Q3 2023 GLOBAL CURRENCY & MACROECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

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MGI ECONOMICS



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





Economic Views

- The economy has been resilient in the face of tighter credit conditions following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB). Though we expect a continued moderation in US inflation next quarter, this resilience in activity should push the Fed to do a final hike in July
- An improvement in labour supply has helped the Fed bring the labour market closer to balance, despite lack of traction in reducing labour demand. But a realization from Fed that wages are only a small part of the inflation story should reduce their appetite to cause unemployment. Ultimately, this sets up the US economy for a soft landing
- However, a soft landing not only points to the Fed having little urgency to cut interest rates, but also for longer term interest rates to settle higher as the "neutral rate" is raised
- We expect service inflation in the euro area to peak over the quarter which points to the ECB reaching a terminal rate of 3.75%. We also see further hikes from the BoE (to 5.75%), RBA (to 4.6%) and BoC (5%) with the SNB and RBNZ on hold from here. We do not expect Japan to exit YCC until October
- Chinese growth should continue to slow, led by weaker real estate activity and exports. This should give rise to more policy rate cuts, though constrained by worries about capital outflows. We expect a property support package but broader fiscal stimulus to be constrained by leverage and strategic policy objectives

FX Views

- A soft landing brings conflicting dynamics for the dollar. On the negative side (dollar depreciation), lower inflation and resilient growth is supportive of risk assets, such as equities and commodities. But on the positive side, higher US rates erodes the interest rate convergence between the US and the rest of the world that is typically needed for broad dollar weakening
- Net-net, we stay neutral on the dollar, **DXY (0)** but generally have a pro-risk and carry bias:
- We most like G10 cyclical FX such as AUD (+) and CAD (+) which should be supported by wider risk assets and central banks that have recently done hawkish pivots
- We downgrade the European complex (GBP, EUR and CHF) to neutral (0) as hawkish central banks and the reversal of Europe's energy shock are now priced. We think fundamentals point to a weaker CHF but continue to see FX intervention from the SNB (in favour of currency strength).
- Our view of "higher for longer" leaves us continuing to favour carry strategies: negative the low yielding JPY (-) despite reaching levels of intervention and positive high yielding Emerging Markets with relatively good or improving fundamentals e.g. BRL (+)
- Finally, while we continue to expect weak growth in China accompanied by a dovish PBOC, we see China pessimism as somewhat priced (in equities, metals, credit) and our view that China stimulus is on the way leaves us neutral CNH (0)



Currency Outlook: July 2023

USD (0)

Soft landing good for risk assets (dollar negative) but resilient economy erodes the interest rate convergence between the US and the rest of the world (positive)

CAD (+)

Support from the commodity (and risk) axis as well as a renewed hawkish BoC

BRL (+)

A steady cutting cycle should only erode BRL's high carry and along with positive fiscal news should continue to support BRL

EUR (0)

Slower core disinflation keeps the ECB hawkish and the reversal of energy shock are both well priced. Additionally, interest rate differential with the Fed should not widen.

GBP (0)

Attractive yield though market pricing and (long) positioning suggests the currency is vulnerable to dovish surprise where the inflation outlook is uncertain

CHF* (0)

Inflation conscious SNB likely to prevent CHF from weakening in line with the reversal of terms of trade

JPY (-)

Suffers from a trifecta of hiking Fed, dovish BoJ and supportive risk backdrop

CNH (0)

Package to support property likely over the quarter, but monetary easing continues

AUD (+)

China stimulus, support for equities and hawkish risks to RBA to help "Aussie"

All views except CHF are vs USD *CHF is vs EUR Source: MGI Economics, 3 July 2023

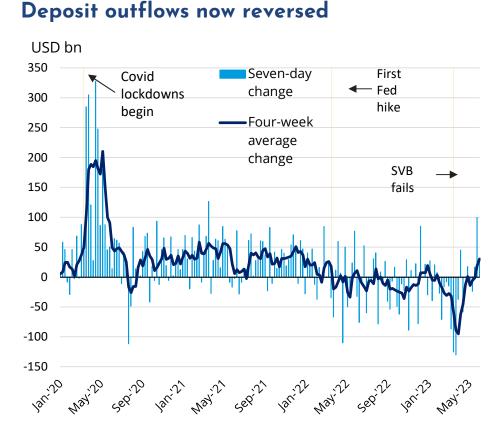


ECONOMIC OUTLOOK





US avoids potential shock from regional banking stress



Source: BAML Research, Fed Board, MGI Economics, 15 June 2023 ** SVB stands for Silicone Valley Bank

Little change in broader lending standards

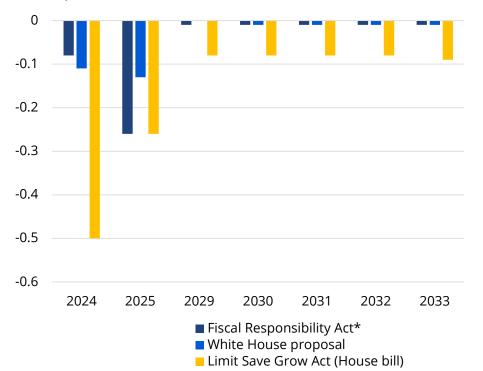


Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023



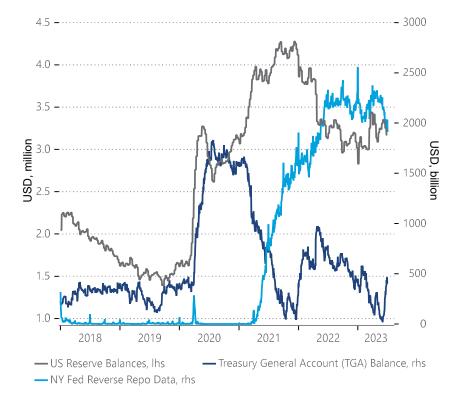
Debt ceiling deal also removes other large risk for economy

