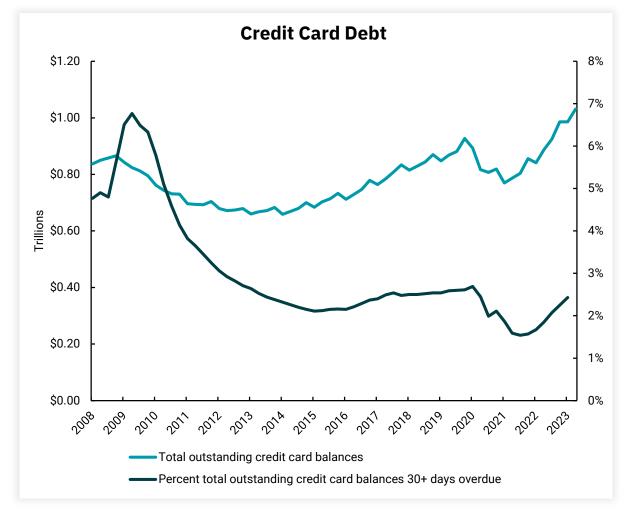
## INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

## Weekly market update

Chart of the week (Aug. 11, 2023)





Recent financial headlines have reported that credit card balances, for the first time ever, have crossed the \$1 trillion dollar mark. Economic data such as this can provide insight into the health of the consumer—and the broader economy, as close to 70% of domestic GDP is driven by consumer spending.

Our chart this week shows this fact, yet in many articles the insinuation is this is a sign of consumer stress and a harbinger of an impending economic slowdown. It is true that credit card debt has been accelerating quickly, after a period of declines driven by significant fiscal stimulus during the pandemic. We also know interest rates on credit cards have risen materially as the Fed has tightened monetary policy in response to higher inflation. Average credit card rates now exceed 20%, so this is not a low-cost source of credit. Meanwhile, other debts, like car loans and mortgages, have also increased, and the majority of student loan repayment moratoriums are scheduled to end soon.

However, it makes some sense that credit card debt is at new records as our overall economy, as measured by GDP, is at record levels too. It might be "better" if all of our growth occurred without additional debt, but more realistically, additional debt is part of the economic growth equation. So the absolute level of credit card debt might be a misleading data point on a standalone basis.

There have also been reports of increasing delinquencies on credit card accounts, meaning accounts where repayment is 30 days+ past due. Again, our chart shows this is true, while a longer term view also reveals delinquencies are coming off very low levels and are still far below the levels we saw during the Financial Crisis in 2008-2009.

As with many statistics and data points, the headline might not reveal the whole story. We can agree the increase in the use of credit cards indicates a shift in how consumers are maintaining their current spending levels. We can also agree the use of credit cards at today's interest rates means higher debt service costs for borrowers. But the impact on future consumer spending and growth will be materially impacted by the health of the labor market. As inflation falls, real wages are increasing and consumers with jobs are more able to maintain spending. The more important variable will be if the economy slows and unemployment rises. Then deteriorating credit will be a result, but not the cause.

### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT**

# Weekly market update



**Commentary** (Aug. 11, 2023)

## **Domestic Equities**

- U.S. stocks were down for the second week in a row. The tech-heavy Nasdaq is down over 4% since last month's end, though it is still up over 30% for the year.
- The higher-than-expected increase in PPI reignited inflation fears this week.
   Then the University of Michigan survey showed that consumer confidence continues to rise, and consumers expect inflation to decline going forward.
- Disney reported earnings this week with increased revenue thanks to its team park business, but continued losses in its online streaming business.
   The company announced plans to increase prices for ad-free services and crack down on password sharing, similar to Netflix.

