
July 21, 2023

Commentary

Weekly Economic Perspectives

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Mixed industrial and housing data in the US. Inflation improved more than expected in Canada and the UK. Eurozone disinflation becomes more convincing. Japan's inflation remained firm. Aussie employment rises.

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Spotlight on Next Week

The Fed is set to deliver another unnecessary hike. The ECB is set to hike again, but turn more cautious on outlook. BoJ to upgrade inflation and amend YCC. Australian inflation to have moderated in Q2.

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The Economy

A fairly quiet week in macro and markets as disinflation themes persist.

US

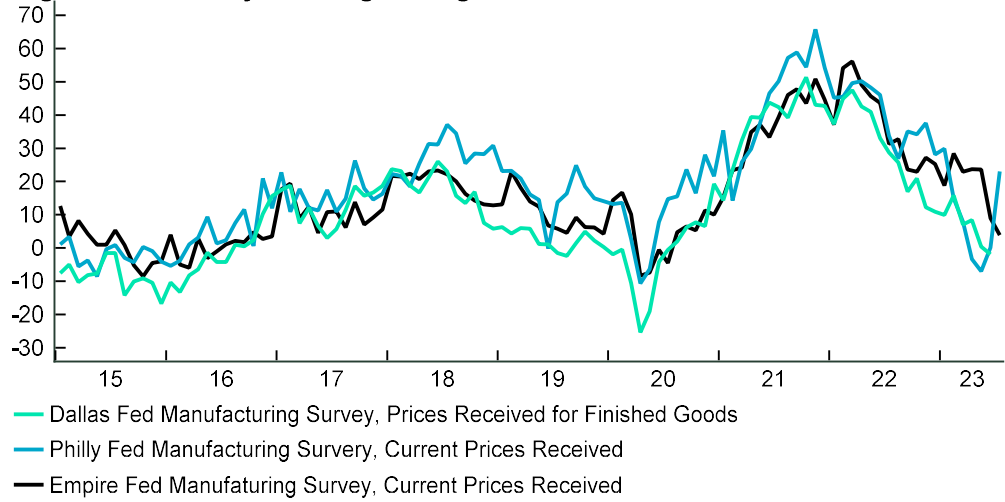
Economic data this week highlighted resilient consumer spending but mixed performance across the industrial and housing sectors.

June **retail sales** were mixed but decent. Overall sales rose a smaller than expected 0.2% m/m, but this was partly offset by an upward revision to the prior month. Most importantly, it was accompanied by a solid 0.6% increase in control sales (excluding food services, building materials, autos dealers and gas stations). There was considerable performance divergence across categories. Top gainers included miscellaneous (2.0%), non-store (online) sales (+1.9%), furniture (+1.4%) and electronics (+1.1%) whereas department store (-2.4%), gasoline stations (-1.4%), and building materials (-1.2%) were among the main detractors. We are closely watching restaurant and bar sales both signs momentum loss on the consumer discretionary side; June sales barely inched up 0.1%, although this could also reflect diminished price pressures in this space. The overall trend in retail sales remains one of slowing growth, however. Seasonally adjusted total sales are now just 1.5% and control sales just 3.9% higher than a year ago.

Industrial production declined 0.5% m/m in June, matching the downwardly revised May performance. All three main categories contributed to the decline: mining retreated 0.2%, manufacturing eased 0.3%, and utilities plunged 2.6% during the month. The latter will likely be given a boost by the wave of hot weather affecting much of the country in July, but for the time being, utilities output was down 6.2% y/y. Within manufacturing, production of motor vehicles and parts retreated 3.0% (but is still up 9.5% y/y) while computer/electronics output increased 1.3% (but only 0.2% higher y/y). Overall industrial production is 0.4% lower than in June 2022, reflecting the broader headwinds facing the sector as goods demand slows and the feverish inventory rebuilding phase post-Covid is now over. Capacity utilization continues to diverge widely across segments, with manufacturing at a middling 78.0%, mining at a high 91.6%, and utilities at a low 68.5%.