Fiscal restraint relatively small



% GDP, deviation from CBO baseline

TGA rebuild progressing without scarcity issues



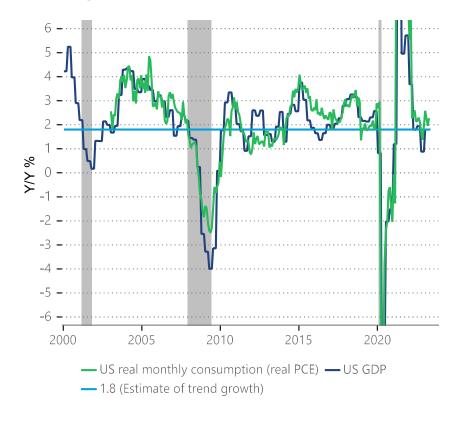
Source: Macrobond, Bloomberg, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

*With adjustments as done by GS Research. Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

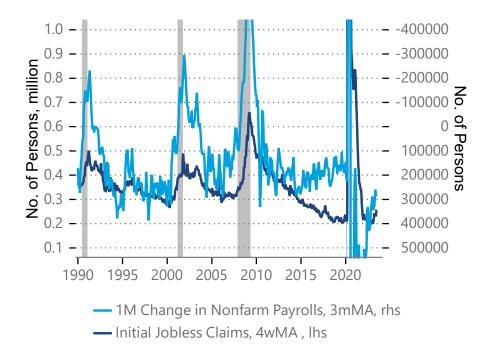


GDP growth close to trend

US economy surprisingly resilient in face of rate hikes



Hiring still running at 280K



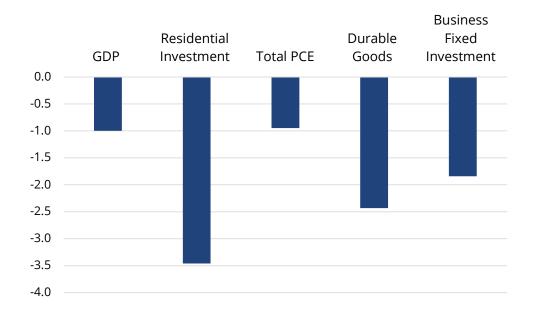
Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023



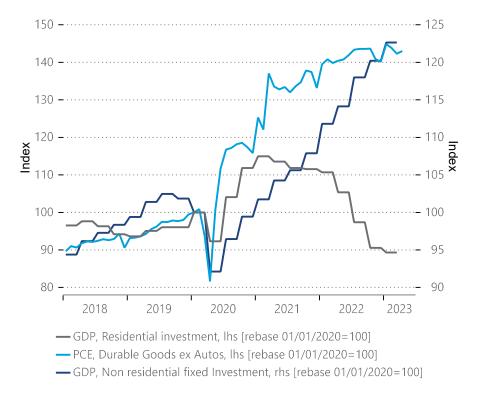
Transmission of hikes has been weaker than expected

Model estimates of higher interest rates



Impact of 100bps increase in Fed Funds, pp

Durables and capex seen smaller response



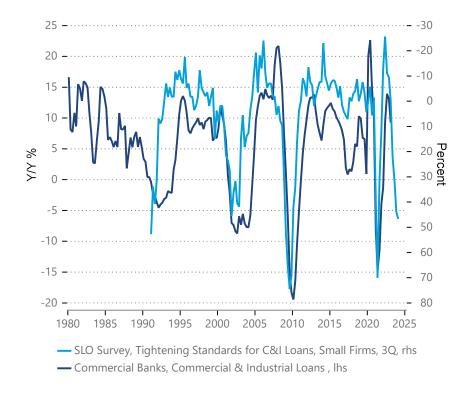
Source: FRB/ US Model, Goldman Sachs, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

