

Economic Outlook

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Coincident Economic and Financial Conditions Indexes Current Estimates

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This report publishes the current estimates of the coincident economic (CEI) and financial conditions indexes (FCI) we have designed for the Turkish economy using advanced econometric methods. We used a rich dataset including many macroeconomic and financial indicators with different timing and frequencies.

As financial stability is one of the main conditions for economic growth, FCI is considered a primary leading indicator for CEI. Therefore, based on the joint behavior of these two indexes, we computed the probability of entering an economic recession within the same model framework. This report also publishes these probabilities' current estimates as a numerical reflection of our expectations of the economy's direction in addition to the current estimates of these indices.

The model we use in this report has been published in one of the internationally respected journals in the field. For details, our article can be found at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/obes.12413>.

Coincident Economic Index (CEI)

According to the most recent model estimates, CEI decreased by 0.02 % in October compared to the previous month. The changes in September and August were 0.29% and 0.96%, respectively. Considering the quarterly predictions, we expect a change of 0.17% in real GDP in the third quarter of 2022 compared to the previous quarter. On the other hand, when the third quarter of 2022 is compared to the third quarter of 2021, this rate corresponds to a 3.2% growth. **Consequently, based on the data available as of October, we expect stagnation in the economy in the third quarter.**

Considering the constituents of CEI, on the production side, an increase of 3.3% was observed in August compared to the previous month in the latest industrial production index data. On the demand side, retail sales volume was slightly reduced by 3.6% in August. Finally, considering the developments in the labor market, a 1.2% mild decrease was observed in total employment in August. From the data published timelier, the PMI was announced as 46.9 for September, the seventh consecutive month with a value lower than the critical value of 50. Based on all these components, we see a volatile pattern of CEI in the first and second quarters of 2022. Nevertheless, since the trend is not affected by these changes, the indicator points to stagnation in the following months.

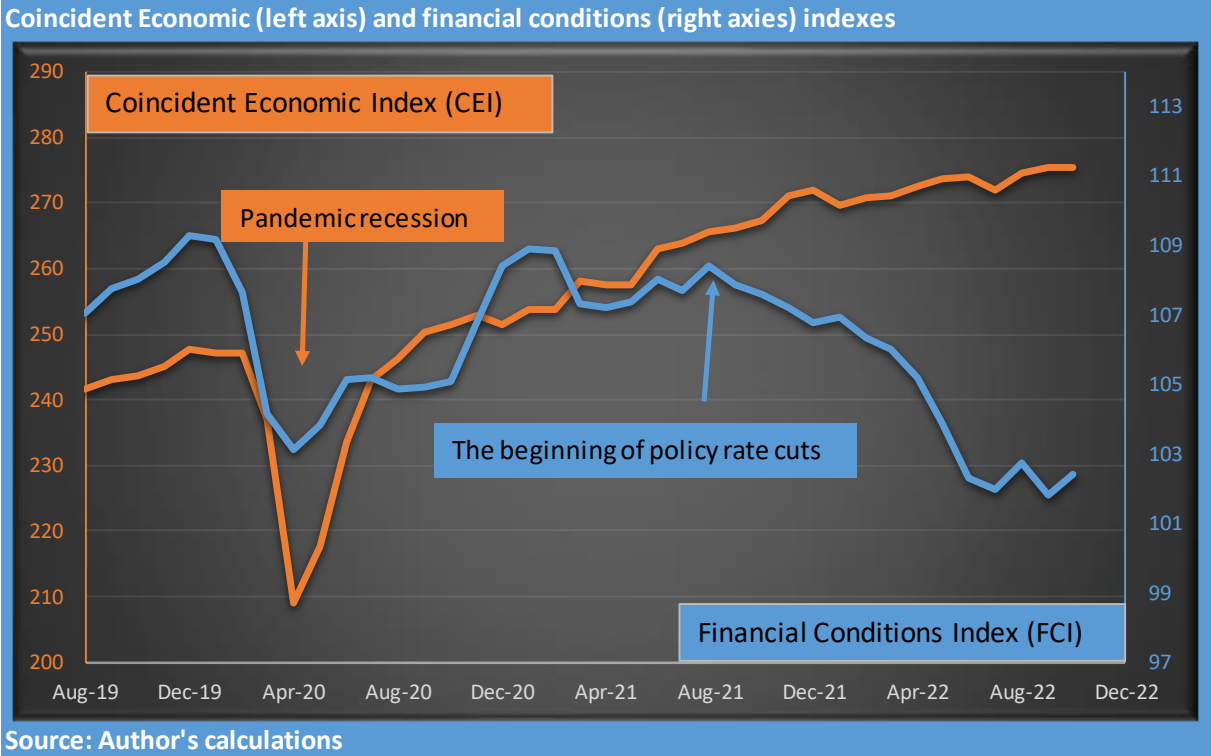
Financial Conditions Index (FCI)

According to the most recent model estimates, FCI increased by 0.58% in October compared to the previous month. The changes in September and August were -0.89% and 0.78%, respectively. Therefore, the contraction in financial conditions for many months seems to be halted in the last two months.

Considering the constituents of FCI, gross FX reserves experienced an increase in October. On the other hand, the volatility of many sub-components is at high levels. Crucially, Turkey's 5-year CDS premium is above 700 basis points. These figures indicate that Turkey's risk perception deterioration is very high. One of the underlying reasons for the high CDS rate is the high course of inflation and inflation expectations. Finally, we see a decline in total credit volume in real terms due to high inflation.

Figure 1 shows the evolution of FCI and CEI starting from 2019. In the first half of 2020, the sharp economic contraction caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent rapid rebound is observed in CEI's evolution. Similar drops and rapid rises can be detected for FCI, especially during the term of former Central Bank Governor Naci Ağbal. On the other hand, the contraction in FCI since September 2021 continues at full speed. In CEI, with the start of 2022, the sharp decline in January is followed by stagnation. Nevertheless, we have observed a secular improvement since August.

Figure 1. Coincident Economic and Financial Conditions Indexes Estimates as of October 2022



Probability of Economic Recession

We compute the probability of the economy entering a recession in the short term based on the joint behavior of CEI and FCI. We calculate this probability as 38% as of October. Figure 2 shows these probabilities' evolution from 2007 to the present.

Figure 2. Recession probabilities computed using available data as of October 2022