Neither of the two regional Fed manufacturing surveys released this week showed much movement, at least not in the headline. In fact, for the **Empire Fed manufacturing index**, the 5.5-point decline to 1.1 marked the smallest monthly change since February 2022. Indeed, we had highlighted for some time the extraordinary volatility in this particular measure, to the point where the monthly swings seemed to lose significance as true macro signals. It remains to be seen if that period is now in the past or if the July reading was a mere respite. The details were mixed: new orders were stable, shipments declined, and employment jumped. Prices (both paid and received) moderated. The headline **Philly Fed manufacturing index** barely moved in July, but some of the components actually moved a lot. New orders declined a little, shipments declined a lot, and employment was little changed. Somewhat oddly, while the prices paid measure eased incrementally, the prices received measure surged. This bears watching as the intense disinflation episode in the goods side of the economy will eventually bottom out.

Figure 1: Is Philly Fed Signalling An End To Goods Disinflation?



Sources: Macrobond, SSGA Economics, Dallas Fed, New York Fed, Philadelphia Fed
Updated as of 7/21/2023

Having recovered rapidly from the October lows over the past few months, the pace of improvements in homebuilder sentiment is now slowing, perhaps reflecting the nearing end of the peak selling season, in addition to persistent upward pressure on mortgage rates. The headline **NAHB (National Association of Homebuilders) index** added 1.0 point to 56.0 in July, the highest level in thirteen months. The biggest improvement was in future sales expectations (+7), but present sales also jumped (+5) while buyer traffic improved a modest 2.0 points. A little strangely, prospective buyer traffic improved, but sales expectations declined. There was also a bit of a geographical divergence, with the regional sub-indexes improving in the West and Northeast but ticking lower in the South and Midwest.

Housing starts gave back more than half of May’s blockbuster surge in June, but nonetheless remain higher than the January to April average. At 1.434 million (saar), they remain 8.1% below year-earlier levels. Unsurprisingly given the magnitude of the decline, all sectors contributed to the pullback: single-family starts declined 7.0% m/m and multi-family retreated 9.9%. Residential **building permits** retreated 3.7% in June. Here, performance was more divergent across segments, as single family permits actually ticked 2.2% higher, while multi-family permits dropped 12.8%.

Existing home sales declined 3.3% in June to settle 18.9% lower than a year earlier. Base effects are incrementally becoming less onerous since the slowdown in the housing market is now over a year old. Inventory stands at 3.1 months of sales, well above post COVID lows but also well below pre-Covid norms. The median price of a single-family home declined 0.9% y/y. Properties stayed on the market an average of 18 days—as in May, but down from 34 in February.

inflation measures shows some stickiness in underlying price pressures, with the CPI common measure down very slightly by 0.1 percentage points to 5.1% y/y. Both the weighted median and trimmed mean measures also inched down marginally by 0.1 percentage points to 3.9% y/y and 3.7% y/y. Last week, the BoC raised the policy rate by 25 basis points to 5.0%. For now, given the larger than expected decline in headline print, we see lower probability for a rate hike in September, although more may still need to be done.

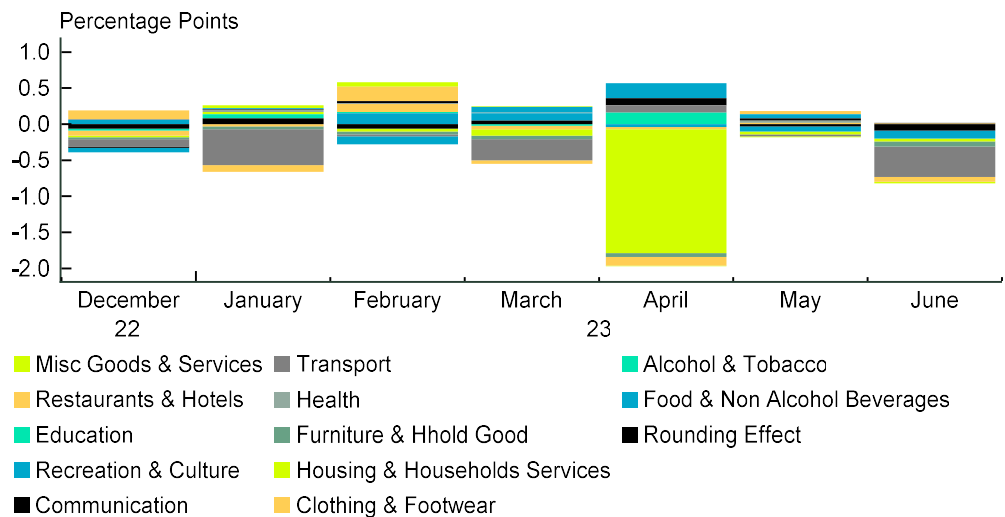
Housing starts rose 41% in June compared with the previous month, somewhat reversing the downward trend. The increase was led by a surge in multiple unit urban homes.