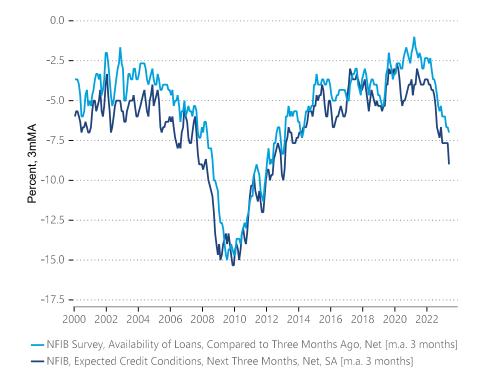


But lagged effects of tightening likely still coming through

Loan growth slowing



Surveys suggests credit conditions

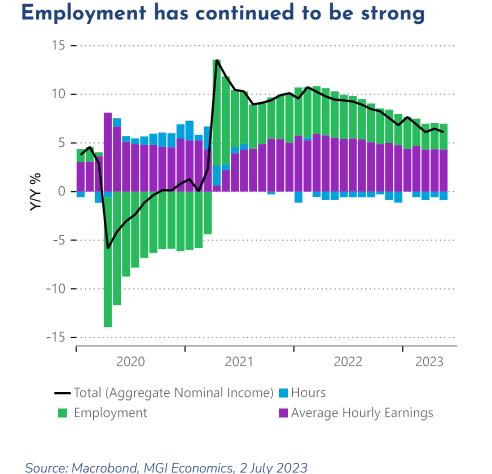


Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

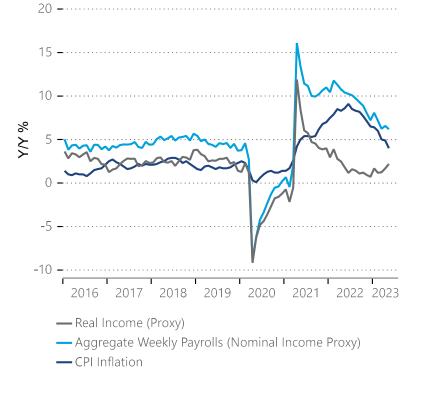
Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023



Income outlook points to consumer resilience



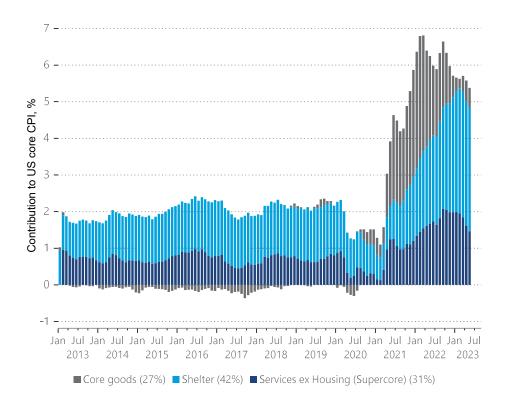
Keeping real income supported



Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023



US core inflation makes steady progress lower



Shelter now largest contributor to CPI inflation



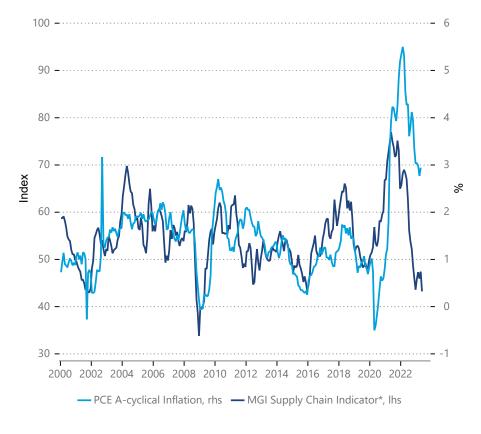
But really now running at pre-covid levels

Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023



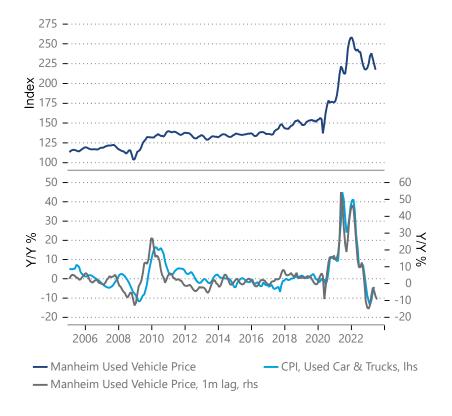
Further goods disinflation likely in the pipeline



Supply chains continue to improve



Used car inflation likely to slow



Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 15 June 2023



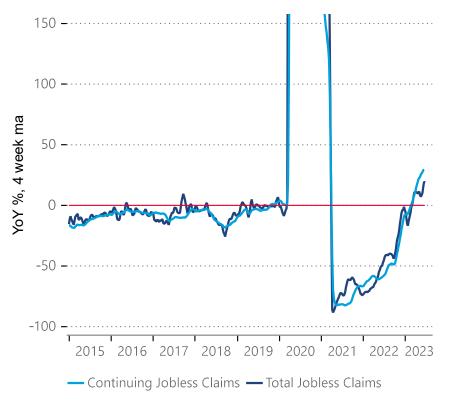
Labour market still too tight, but signs of rebalancing

22500 Thousands 17500 2500 7500 2500 2.00 - · · · · **Satio** 1.50 050 -0.00 2022 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020 - US Unemployed - US Job Openings - US Job Openings to Unemployed ratio

Still too many jobs for workers



Jobless claims creep higher







Labour supply recovery boost chances of soft landing





Helping wage growth to soften



Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023



Fed waking up to weak Phillips curve framework for "supercore"

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Phillips curve was weak last cycle



Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023



Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

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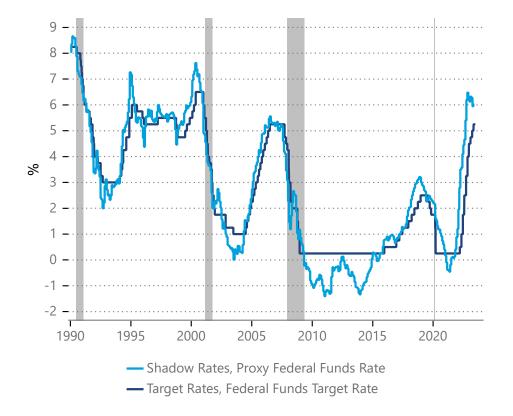
Surveys point to downside to supercore

