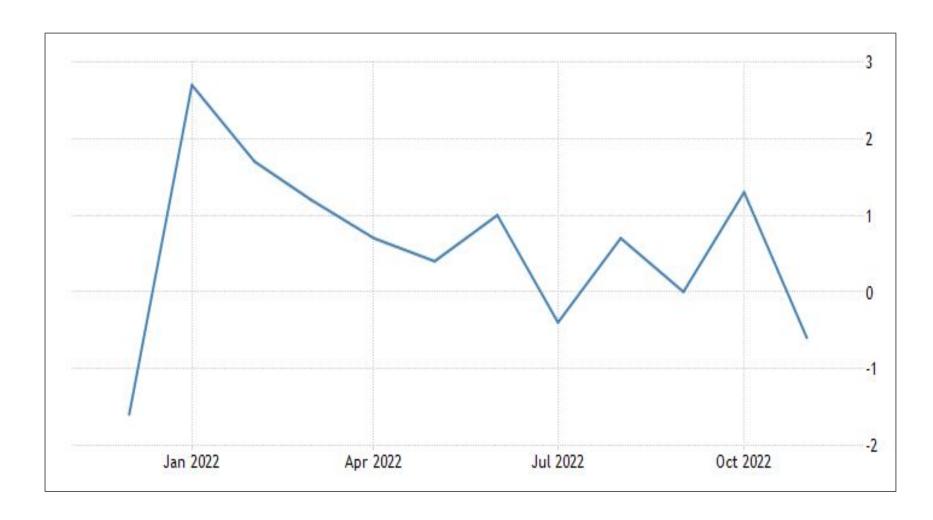




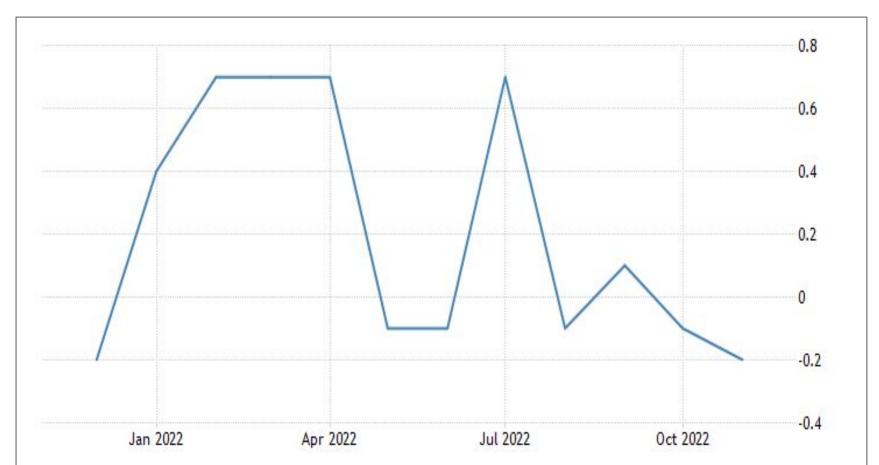
ECONOMIC INDICATORS (US)

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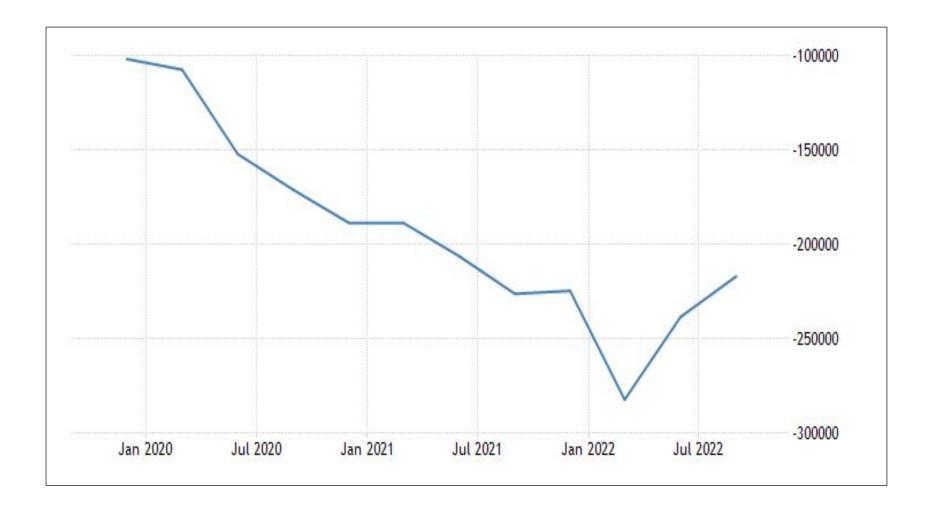
US Retail Sales