This week's **retail sales** data showed a material slowdown in consumer spending, which the BoC expected to happen in the next few months as the interest rate increases work its way through the economy. Consumers continue to show their willingness at spending, albeit at much slower rate than market expected. Retail sales rose 0.2% in May, against expectations of 0.5% increase, and following previous month's 1.0%. Gains were driven by motor vehicle and parts dealers (+0.8%) and food and beverage retailers (+1.0%). However, core retail sales remained unchanged in May and in volume, sales were up marginally at 0.1%. The Statistics Canada estimated that sales were likely unchanged in June.

UK

Headline **consumer price inflation** eased more than expected, down 0.8 percentage points (ppts) to 7.9% y/y in June, the slowest rate since April 2022. The unexpected but very welcome slowdown was mainly due to lower fuel prices, which drove transport inflation down 3.0 ppts to -1.8% y/y, detracting 0.42 ppts from the annual inflation rate. Food and non-alcoholic beverages were the second largest downward contributor to disinflation, with pace slowing by 1.0 ppts to 17.3% y/y. However, core inflation, which excludes food and energy, eased just two tenths to 6.9% y/y, concerningly high (May's 7.1% marked a 31-year high!).

Figure 2. UK Headline Inflation Fell with Lower Fuel Prices



Sources: SSGA Economics, ONS

Goods inflation decelerated 1.2 percentage points to 8.5% y/y, but services inflation was only down marginally by 0.2 percentage points to 7.2% y/y. The decline was driven primarily by air transport and hotels. The improvement in inflation figures should offer the BoE some relief but it is still a long way before the headline print can return to the 2% target. As core inflation persists at a high level and services inflation not yet showing sign of cooling, we think the MPC will likely deliver another rate hike at the August meeting.

Real retail sales rose 0.7% m/m in June, better than the 0.2% expected, but the May data was revised lower. Both food and non-food sales improved. Amongst non-food stores, the rise was mostly broad-based, except clothing which declined 0.4%. However, despite the improvement in headline retail sales, consumption is quite distressed. Indeed, while total retail sales were 17.9% higher than in value terms compared to February 2020, the volumes remained 0.2% lower. Given the erosion in consumer sentiment, that is unsurprising. Indeed, the **GFK consumer confidence** index dropped a larger than expected 6 points to -30 in July, as all five measures were down compared to the previous month. This is reversing the upward trend of the first six months, indicating that consumers are pulling back from spending. With this subdued consumer sentiment, it would be no surprise to see retail sales continue to weaken in the next few months.

Eurozone

Between the final June **eurozone CPI** print (confirmed at 5.5% y/y, down from 6.1% y/y in May) and the 0.1% y/y **German PPI inflation** read (down from 1.0% y/y in May), there is more evidence that disinflation is broadening across the region. This won't stop the ECB from delivering another hike next week, but the tone around future tightening should turn more ambivalent.

Japan

For the first time in eight years, consumer price inflation in Japan (+3.3% y/y in June) is higher than in the US (3.0%)! For now at least, the gradual pass-through of last year's higher import costs is sustaining the Japanese inflation momentum.

This data reinforces our expectation that the BoJ will revise its inflation forecasts next week and amend its Yield Curve Control (YCC) policy by targeting the 10y JGB yield at 0%±75/100 bps (or change the target to 5y JGB yield). There may seldom be a better time to reduce the extent of monetary easing in Japan. This change has firm fundamental support in robust growth, above target inflation and a record wage growth this year. Furthermore, prospects of a soft landing in the US have improved significantly, reducing external risks. Another favorable factor that emerged this week is the government's mid-year economic assessment—in which inflation forecasts have risen sharply to 2.6% y/y this fiscal, from 1.7% in January.

So, higher inflation forecasts are (almost) certain, but the YCC adjustment, not so much; the consensus is split, too. However, recent guidance from Governor Ueda and also Deputy Governor Uchida indicated that the adjustment would hinge of higher confidence in sustainable inflation and its expectations. We have been highlighting that these fundamentals are in place. Still, if the BoJ stands pat, we expect them to amend YCC in October this year.