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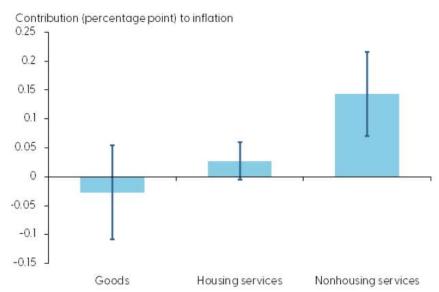
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SVB collapse gives Fed a smaller appetite to crush labour demand

SVB warns Fed consequences of overtightening



Fed's own work diminishes importance of wages



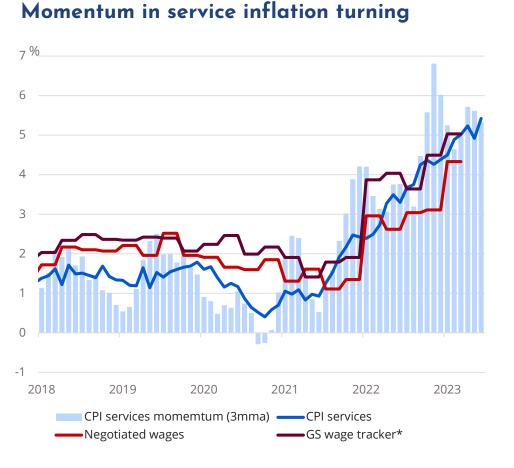
Four year cumulative impact of 1% increase in ECI

Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July2023

Source: San Francisco Fed. Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

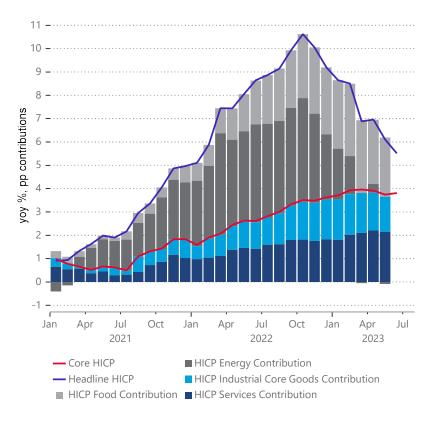


ECB likely reaching the end of its hiking cycle



*GS is Goldman Sachs. Source: Macrobond, ECB, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

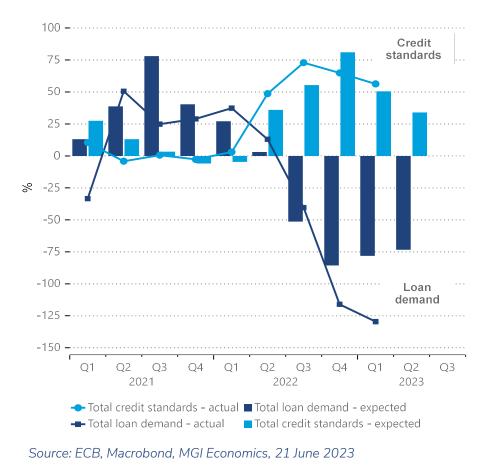




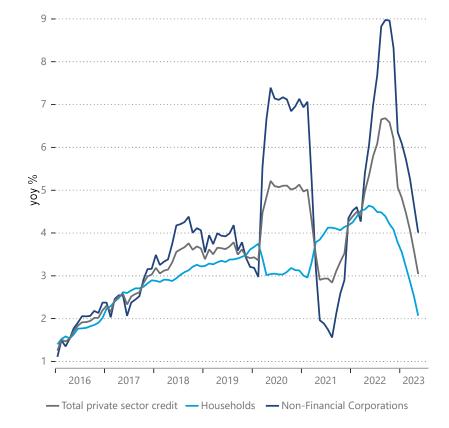
Source: Macrobond, ECB, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023



ECB policy transmission is under way



Bank Lending Survey shows significant tightening





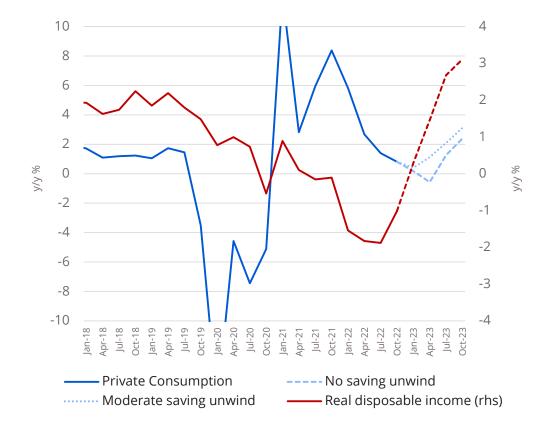


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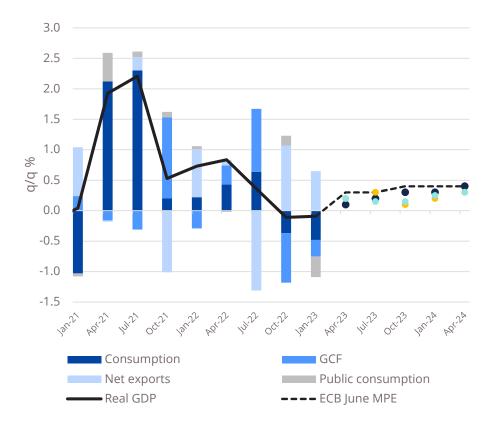
While credit growth continues to ease