### **Bonds**

- U.S. Treasury yields moved higher for week with inflation data showing only a
  modest rise in July. Across the Treasury market, the belly of the curve
  experienced the biggest jump in yields, closing the week just below the 2023
  highs.
- The broad U.S. investment grade market as measured by the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index was marginally lower for the week, with weakness coming from both higher rates and widening credit spreads.
- In international markets, China announced that it will allow provincial-level governments to raise ~1 tn yuan (\$139 bn) through bond sales to repay the debt of local- government financing vehicles and other off-balance sheet issuers. This follows news this week that China's exports fell by the most since the beginning of Covid and that new yuan loan issuance last month came in at its lowest level since November 2009.

## **International Equities**

- Global investors endured a volatile week as they worked to digest new global economic data while fixating on the U.S. CPI data to gauge the future path of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy decisions.
- Foreign developed markets struggled to find direction this week with
  pockets of strength across some markets in Europe, but offset by weakness
  in the Asia-Pacific region. Britain's economy grew 0.2%, which exceeded
  expectations and surprised U.K. investors. However, this result suggests that
  the Bank of England might need to continue its hawkish monetary policy.
- Emerging markets fell for the second straight week as most major markets throughout Asia and Latin America declined. Chinese stocks faced continued headwinds as the country's import and export numbers were weaker than expected, fueling concerns that the recovery in the world's second-largest economy has stalled.

## **Economics**

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) was 0.2% in July and 3.2% over the prior 12-months, the lowest 12-month increase since the period ending March 2021. The index for shelter was the largest contributor to the increase. Core CPI (excludes food and energy) was 0.2% in July and 4.7% over the prior 12-months.
- The BLS also reported the Producer Price Index for final demand was 0.3% in July, up from June's flat reading, and 0.8% over the prior 12-months.
- The Federal Reserve reported consumer credit usage increased 4.3% in June at a seasonally adjusted annual rate.
- Initial claims for unemployment insurance totaled 248,000 for the week ending August 5th, an increase of 21,000 from the prior week.
- Retail sales and import/export prices will be released on Tuesday.