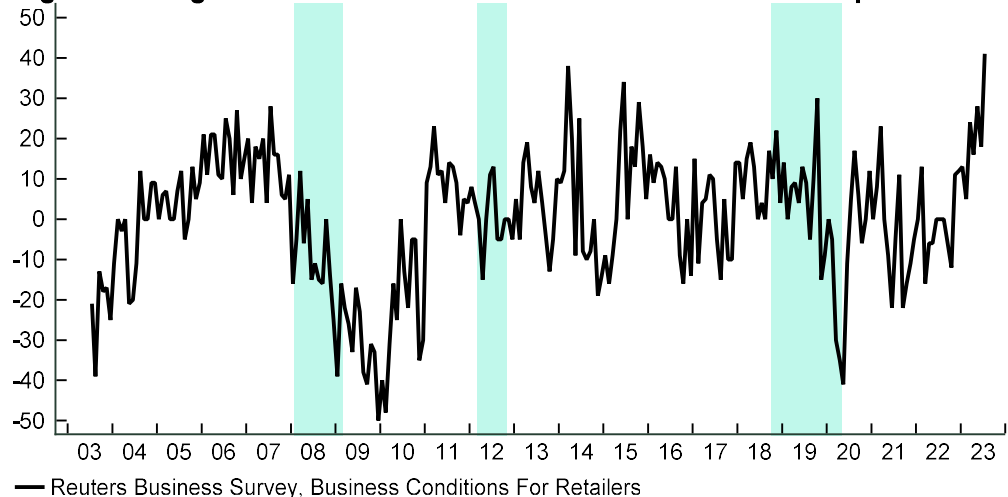
The **BoJ core CPI** (excluding fresh food and energy) rose 4.2% y/y, a tenth less than in May, but a third month above 4.0%. The restart of travel subsidies weighed on the number this month. The official core (excluding fresh food) ticked up by 3.3% y/y on higher electricity prices. Services prices declined 0.2% m/m but were 1.6% higher than last year; the 0.2 ppt drag from travel subsidies is notable here. However, goods prices reaccelerated in June to 4.8% y/y two-tenths higher than in May. So, driving forces of inflation are very much present. However, there are a few headwinds. Utility prices detracted 0.50 pts from the headline number (0.70 in May), so fuel disinflation is significant. An anomaly in these times is that rental contribution the headline has remained close to zero from 2016! Excluding imputed rents, CPI inflation would be 0.6 pts higher at 3.9%.

Still, it is fair to say that inflation is more likely to have staying power than to prove transient. Inflation for many components including medical care (2.4% y/y), recreation (3.5%), clothing & footwear (3.9%) and transportation (2.2%) has scaled new highs; we expect these categories to keep inflation elevated in H2 2023.

The July **Reuters Tankan survey** highlighted some risk to the economic momentum. The manufacturing DI worsened for the first time in seven months. Six of nine sectors worsened, especially oil refinery/ceramics (-29 points), food (-27 points) and steel/nonferrous metals (-20 points). Improvements were registered in chemicals (+14 points), electric machinery (+7 points) and precision machinery (+7 points).

Non-manufacturing was essentially flat with the DI declining a point to 23; it has been stuck between the 23-25 range for four months. Three sectors improved, while three declined. Notably, the DI for retailers improved 23 points and reached 41, the highest level in 25-years, marking the improved retail conditions in Japan.

Figure 3: Brightest Business Conditions For Retailers In Japan



Sources: SSGA Economics, Reuters, Refinitiv Eikon, Macrobond
Updated as of 7/21/2023

Next week we expect the BoJ to lift its CPI forecasts significantly over the two fiscals and adjust their YCC policy. Otherwise, the July flash PMI manufacturing may tick up and the Tokyo CPI data for July may moderate slightly.

Australia

Contrary to our expectations of a soft print, **employment** jumped 32,600 in June. However, we are even more convinced that the next chapter is one of cooling. Newly available quarterly industry data show that during the second quarter, almost 36% of newly created jobs were in the professional, scientific & technical services, followed by 28.6% jobs in education & training, and 23.2% in manufacturing. However, retail trade, a more cyclical sector lost nearly half of the overall jobs created (80,321 jobs). So, we have evidence of some slowing momentum; however, our base case for the cooling labor market is now delayed somewhat.

The July gain was entirely driven by full time employment, which rose by 39,300. Total hours worked increased 0.3% m/m and the unemployment rate declined 0.1 ppt to 3.5% as the participation rate edged down a tenth to 66.8%. The unemployment rate is just a tenth below the RBA's forecasts, but the broader risk remains that inflation may settle at a higher equilibrium.