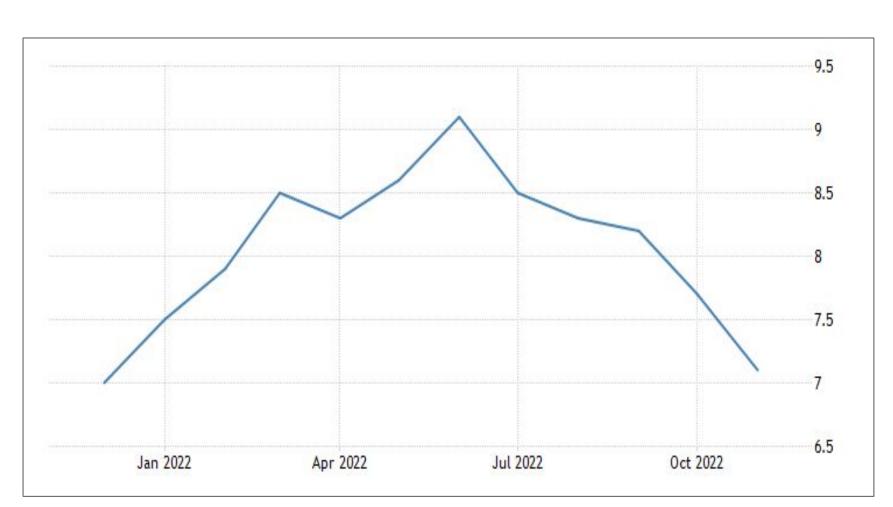
US Industrial Production



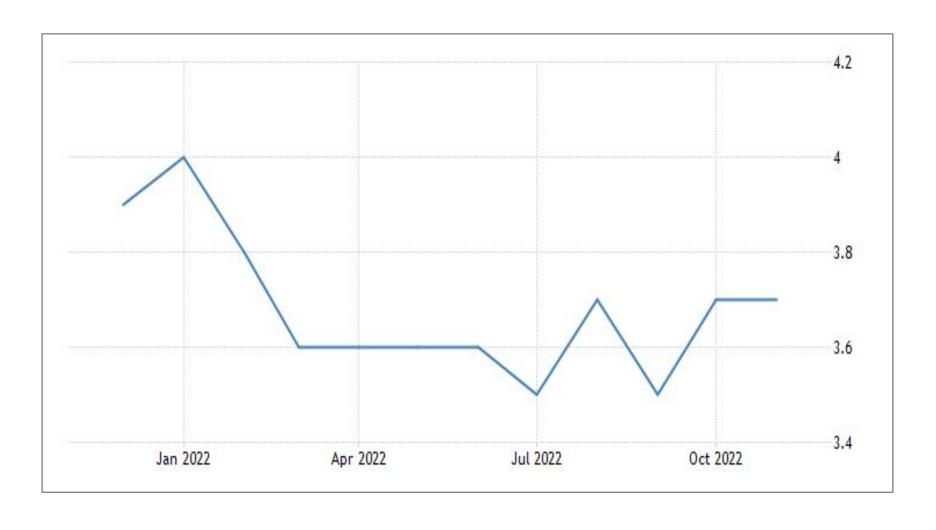
US Current Account



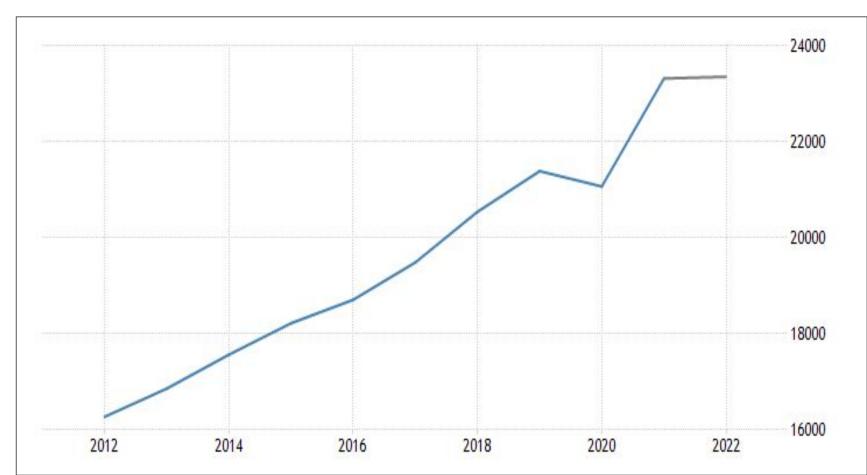
US Inflation Rate



US Unemployment Rate



US GDP



