

Central banks raise policy rates, market rates fall in response

The world's three leading central banks once again hiked their policy rates this week. While the moves were widely expected, recent data on economic activity and inflation clearly left financial markets feeling central banks could not sustain these policies over the long term. They therefore priced in steeper cuts in policy rates in the next few quarters, which meant longer term rates will actually be lower. However, there are major risks that could derail these scenarios.

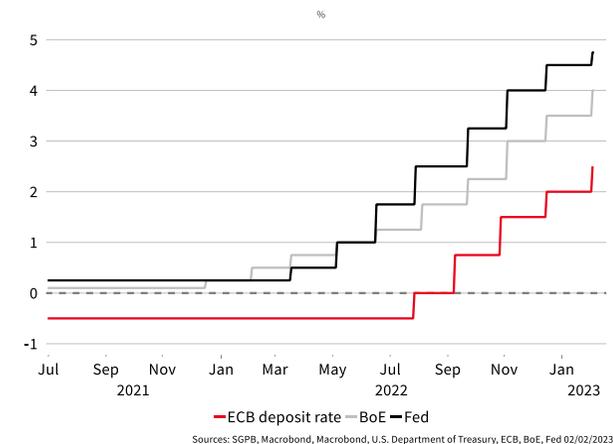
Rate tightening is nearing its end. The Federal Reserve raised its policy rate by a quarter point and could add another quarter point at its next meeting. Meanwhile, the European Central Bank and Bank of England hiked rates half a point and have already said they are planning a further half-point rise. So, central banks continue to tighten policy amid ongoing high global inflation. Financial markets are now discounting a looming end to policy tightening followed by a fairly quick easing.

Economy slowing and inflation heading for a fall. Financial markets have spotted that economic activity is continuing to lose steam early in the year or staying weak, shrinking visibly in some countries (United Kingdom) and sectors (service sectors and property markets). Past inflation and tighter monetary policy are still taking a toll on demand. At the same time, energy prices have fallen, which should help bring down inflation quickly on both shores of the Atlantic. In the United States, core inflation (stripping out food and energy prices) has started to dip, though it continues to rise on Europe. All of which has led markets to price in sharper cuts in bank rates over the next few quarters. They now expect the Fed to cut rates by 75 points before year-end, with the Bank of England and ECB following close behind.

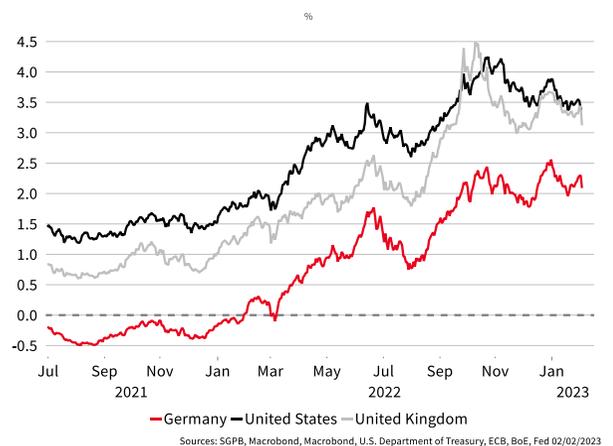
Still cautious. However, it seems too soon to call such a policy loosening. First, the economy could well hold up better than markets seem to expect. Healthy jobs markets, falling European energy prices and China reopening are all support factors for the world's economies. Also, while headline inflation looks set to come down, price pressures continue to ripple through the economy, notably via salaries, sustaining major underlying inflation pressures. Central banks will likely stick to their hawkish tone until sure that underlying inflation can be brought back to near target. And the decline in long yields seen in recent days, actually only an intensification of a trend apparent for weeks now, is only one more reason to remain vigilant. Lower yields could hamper the transmission of monetary policy to the real economy, raising the risk that past policy tightening will be less effective in curtailing inflation



Central banks continuing their tightening cycle



While long-term (10-year) interest rates that predict an end to the tightening



Past performance should not be seen as a guarantee of future returns.

All data taken from Bloomberg and Macrobond on the 03/02/2023, publication achievement date. In accordance with the applicable regulation, we inform the reader that this material is qualified as a marketing document.

OUR MACRO COMMENTS

Events of the week

 The ECB survey shows a clear tightening of credit conditions in Q4.2022 in the euro area. On the supply side, banks' loan acceptance criteria have been tightened, while on the demand side, households and businesses report a reduced appetite for credit. While part of the tightening can be explained by the more complicated economic context (slowdown in activity and inflation), it is above all a reflection of the ongoing tightening of monetary policy.

 The US labour market remains strong. Indeed, job creation in the non-farm sector largely exceeded expectations (517k vs. 185k), the unemployment rate improved slightly to 3.4% vs. 3.6% expected, and average hourly earnings rose slightly (4.4%). These figures argue for the Fed maintaining a restrictive bias.