The **RBA minutes** of their July meeting showed that the Bank still kept its options open for an August hike as it brought back the "*some further tightening of monetary policy may be required*" phrase. Indeed, after the June employment data, even the markets price a higher chance of an August hike (which has been the consensus). However, the case for pausing was "*the stronger one*" and tightening is "*still working its way through*." Finally, the policy stance was "*clearly restrictive at the prevailing cash rate*," so the attention now turns to next week's Q2 CPI data.

We expect the Q2 CPI to rise by 0.9% q/q or 6.1% y/y led by the usual suspects: housing and food. Our pick admittedly is below the consensus, and any upside surprise will push the terminal expectations higher. Finally, we expect retail sales to decline in June after rising 0.7% m/m in May. This data mix may still prompt the RBA to hike in August, but we expect that the chances of further hikes to diminish.

Week in Review (Jul 17 – Jul 21)

| Country | Release (Date, format) | Consensus | Actual | Last | Comments |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|--------|-----------|---|
| Monday, Jul 17 | | | | | |
| US | Empire Manufacturing (Jul) | -3.5 | 1.1 | 6.6 | Mixed. |
| JN | Tertiary Industry Index (May, m/m) | 0.4% | 1.2% | 0.9% (↓) | Still mixed exports outlook for this year. |
| Tuesday, Jul 18 | | | | | |
| US | Retail Sales Advance (Jun, m/m) | 0.5% | 0.2% | 0.5% (↑) | Aided by stronger motor vehicle sales. |
| US | Industrial Production (Jun, m/m) | 0.0% | -0.5% | -0.5% (↓) | Broad declines, largest in utilities. |
| US | Capacity Utilization (Jun) | 79.5% | 78.9% | 79.4% (↓) | Mining high, utilities low. |
| US | NAHB Housing Market Index (Jul) | 56.0 | 56.0 | 55.0 | Mixed details, pace of improvement slowing. |
| US | Business Inventories (May, m/m) | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.1% (↓) | Modest. |
| CA | CPI (Jun, y/y) | 3.0% | 2.8% | 3.4% | Slowing down. |
| CA | Housing Starts (Jun, thous) | 220.0 | 281.4 | 200.0 (↓) | Reversing downward trend? |
| CA | Industrial Product Price (Jun, m/m) | -0.2% | -0.6% | -0.6% (↑) | Ongoing easing. |
| CA | Raw Materials Price Index (Jun, m/m) | -0.4% | -1.5% | -5.0% (↓) | Ongoing easing. |
| Wednesday, Jul 19 | | | | | |
| US | Housing Starts (Jun, thous) | 1,480 | 1,434 | 1,559 (↓) | Pullback after prior month's surge. |
| US | Building Permits (Jun, thous) | 1,500 | 1,440 | 1,496 (↑) | Pullback after prior month's surge. |
| UK | CPI (Jun, y/y) | 8.2% | 7.9% | 8.7% | Welcome improvement. |
| EC | CPI (Jun, y/y, final) | 6.1% (p) | 5.5% | 6.1% | Disinflation intensifies. |
| AU | Employment Change (Jun, thous) | 15.0 | 32.6 | 75.9 | Resilience, but forward indicators show cooling. |
| AU | Unemployment Rate (Jun) | 3.6% | 3.5% | 3.6% | Resilience, but forward indicators show cooling. |
| AU | NAB Business Confidence (Q2) | na | -3 | -4 | The bottom is yet to be found. |
| Thursday, Jul 20 | | | | | |
| US | Initial Jobless Claims (Jun 15, thous) | 240 | 228 | 237 | Still low. |
| US | Continuing Claims (Jul 08, thous) | 1,722 | 1,754 | 1,721 (↓) | Still low. |
| US | Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook (Jul) | -10.0 | -13.5 | -13.7 | Mixed details. |
| US | Existing Home Sales (Jun, m/m) | -2.3% | -3.3% | 0.2% | Highly limited inventory in existing home market. |
| US | Leading Index (Jun, m/m) | -0.6% | -0.7% | -0.6% (↑) | Big declines continue. |
| UK | GfK Consumer Confidence (Jul) | -26.0 | -30.0 | -24.0 | Reserving the upward trend. |
| GE | PPI (Jun, y/y) | 0.0% | 0.1% | 1.0% | Bound to turn negative soon. |
| FR | Business Confidence (Jul) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | Slow erosion trend. |
| JN | National CPI (Jun, y/y) | 3.2% | 3.3% | 3.2% | Inflation is looking strong in Japan. |
| Friday, Jul 21 | | | | | |
| CA | Retail Sales (May, m/m) | 0.5% | 0.2% | 1.0% (↓) | Decelerating. |
| UK | Retail Sales Inc Auto Fuel (Jun, m/m) | 0.2% | 0.7% | 0.1% (↓) | Strong bounce-back in food stores. |

