



Venturezen, Inc. is a full-service strategic advisory firm specializing assisting our clients improve results and expand value to the business. We partner with companies and financial institutions providing services in i) Corporate Finance Advisory, ii) Debt Placement Services, iii) International Services and iv) Equity Finance Support.

Our partners come from a diverse financial background ranging from corporate and commercial banking, investment banking, asset management, corporate account and tax services and management consulting. We look to engage and work closely with our clients in order to tailor solutions and services necessary to help take the business to the next level. Whether seeking to improve operating inefficiencies, improve cash flow, raising new capital, we lean on our industry depth knowledge, experience, and operational expertise to stabilize the business and create lasting results.

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## 2022 Economic Outlook

The global economy remains challenged by supply chain issues and high energy prices. On top of this, the Russia-Ukraine conflict is further pushing up commodity prices, fueling even higher inflation. GDP growth forecasts across economists have been revised downward. High inflation is likely to push central banks to implement more aggressive monetary tightening.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is having a negative impact on global growth mainly through its impact on commodity and energy prices. Prices of a broad range of commodities are forecast to increase significantly in 2022. Already overheated oil and gas markets are showing renewed volatility after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war. Expectation is for prices of other commodities of which Russia and Ukraine are major producers, such as wheat, barley, vegetable oils and base metals, to rise significantly.

Supply chain bottlenecks show some signs of easing, though shipping costs and equipment shortages remain elevated. Furthermore, the Russia-Ukraine conflict is distorting some specific supply chains, like that of semiconductors and the automotive industry. Trade growth remains relatively robust in 2022, however, as supply chain pressures and inflation are counterbalanced by strong consumer demand.

Global inflation is expected to rise in 2022. Even at the start of 2022, there were already inflationary pressures from supply chain issues, strong consumer demand, and rising energy and commodities prices. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is only making matters worse, given its effect on commodities prices. This means central banks will have to move more aggressively to quell inflation.

Growth in advanced markets is slowing as a result of high inflation, supply chain pressures and indirect effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Growth in the eurozone is expected to cool significantly in 2022. Price pressures were already rising in past months, but the conflict has exacerbated this trend. Inflation is building up rapidly. The consumer-led recoveries in the US and UK are facing increasing challenges as accelerating inflation drives a more rapid turnaround in monetary support. Both the Federal Reserve and the Bank of England have already hiked the policy rate in the past couple of months and the outlook for the Fed is increasingly hawkish.



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Growth momentum for emerging market economies is weakening as fiscal and monetary support are being rapidly withdrawn. New headwinds are created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This comes on top of other issues, such as supply chain bottlenecks and, in some regions, new waves of Covid infections.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine risks destabilizing global food markets by disrupting production and trade flows. For consumers and business in food production and manufacturing, high food inflation adds to the plethora of challenges, including energy prices. But agricultural commodity producers in North America could play a key role in alleviating global food insecurity by increasing exports while at the same time netting economic gains.

Businesses need to look ahead and prepare accordingly, whether by increasing production or securing future contracts as global food supplies are disrupted into the next year.

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### **CATHERINE C. NGUYEN - Fountain Valley**

Catherine Nguyen is the current Chairwoman of the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce, a member of the French American Community, and BizFed, Los Angeles. With over 20 years of experience at both large and mid-sized financial institutions as a banker specializing in commercial lending and international finance, she has been dedicating her professional expertise to enhance the growth of the organizations she participates in by providing resources, network, and advocacy for the small businesses throughout Southern California.

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