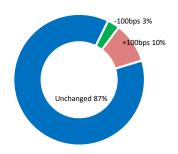
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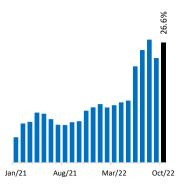
# **Economy**

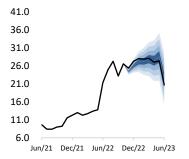
**Exhibit:** Market Consensus on upcoming monetary policy skewed on 'Status Quo'



Source: CFA Soceity Pakistan, IGI Research.

**Exhibits:** CPI printed a +26.6%y/y during the month of Oct-22 and likely to remain above 20%y/y throughout FY23





Source: PBS, IGI Research.

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# **Monetary Policy Statement**

# SBP Likely to Keep Key Rates Unchanged as Inflation and External Risks softens

- We expect SBP to keep the key rate unchanged at 15%. This will be the fourth
  consecutive time SBP has kept rate unchanged. Our expectation is in line with
  market consensus (CFA Pakistan Survey) whereby 87% market participants
  expect an 'unchanged' and 10% expect rate to rise by 100bps.
- 4MFY23 cumulative deficit size of US\$ 2.82bn is far less than last year same
  period a deficit of US\$ 5.31bn, a decrease of 47%y/y. This although does not
  directly impact inflation, but does via by providing some stability to PKR which
  in turn helps keep inflation numbers low and thus hold a key consideration for
  monetary policy decision.
- Latest large-scale manufacturing data available for the month of Sep-22 suggests overall economy is cooling off. LSM index drowned to 115 level from a high of 153.6 level back in Mar-22, that's roughly 25% decline.
- Keeping in view of current inflationary trend, external balance situation, and the growth prospects, we think monetary policy has reached its plateau; henceforth further increase in key rate may likely be paused for now.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is scheduled to announce Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) on Friday 25<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022 for the next two months.

# Expecting status quo for the fourth consecutive time

We expect SBP to keep the key rate unchanged at 15%. This will be the fourth consecutive time SBP has kept rate unchanged. Our expectation is in line with market consensus (CFA Pakistan Survey) whereby 87% market participants expect an 'unchanged' and 10% expect rate to rise by 100bps.

We base our premise on;

#### Inflation, moderating but sticky

Much of the inflation burden during FY23 can be blamed on rise in administrative electricity prices hikes and rise in domestic petroleum prices. Similarly, global oil prices and exchange rate seems to have found its footing in recent months. Arablight oil prices have retracted nearly ~40% to current US\$ 86/bbl after touching a peak of US\$ ~140/bb earlier this year. The same is true for PKR/USD parity which in the recent past has started to show some stability contrary to a volatile beginning this year. Hence, looking ahead till the remainder of FY23, we can now expect to look past major shift in both electricity and petroleum price heads. Having said that, gas tariff hike, upward revision in petroleum development levy and sales tax rate on POL products are very much on the cards which still pose a risk on price front.

Nevertheless, other key component, food item prices by looking at recent import bill and SPI data, have started to cool off post a blip owing to floods 2022. In addition, slowdown in leading indicators of aggregate demand also suggests prices are tending to moderation. Hence, keeping in view aforementioned reasons we believe, inflation will moderate and will stay sticky in the coming months before declining sharply in FY24 start.



## **External risks finally narrowing**

For the month of Oct-22, current account balance did edged up to record a deficit of US\$ 0.57bn compared to US\$ 0.36bn in previous month. But 4MFY23 cumulative deficit size of US\$ 2.82bn is far less than last year same period a deficit of US\$ 5.31bn, a decrease of 47%y/y (link). This although does not directly impact inflation, but does via by providing some stability to PKR which in turn helps keep inflation numbers low and thus hold a key consideration for monetary policy decision.

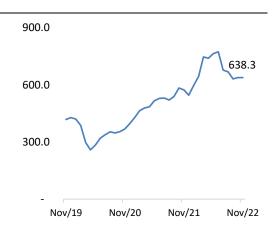
#### Exhibit: Pakistan C/a deficit tapering

Since july-22 C/a has averaged US\$ 0.7bn for the past 4 months compared to last year monthly average C/a deficit of US\$ 1.45bn.

# **Exhibit: Global commodity prices**

Global Commodity continue to trend downward as economies' across take hard landing.





Source: SBP, IGI Research

# Tighter credit and flooding has severely damaged growth outlook

Latest large-scale manufacturing data available for the month of Sep-22 suggests overall economy is cooling off. LSM index drowned to 115 level from a high of 153.6 level back in Mar-22, that's roughly 25% decline. Nearly all manufacturing concerns posed double digit decline. This decline partially incorporates recent July-September 2022 flooding but more importantly 8.0% increase in SBP policy rate. As a result SBP in its previous monetary policy statement revised down its FY23 growth expectation to 2.0% from earlier 3-4%.

# Based on currently available information, GDP growth could fall to around 2 percent in FY23, compared to the previous forecast of 3-4 percent before the floods.

-Monetary Policy Statement, Oct-2022

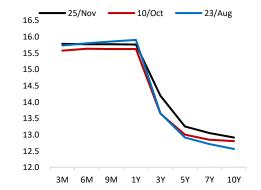
#### **Exhibit: Pakistan LSMI**

153.6. 180 160 140 Sep/17 Sep/18 Sep/19 Sep/20 Sep/21

LSM Index falls down to 115 after reaching a high of

#### **Exhibit: Pakistan Secondary Market Yields**

Little or no movement in secondary market yields since Aug-22 monetary policy statements.





### Secondary market yields suggest similar thoughts

Following up on secondary market yields Both short and long term secondary market yields slightly rise since the last monetary policy meeting in Oct-22, but remain below reverse reporate at 16%.

#### **Outlook:**

Keeping in view of current inflationary trend, external balance situation, and the growth prospects, we think monetary policy has reached its plateau; henceforth further increase in key rate may likely be paused for now.

The MPC was of the view that the existing monetary policy stance strikes an appropriate balance between managing inflation and maintaining growth in the wake of the floods. On the one hand, inflation could be higher and more persistent due to the supply shock to food prices, and on the other, growth prospects have weakened, which should reduce demand-side pressures and suppress underlying inflation. —*Monetary Policy Statement, Oct-2022* 



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