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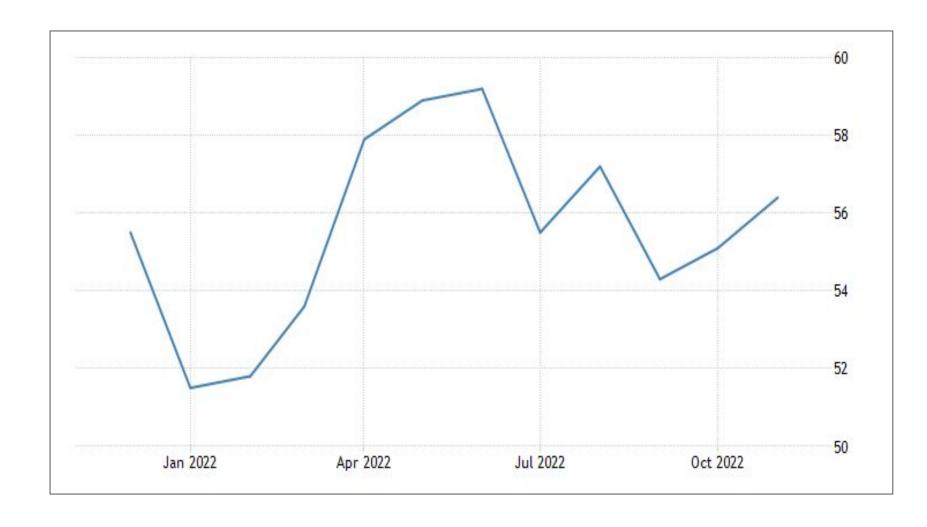




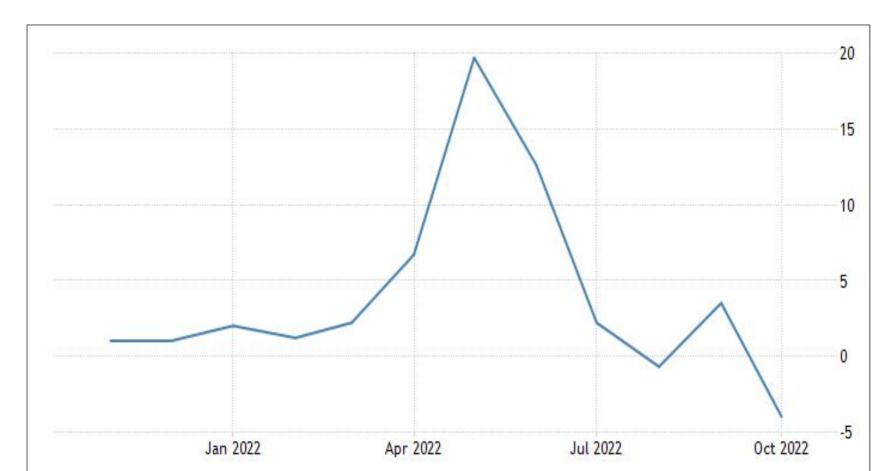
ECONOMIC INDICATORS (INDIA)

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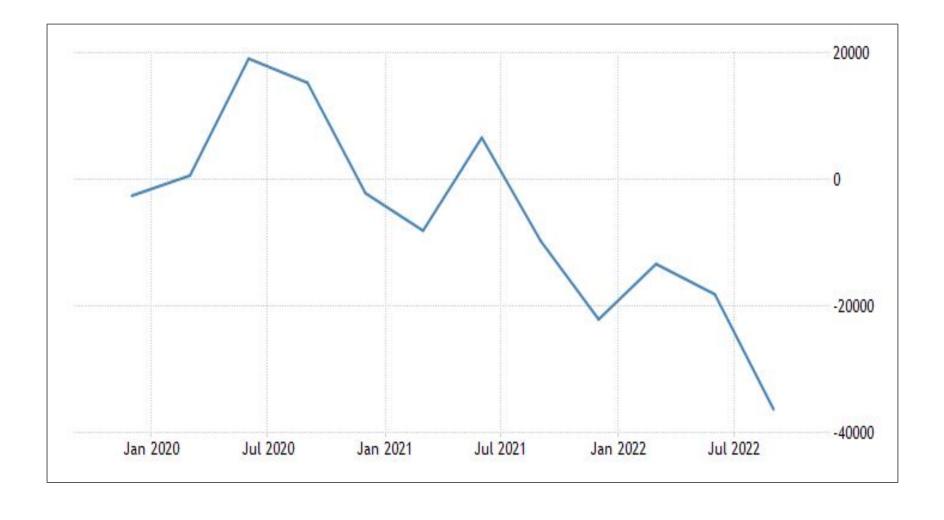
INDIA Services PMI