Source: for data, Bloomberg®; for commentary, SSGA Economics.

Week In Preview (Jul 24 – Jul 28)

| Country | Release (Date, format) | Consensus | Last | Comments |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|-------|---|
| Monday, Jul 24 | | | | |
| UK | Manufacturing PMI (Jul, prelim) | 46.0 | 46.5 | |
| UK | Services PMI (Jul, prelim) | 53.0 | 53.7 | |
| EC | Manufacturing PMI (Jul, prelim) | 43.4 | 43.4 | |
| EC | Composite PMI (Jul, prelim) | 49.5 | 49.9 | |
| EC | Services PMI (Jul, prelim) | 51.6 | 52.0 | |
| GE | Manufacturing PMI (Jul, prelim) | 41.0 | 40.6 | |
| GE | Services PMI (Jul, prelim) | 53.0 | 54.1 | |
| FR | Manufacturing PMI (Jul, prelim) | 45.9 | 46.0 | |
| JN | Manufacturing PMI (Jul, prelim) | na | 49.8 | Expecting a tick back above 50, trading water. |
| Tuesday, Jul 25 | | | | |
| US | FHFA House Price Index (May, m/m) | 0.6% | 0.7% | Prices supported by low inventory. |
| US | S&P CoreLogic CS 20-City (May, m/m) | 0.70% | 0.91% | |
| US | Conf. Board Consumer Confidence (Jul) | 112.0 | 109.7 | We are watching the labor differential. |
| GE | Ifo Business Climate (Jul) | 88.0 | 88.5 | |
| JN | PPI Services (Jun, y/y) | 1.5% | 1.6% | |
| AU | CPI (Q2, y/y) | 6.2% | 7.0% | Expecting a weaker print. |
| AU | CPI Trimmed Mean (Q2, y/y) | 6.0% | 6.6% | Expecting a downside surprise. |
| Wednesday, Jul 26 | | | | |
| US | New Home Sales (Jun, thous) | 722 | 763 | |
| US | FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound) | 5.50% | 5.25% | Another unnecessary hike... |
| FR | Consumer Confidence (Jul) | 86.0 | 85.0 | |
| JN | Leading Index CI (May, final) | 109.5 (p) | 108.1 | |
| Thursday, Jul 27 | | | | |
| US | Durable Goods Orders (Jun, m/m, prelim) | 1.4% | 1.8% | |
| US | GDP (Q2, q/q, saar, advance) | 1.8% | 2.0% | Another resilient print. |
| US | Initial Jobless Claims (Jul 22, thous) | 235 | 228 | |
| US | Continuing Claims (Jul 15, thous) | na | 1,754 | |
| US | Pending Home Sales (Jun, m/m) | 0.3% | -2.7% | |
| EC | ECB Main Refinancing Rate (Jul 27) | 4.25% | 4.00% | Tome should turn more cautious. |
| GE | GfK Consumer Confidence (Aug) | -24.0 | -25.4 | |
| IT | Consumer Confidence Index (Jul) | 107.0 | 108.6 | |
| IT | Manufacturing Confidence (Jul) | 100.0 | 100.3 | |
| JN | BoJ Policy Balance Rate (Jul 28) | -0.1% | -0.1% | Another live meeting where at least inflation will be revised up. |
| AU | Retail Sales (Jun, m/m) | 0.0% | 0.7% | Expecting a decline. |
| Friday, Jul 28 | | | | |
| US | Employment Cost index (Q2, q/q) | 1.1% | 1.2% | Important release. |
| US | Personal Income (Jun, m/m) | 0.5% | 0.4% | |
| US | Personal Spending (Jun, m/m) | 0.4% | 0.1% | |
| US | U. of Mich. Sentiment (Jul, final) | 72.6 (p) | 63.9 | |
| CA | GDP (May, m/m) | na | 0.0% | |
| UK | Nationwide House PX (Jul, m/m) | na | 0.1% | |
| GE | CPI (Jul, y/y, prelim) | 6.1% | 6.4% | |
| FR | GDP (Q2, q/q, prelim) | 0.2% | 0.2% | |
| FR | CPI (Jul, y/y, prelim) | 4.4% | 4.5% | |

Source: for data, Bloomberg®; for commentary, SSGA Economics.