Figures of the week

	Actual		Forecast	Previous
 • Core Inflation Rate (YoY, January)	5.2%	→	5.5%	5.2%
	8.5%	↓	8.7%	9.2%
	1.9%	↓	1.6%	2.3%
 • ISM Manufacturing PMI (January)	47.4	↓	48	48.4
	55	↑	50.6	49.6
	3.4 %	↓	3.6%	3.5%
 • BoE Interest Rate Decision	4%	↑	4%	3.5%
 • NBS Manufacturing PMI (January)	50.1	↑	48	48,4

Sources : Macrobond, 3 February 2023

The week ahead

Lundi

 Retail Sales (December)

Mercredi

 Balance of Trade (January)

 Balance of Trade (January)

Vendredi

 Inflation Rate (January)

 PPI and Inflation Rate (January)

 GDP Growth (December)

 Michigan Consumer Sentiment (February)

MARKET PERFORMANCES

Interbank rates	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
€STER O/N	1,90	1,90	1,40	1,91	-0,58
USD SOFR O/N	4,31	4,31	3,05	4,30	0,05
JPY TONAR O/N	-0,01	-0,01	-0,06	-0,02	-0,02
GBP SONIA O/N	3,43	3,43	2,19	3,43	0,20
CHF O/N	0,80	0,80	0,74	0,80	-0,71

Long term sov. rates	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
10Y OAT	2,77	2,60	2,67	2,98	0,45
10Y Bund	2,30	2,11	2,13	2,44	0,04
10Y BTP	4,17	3,96	4,28	4,55	1,42
10Y JGB	0,49	0,41	0,24	0,41	0,17
10Y Bonos	3,29	3,11	3,22	3,51	0,86
10Y Swiss	1,24	1,13	1,13	1,57	0,10
10Y Gilt	3,43	3,25	3,41	3,66	1,30
10Y USTnote	3,39	3,46	4,10	3,88	1,78

Credit & EM	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
EUR Corporate Aaa	3,04	2,90	3,18	3,12	0,59
EUR Corporate Baa	4,21	4,12	4,69	4,65	0,95
GBP Corporate Baa	4,23	4,16	4,44	4,59	1,83
USD Corporate Aaa	4,17	4,25	4,93	4,62	2,51
USD Corporate Baa	5,12	5,22	6,23	5,70	3,03
USD EM aggregate	6,96	7,00	8,47	7,52	4,69

Commodities	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
Brent, USD/BL	83,06	-3,6%	-13,0%	-3,4%	-7,0%
Or, USD/oz	1 950	0,2%	19,3%	6,8%	8,0%
Copper, USD/metric ton	9 200	-0,9%	20,2%	9,5%	-6,5%
Platinum, USD/oz	1 007	-4,0%	5,3%	-5,4%	-3,1%
Palladium, USD/oz	1 638	-5,3%	-13,9%	-8,4%	-31,1%
Silver, USD/oz	23,50	0,3%	18,8%	-1,9%	3,1%

FX rates	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
EUR/USD	1,09	0,1%	10,0%	2,0%	-3,8%
EUR/CHF	1,00	-0,5%	1,2%	1,2%	-3,9%
USD/GBP	0,81	0,3%	-7,0%	-2,3%	10,1%
USD/JPY	129,27	-0,2%	-12,1%	-1,2%	13,0%
USD/BRL	5,08	0,0%	-1,3%	-4,9%	-4,2%
USD/CNY	6,74	-0,6%	-7,5%	-2,3%	6,0%
USD/RUB	70,13	1,0%	13,1%	-3,9%	-8,1%

Equity indices	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
MSCI AC World (USD)	1 109	0,6%	10,4%	4,5%	-5,3%
Eurostoxx 50	4 171	0,6%	15,2%	8,2%	-1,2%
Dax 40	15 181	0,7%	14,5%	7,9%	-2,8%
CAC 40	7 077	0,5%	12,7%	7,3%	-0,5%
FTSE 100	7 761	0,2%	8,6%	4,2%	2,3%
SMI	11 201	-1,8%	3,7%	4,4%	-9,4%
SP500	4 119	2,6%	9,6%	7,3%	-10,2%
TOPIX	1 972	-0,4%	1,6%	4,3%	1,8%
iBovespa	112 074	-1,9%	-4,2%	5,4%	0,2%
Hang Seng	22 072	0,1%	39,5%	11,6%	-7,3%
Sensex 30	59 708	-0,8%	-2,0%	-2,4%	0,3%
CSI 300	4 196	0,3%	14,1%	8,4%	-8,1%

Source: Bloomberg, on 2 February 2023.

-1W = 1-week change, -3M = 3-month change, -12M = 12-month change, YTD = year-to-date change. Equities; total return in local currency. Government bonds = 10-year returns. Figures are rounded.

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