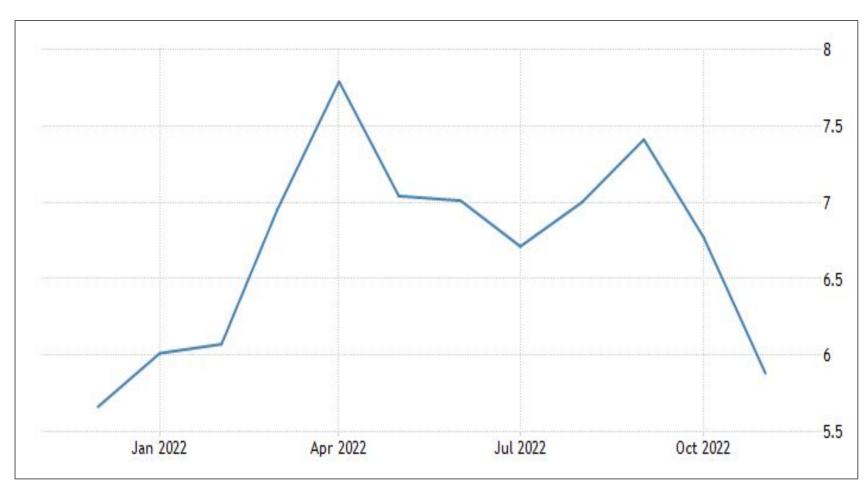
INDIA Industrial Production



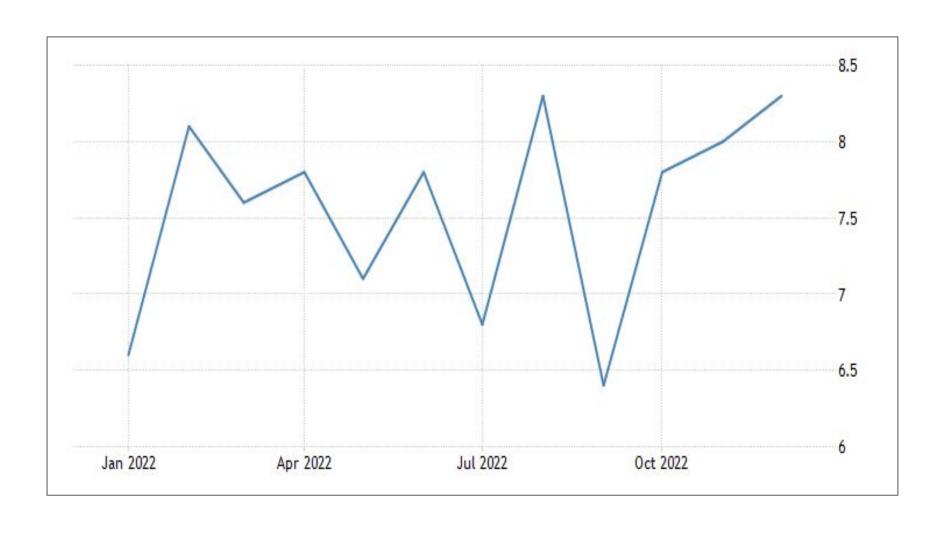
INDIA Current Account



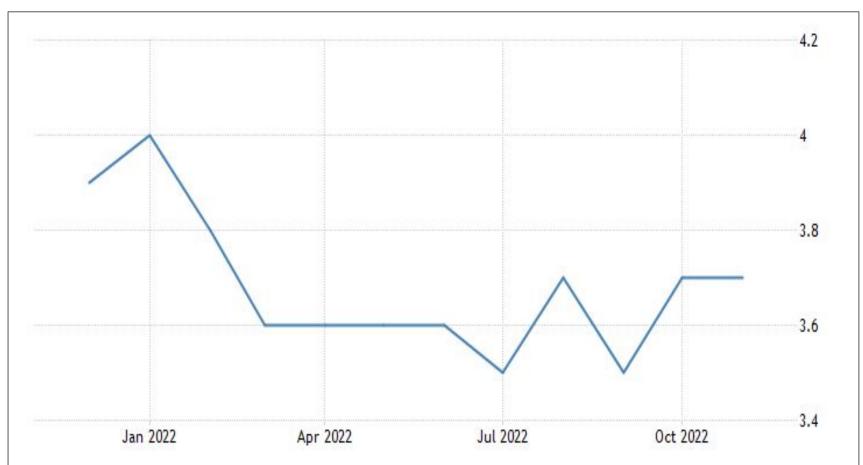
INDIA Inflation Rate



INDIA Unemployment Rate



INDIA GDP



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