Economic Indicators

Central Bank Policy Targets

| Region | Target | Year/Year % Change in Target | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| US | Target: PCE price index 2.0% y/y | 5.0 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 3.8 | |
| Canada | Target: CPI 2.0% y/y, 1.0%-3.0% control range | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 2.8 |
| UK | Target: CPI 2.0% y/y | 10.4 | 10.1 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 7.9 |
| Eurozone | Target: CPI below but close to 2.0% y/y | 8.5 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.1 | 5.5 |
| Japan | Target: CPI 2.0% y/y | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| Australia | Target Range: CPI 2.0%-3.0% y/y | 7.0 | 7.0 | | | |

Source: Macrobond

Key Interest Rates

| | Aug-22 | Sep-22 | Oct-22 | Nov-22 | Dec-22 | Jan-23 | Feb-23 | Mar-23 | Apr-23 | May-23 | Jun-23 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| US (top of target range) | 2.50 | 3.25 | 3.25 | 4.00 | 4.50 | 4.50 | 4.75 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.25 | 5.25 |
| Canada (Overnight Rate) | 2.50 | 3.25 | 3.75 | 3.75 | 4.25 | 4.50 | 4.50 | 4.50 | 4.50 | 4.50 | 4.75 |
| UK (Bank Rate) | 1.75 | 2.25 | 2.25 | 3.00 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 4.00 | 4.25 | 4.25 | 4.50 | 5.00 |
| Eurozone (Refi) | 0.50 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 2.00 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 3.00 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.75 | 4.00 |
| Japan (OCR) | -0.04 | -0.07 | -0.06 | -0.08 | -0.02 | -0.01 | -0.01 | -0.03 | -0.07 | -0.07 | -0.08 |
| Australia (OCR) | 1.81 | 2.25 | 2.58 | 2.84 | 3.05 | 3.10 | 3.29 | 3.54 | 3.60 | 3.83 | 4.05 |

Source: Macrobond

General Government Structural Balance as a % of Potential GDP

| | | | | | | | | | | Forecast | |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|----------|--|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | |
| US | -2.5 | -3.6 | -4.3 | -5.1 | -6.0 | -10.7 | -10.7 | -5.9 | -6.6 | -6.7 | |
| Canada | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.3 | 0.0 | -0.2 | -8.1 | -3.3 | -1.2 | -0.5 | -0.1 | |
| UK | -2.5 | -1.6 | -1.3 | -1.4 | -1.6 | 0.8 | -3.6 | -4.5 | -4.3 | -2.8 | |
| Eurozone | -0.5 | -0.5 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.5 | -4.0 | -3.8 | -2.8 | -3.1 | -2.5 | |
| Germany | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.3 | -2.9 | -3.0 | -2.6 | -3.2 | -1.4 | |
| France | -2.1 | -1.9 | -1.9 | -1.5 | -2.1 | -5.8 | -5.2 | -4.4 | -4.6 | -4.1 | |
| Italy | -0.4 | -1.0 | -1.5 | -1.6 | -0.9 | -6.1 | -6.7 | -2.4 | -2.0 | -3.0 | |
| Japan | -4.5 | -4.5 | -3.7 | -3.0 | -3.3 | -8.1 | -6.2 | -7.8 | -6.4 | -4.1 | |
| Australia | -2.5 | -2.2 | -1.5 | -1.1 | -4.0 | -7.9 | -6.1 | -3.5 | -3.3 | -2.9 | |