Growth is set to improve but remain subdued

Consumption to rebound as real income improves



Driving GDP growth recovery

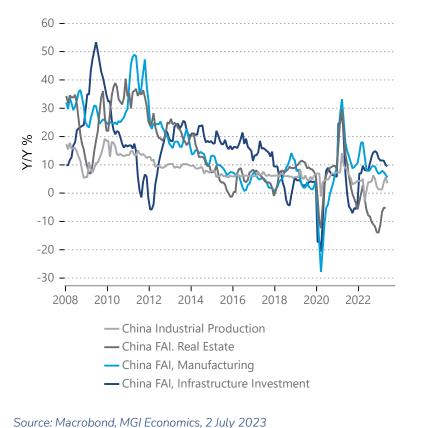


Source: Goldman Sachs, MGI Economics, 21 June 2023

Source: EC, UBS, GS, MS, MGI Economics, 21 June 2023 Note: Dots show different banks' forecasts, black: Goldman Sachs, orange: UBS, green: Morgan Stanley.



Reopening boost for China proves short-lived



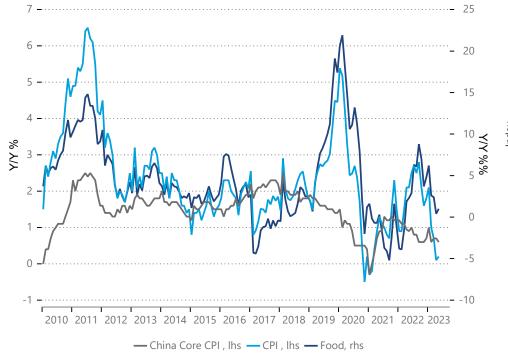
Private investment and industry remains weak



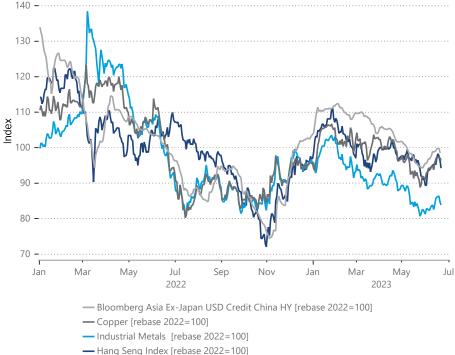




Policy support likely from here, though politically constrained



Little inflation constraint for monetary easing



Property package likely to stabilise China risk axis

Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

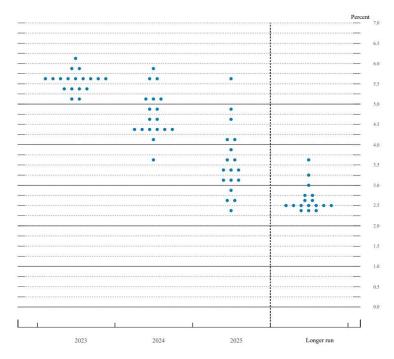
Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023



Soft landing points to higher "neutral rate" and no urgency to cut rates

Fed still assuming 2.5% neutral rate





Source: Federal Reserve, Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

Soft landing priced in US rates



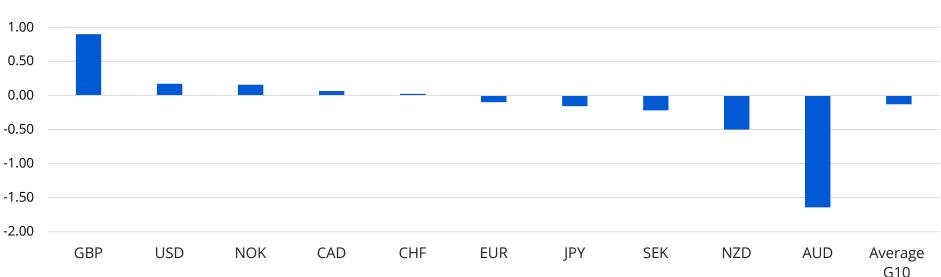




Taylor rule points to reasonable terminal rates in (most of) world

Market vs Taylor Rule, % 1.50 1.00

Fundamentals point to a bit more "catch up" and relative rate opportunities in the UK and Australia



Market priced terminal base rate vs Taylor Rule implied base rate

Source: Macrobond, Bloomberg, MGI Economics, 25 June 2023



CURRENCY VIEWS





DXY (0) Soft-landing is risk supportive

Combination of "surprise" is risk supportive



Equities being helped by soft landing



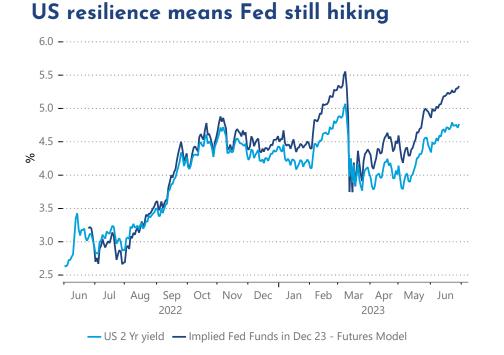
Source: MGI Economics, Macrobond, 22 June 2023

We continue to expect inflation to come down and growth to remain resilient. On the inflation side, this is in part, due to an improvement in the supply side of the economy and in part because wages have, in reality, only been a small part of the inflation problem in the US. Stepping back, ultimately a soft landing (the ability of the Fed to bring down inflation without generating higher unemployment) is supportive of risk asset. This therefore acts to weaken the dollar, particularly versus pro-risk currencies.

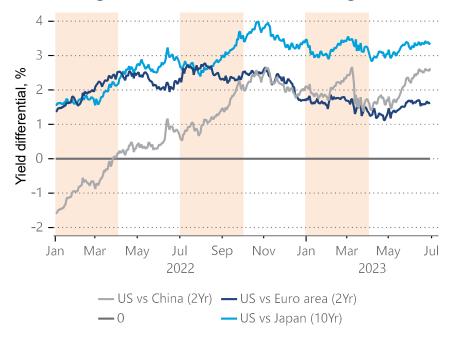


Source: MGI Economics. Macrobond. 22 June 2023

DXY (0) But US resilience means rate "convergence" over



Creating no relative rate convergence



Source: MGI Economics, Macrobond, 22 June 2023. Bands are calendar quarters

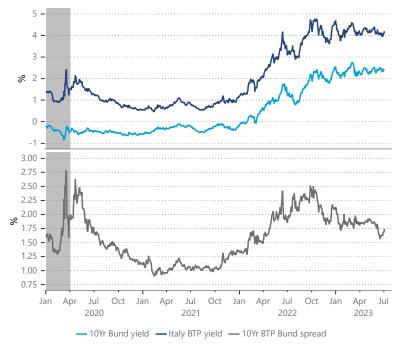
However, the consequence of economic resilience in the US economic is higher interest rates (slightly longer than expected interest rate hiking cycle, likely an extended time "on-hold" and a reassessment of the *neutral rate* higher). This points to continued upward pressure on US front end and 10-year rates. This damages interest rate convergence between the US and the "rest of the world" (Europe, Japan and China) typically needed to allow the dollar to depreciate. Net-net, we stay neutral on the dollar. We expect the dollar to appreciate versus low yielding currencies such as JPY and CNH, but depreciate versus higher yielding currencies in Emerging Markets (e.g. BRL) and the pro-risk commodity axis in G10. We see a risk of EUR breaking to the top-side of the year-to-date range but the reversal of Europe's energy shock and a hawkish ECB are now well priced.



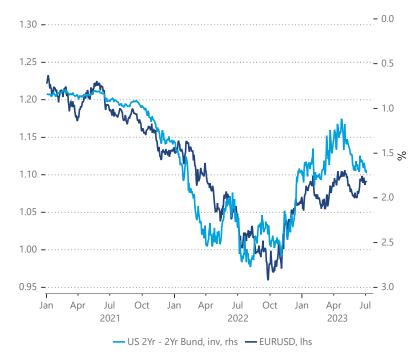
Source: MGI Economics. Macrobond. 22 June 2023

EUR (0) Euro specific drivers diminishing

BTP-Bund spreads remain well behaved



EUR vs 2 year US-Europe yield differential



Source: Bloomberg, Macrobond, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

The risk backdrop remains reasonably supportive of the euro: BTP-Bund spreads continues to be well behaved despite the ECB hiking cycle (partly helped by the enthusiasm of retail investors). But euro specific support is diminishing. The terms of trade support is unlikely to get any better from here via lower natural gas prices and hawkish "catch-up" from the ECB is now priced in the bond market. On the latter, we agree with bond investors that the ECB is close to the end of its hiking cycle as the services now shows signs of cooling. This tilts the balance of risks towards of interest rate differentials towards the dollar, both in terms of direction and level. Overall, this leaves us neutral the euro versus the US dollar and likely to underperform other higher yielding pro-cyclical currencies in G10.