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook

Headline Consumer and Producer Price Inflation

| | CPI Year/Year % Change | | | | | PPI Year/Year % Change | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| US | 6.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 4.7 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| Canada | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 1.4 | -2.1 | -3.6 | -5.7 | -5.5 |
| UK | 10.4 | 10.1 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 7.9 | 11.7 | 8.4 | 5.1 | 2.7 | 0.1 |
| Eurozone | 8.5 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 12.7 | 5.6 | 0.9 | -1.6 | |
| Germany | 8.7 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 13.5 | 6.7 | 4.1 | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| France | 6.3 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.1 | 4.5 | 13.4 | 9.5 | 5.0 | 3.4 | |
| Italy | 9.1 | 7.6 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 6.4 | 9.6 | 3.7 | -1.5 | -4.3 | |
| Japan | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 8.3 | 7.4 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 4.1 |
| Australia | 7.0 | 7.0 | | | | 5.2 | 5.2 | | | |

Source: Macrobond

Economic Indicators

Real GDP Growth (Q/Q Seasonally Adjusted)

| | Quarter/Quarter % Change | | | | | Year/Year % Change | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q1-22 | Q2-22 | Q3-22 | Q4-22 | Q1-23 | Q1-22 | Q2-22 | Q3-22 | Q4-22 | Q1-23 |
| US | -0.4 | -0.1 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 3.7 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 1.8 |
| Canada | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 3.2 | 4.7 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| UK | 0.5 | 0.1 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 10.6 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| Eurozone | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.4 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 5.4 | 4.2 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 1.1 |
| Germany | 1.0 | -0.1 | 0.5 | -0.5 | -0.3 | 3.8 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 0.8 | -0.5 |
| France | -0.1 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 0.9 |
| Italy | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.4 | -0.1 | 0.6 | 6.5 | 5.0 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1.9 |
| Japan | -0.7 | 1.4 | -0.4 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 1.8 |
| Australia | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 6.0 | 2.6 | 2.3 |

Source: Macrobond

Industrial Production Index (M/M Seasonally Adjusted)

| | Month/Month % Change | | | | | Year/Year % Change | | | | |
|---------|----------------------|------|------|------|------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| US | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 | -0.5 | -0.5 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| Canada | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | | | 1.9 | 1.4 | 0.7 | | |
| UK | -0.1 | 0.8 | -0.2 | -0.6 | | -2.7 | -1.9 | -1.6 | -2.2 | |
| Germany | 1.7 | -2.1 | 0.3 | -0.2 | | 0.9 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 0.8 | |
| France | 1.5 | -0.9 | 0.8 | 1.2 | | 1.0 | 0.3 | 1.7 | 2.6 | |
| Italy | -0.1 | -0.7 | -2.0 | 1.6 | | -2.4 | -3.2 | -7.3 | -3.6 | |
| Japan | 3.7 | 0.3 | 0.7 | -2.2 | | -1.4 | -0.9 | 0.2 | 2.5 | |

Source: Macrobond

Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)

| | Aug-22 | Sep-22 | Oct-22 | Nov-22 | Dec-22 | Jan-23 | Feb-23 | Mar-23 | Apr-23 | May-23 | Jun-23 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| US | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| Canada | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.4 |
| UK | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.0 | | |
| Eurozone | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.7 |
| France | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | |
| Italy | 8.1 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.6 | |
| Japan | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.6 | |
| Australia | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.5 |

Source: Macrobond

Current Account Balance as a % of GDP (Seasonally Adjusted)

| | Q3-20 | Q4-20 | Q1-21 | Q2-21 | Q3-21 | Q4-21 | Q1-22 | Q2-22 | Q3-22 | Q4-22 | Q1-23 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| US | -3.1 | -3.3 | -3.1 | -3.5 | -3.9 | -3.8 | -4.6 | -3.9 | -3.5 | -3.3 | -3.3 |
| Canada | -2.4 | -1.4 | 0.0 | -0.4 | -0.6 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.7 | -1.4 | -1.2 | -0.9 |
| UK | -2.6 | -6.6 | -1.9 | -0.4 | -3.3 | -0.4 | -8.3 | -4.6 | -2.0 | -0.4 | -1.7 |
| Eurozone | 2.1 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 0.4 | -1.3 | -3.6 | 1.0 | |
| Germany | 7.3 | 8.4 | 8.9 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 6.7 | 5.5 | 3.9 | 2.7 | 4.8 | 5.8 |
| France | -2.1 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.4 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -1.7 | -3.1 | -2.8 | -1.3 |
| Japan | 4.3 | 3.7 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 4.0 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Australia | -1.5 | -2.5 | -2.8 | -3.5 | -2.2 | -2.7 | -2.2 | -1.4 | -0.2 | 1.2 | |

Source: Macrobond

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* Pensions & Investments Research Center, as of December 31, 2021.

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