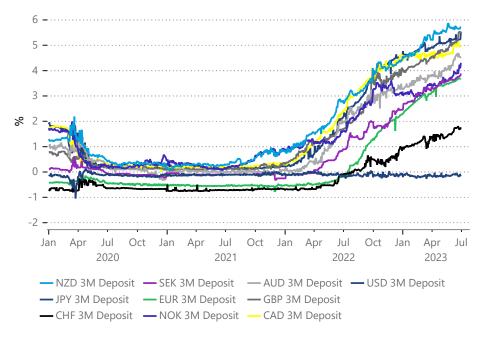


Source: Bloomberg, MGI Economics, 2 July 2023

JPY (-) Little hope of yield convergence

Yen standing out as low yielder

Source: MGI Economics, Macrobond, 2 July 2023



US housing suggests tightening shock absorbed

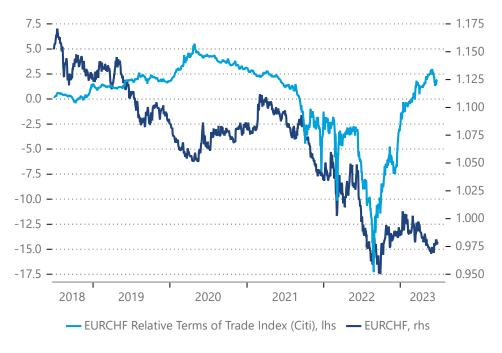


Source: MGI Economics, Macrobond, 2 July 2023

The catalyst to unleash the value of the yen is a convergence in interest rates. This can be either from the US side (Fed cuts rates) or the BoJ engages on a hiking cycle. On the US rates side, while the Fed are likely to end its hiking cycle soon, we do not see interest rates cuts this year. Meanwhile, although inflation dynamics continue to move in the "right direction" for the Bank of Japan, recent communication implies a continued concern around premature tightening. At this stage, an exit in yield curve control would unlikely be accompanied by an appetite to raise interest rates and therefore continue to leave the yen as the lowest yielder in the G10. Intervention is now a buying opportunity.

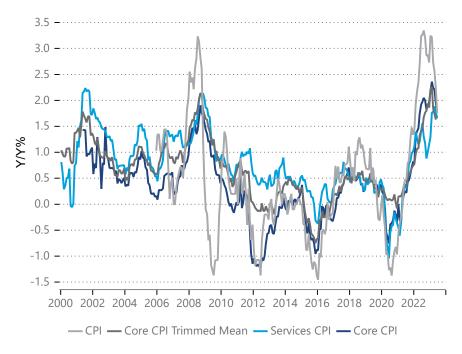


CHF (0) Likely to weaken but needs a nod from the SNB



EURCHF vs Relative terms of trade

Swiss inflation close to target



Source: MGI Economics, Macrobond, 22 June 2023



The swiss franc strengthened significantly last year as higher European natural gas prices weighed on European risk and caused a "terms of trade shock" that hurt the Euro area more than Switzerland. But natural gas prices have since fallen significantly and the swiss franc continues to be strong: both relative to history and versus fair value (1.20). The culprit has been the Swiss National Bank (SNB) who has been averse to currency weakness in an environment of "high" inflation. Inflation dynamics suggests this should be coming to an end soon and though the SNB has signaled keeping up its rate hikes with the ECB in September, the swiss franc will stay a "low yielder" in a wider market environment that is generally supportive of risk. This leaves the swiss franc vulnerable to depreciating on the SNB's signal. We stay neutral for now.



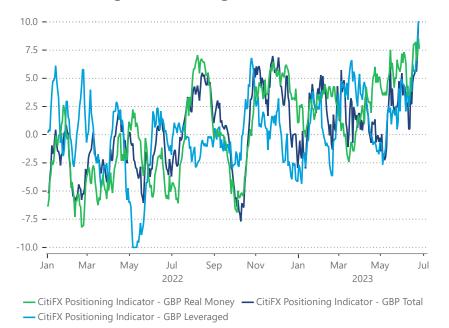
GBP (0) Attractive yield though vulnerable to dovish surprise

GBP been helped by rate differentials



Source: MGI Economics, Macrobond, 04 July 2023

Positioning "max long" on some measures



Source: MGI Economics, Macrobond, 22 June 2023

Our view that the US is on track for a soft landing is generally supportive of pro-risk currencies including sterling. On the domestic front, inflation persistence has been met with a hawkish pivot from the Bank of England, reducing the chance of a (currency negative) genuine inflation problem. While this is likely to come at the expense of growth – as shown by curve flattening – this keeps sterling as a high yielder in G10 FX and on net, we see this as being currency supportive. However, the bar to surprise on the hawkish side is a high one (Bank rate above 6.1%). This leaves the currency vulnerable to a dovish surprise particularly in the context where inflation persistence is extremely difficult to forecast (via margins) and market positioning in long sterling flashes as crowded.



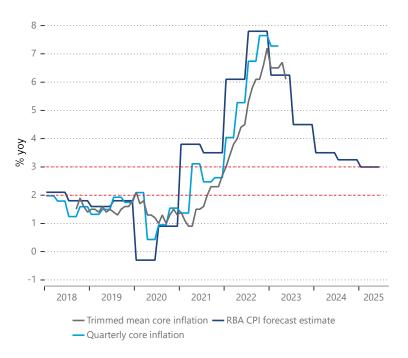
AUD (+) Equity, China and RBA support



"Aussie" broadly a view on equity risk



Risks to inflation more skewed to the upside



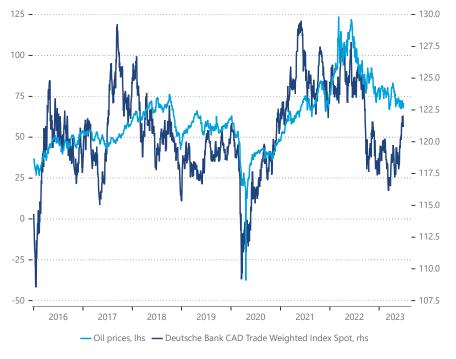
Source: Macrobond, RBA, MGI Economics, 28 June 2023

The Australian dollar is likely to benefit from a supportive equity risk environment, in line with our top down views of receding recession risks. Additionally, we expect a China property package to be announced in Q3 which should also be supportive. Meanwhile in Australia, inflationary pressures remain elevated and above the central banks' forecast. The strength in services inflation together with recent strong wage growth agreements and a tight labour market continue to support the case for further rate hikes. We expect the RBA to remain hawkish and keep hiking during the third quarter.



CURRENCY VIEWS

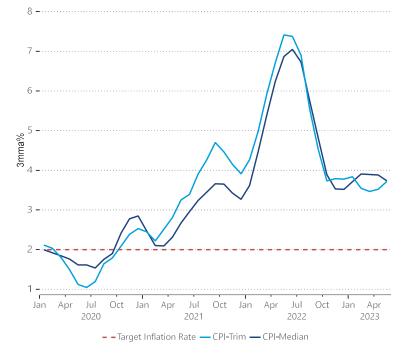
CAD (+) Helped by commodities and renewed hiking cycle



Oil prices should be supportive of CAD

Source: MGI Economics, Macrobond, Citigroup, 27 June 2023

Stalling disinflation reignites hawkishness





The global environment should be supportive through favourable risk environment and oil prices that are unlike to dip further. Additionally, recent strength was reignited by the Bank of Canada (BoC) resuming its hiking cycle. Despite aggressive rate hikes, GDP growth was better than expected in the first quarter, supported by strong households' consumption. Additionally, the labour market remains unbalanced leading to sustained strong wage growth inconsistent with the inflation target. While inflation has peaked, core measures show increased persistency in the service sector risking a prolonged overshoot of inflation above the BoC's mid-target. Consequently, we see more rate hikes this quarter if the data continues to beat the BoC's projections.



CNH (0) Property support to halt depreciation



CNH has weakened as Chinese growth falters

Inventory cycle likely to turn





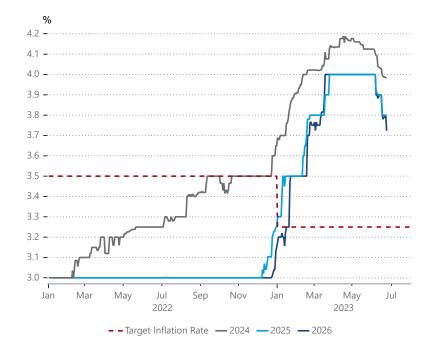
It has become clear that issues in the property sector are structural and require a policy response to raise confidence and help developer financing. Monetary easing puts the Chinese rate cycle at odds with developed markets and though we expect weak growth to continue, this is now somewhat priced into asset markets. Currency weakness is the preference in this stage of the economic cycle but we expect the PBoC to lean against this fearing instability via capital outflows. Moreover, we expect a property support package to be announced over the third quarter after a nod from the Politburo. Combined with a turning inventory cycle, this should help support both growth expectations and portfolio inflows. Our longer-term view is still relatively bearish as China's strategic objectives point to little chance of a genuine U-turn on property.



Source: MGI Economics. Macrobond. 22 June 2023

BRL (+) Carry trade continues

Improved outlook opens the door to rate cuts





But real rates remain supportive amid disinflation



Source: Focus Survey, MGI Economics, 27 June 2023

Fiscal uncertainty has eased significantly with the adoption of the new fiscal framework, which helped bringing inflation expectations down. This sets up the BCB to start cutting its interest rate at the end of the third quarter. While carry will be eroded, a parsimonious cutting cycle from the central point points to bond inflows and real rates of the currency that are still very attractive in an environment where the probability of a carry unwind seems to have fallen.



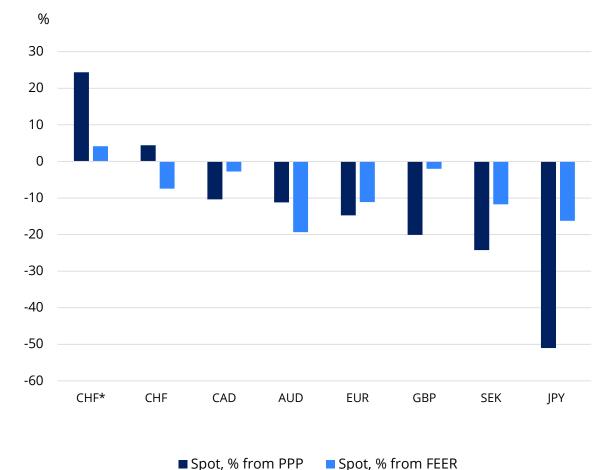
FX VALUATION MEASURES





Valuation opportunity

G10 Valuation measures



Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)

One of the pillars of long run modelling for exchange rates. The main idea is that the price of similar goods in home and foreign countries should be the same, in order to have the respective currencies in equilibrium. Otherwise, a demand switch from the expensive goods to the cheaper goods, will follow. Based on the Law of One Price (LOP), this demand change will last until the demand and supply equalize the prices.

Fundamental Equilibrium Exchange Rate (FEER)

The equilibrium exchange rate that achieves both the internal and external balance. The internal balance is reached when the economy is at full employment and low inflation, while the external balance is reached when a country spends and invests abroad no more than the other countries spend and invest in it.

*is vs EUR. Otherwise vs. USD. Source: Macrobond, MGI Economics (PPP), GS Research. Data as of 30 June 2023



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