#### **Weekly Market Update**

#### For Week Ending August 11, 2023

Markets					Equi	ity Sty	le							Economic Data		
Change From Change From Change From																
	Last Price	Prior Week	Year End	Year Ago	520	7	S&P 500								Last Release	Year Ago
Capital Markets	05.004.40	0.70/	7.00/	0.40/	470	00 -								Inflation	0.00/	0.50/
Dow Jones Industrial Avg	35,281.40	0.7%	7.8%	8.1%	470	,0						~~	m	CPI Headline Inflation	3.2%	8.5%
S&P 500 Index	4,464.05	-0.3%	17.4%	7.9%	420	00 🔨	My way was a way was a said							CPI Core Inflation	4.7%	5.9%
NASDAQ	13,644.85	-1.9%	31.0%	7.7%		1								Personal Consumption Exp (PCE) Core	4.1%	5.0%
S&P 400 Midcap Index	2,660.55	-0.8%	10.6%	5.1%	370	00 -	W T									
S&P 600 Smallcap Index	1,243.65	-1.2%	8.6%	0.1%										Jobs		
MSCI EAFE	7,356.88	-0.6%	11.7%	11.2%	320	00 -								Unemployment Rate (U3)	3.5%	3.5%
MSCI Emerging Markets	516.65	-1.9%	6.3%	1.2%	270									Broader Unemployment Rate (U6)	6.7%	6.8%
Bloomberg US Agg	2,061.86	-0.6%	0.6%	-3.6%	2/0	70 7								JOLT Survey (in millions)	9.58	10.96
Bloomberg Municipal 5 Yr	473.39	0.3%	1.0%	-0.5%	220	00								Jobless Claims (000's)	248	214
Bloomberg US Corporate	3.022.16	-0.7%	1.8%	-2.1%		Aug-22	Oct-2	2 Dec-2	2 Feb-23	. Д	pr-23	Jun-23	Aug-23	Change in Non-Farm Payroll (000's)	187	568
Bloomberg Glb Agg ex US Hdg	538.82	0.0%	3.3%	-1.1%		Aug-22	001-2	2 000-2	.2 165-25	, ,	ιρι-20	Jui1-25	Aug-25	Average Hourly Earnings (Y/Y % Change)	4.4%	5.4%
Bloomberg High Yield	2,329.52	0.3%	6.6%	2.6%										/Werage Flourly Earnings (1/1 // Orlange)	4.470	0,0
MSCI US REIT Index	2,014.75	0.3%	5.2%	-10.0%			1 Month	*	Year to Date*				te*	Consumer & Spending		
Bloomberg Commodity Index	237.38	-0.2%	-3.5%	-10.6%		Value	Core	Growth			Value	Core	Growth	Consumer Confidence (Conf Board)	117.0	95.3
Bloomberg Commodity maex	231.30	-0.2%	-3.3%	-10.0%	l .	value	Core	Glowin			value	Cole	Growin		117.0	17.437
					8	0.50	0.07	0.70		ge.	40.54	47.40	00.00	Consumer Spending (\$ Bil)		
7/ 5/	Last Price/Yield	Prior Week	Year End	Year Ago	Large	0.56	0.67	0.76	> 10%	ä	13.54	17.42	20.98	Consumer Credit (\$ Bil)	4,997	4,726
Key Rates					1 - 1					_				Retail Sales (\$ Bil)	689	679
Fed Funds Target	5.50%	5.50%	4.50%	2.50%						73						
3-Month Treasury	5.42%	5.40%	4.34%	2.51%	Mid	1.70	-0.08	0.20	0% - 10%	Μ̈́	8.72	10.57	12.25	Housing		
1-Year Treasury	5.34%	5.29%	4.69%	3.23%	-					_				Housing Starts (000's)	1,434	1,561
2-Year Treasury	4.89%	4.76%	4.43%	3.22%	I = I					=				Case-Shiller Home Price Index	305.15	306.55
5-Year Treasury	4.30%	4.13%	4.00%	2.99%	Small	1.70	1.48	1.24	<0%	Small	8.20	8.56	8.83			
7-Year Treasury	4.25%	4.09%	3.97%	2.95%	Ñ					Ō				U.S. Productivity		
10-Year Treasury	4.15%	4.03%	3.87%	2.89%	-	S&P Indice	98		_					Real Gross Domestic Product (\$ Bil)	20,404	19,895
30-Year Treasury	4.26%	4.20%	3.96%	3.17%										Quarter over Quarter Change	2.4%	-0.6%
	4.2070	4.2070	0.0070	0.11 /0	Fixe	d Inco	me Style							Year Over Year Change	2.6%	1.8%
Consumer Rates							,							ISM Manufacturing	46.40	52.70
30-Year Mortgage	7.53%	7.38%	6.66%	5.83%	6.09	% 7			Yield Curve	•				Capacity Utilization	78.90	80.47
Prime Rate	9.25%	9.25%	8.25%	6.25%			_							Markit US Composite PMI		
SOFR	5.30%	5.30%	4.77%	2.28%	5.09	% -								Markit 03 Composite Fivil	52.00	47.70
SUFR	5.30%	5.30%	4.77%	2.28%									_	11.0.0		
					4.09	% -								U.S. General		
Commodities														Leading Economic Indicators	106.1	115.1
Gold	1,913.76	1,942.91	1,824.02	1,789.72	3.09	% -								Trade Weighted Dollar Index	119.3	121.8
Crude Oil (WTI)	83.19	82.82	80.26	84.92										EUR / USD	1.09	1.03
Gasoline	3.85	3.83	3.21	3.98	2.09	% -	Current							JPY / USD	144.96	133.02
Natural Gas	2.77	2.58	4.48	5.17		.			4	1 Year Ago				CAD / USD	0.74	0.78
Copper	3.72	3.87	3.81	3.72	1.09	% -			—1	rear	Ago			AUD / USD	0.65	0.71
						,,,										
					0.09	<sub>%</sub>										
	P/E	P/E	Price to	Current Div	0.0		3 Mo	2 Yr	5 Yr	7 Y	r 1	0 Yr	30 Yr	S&P 500 Sector Returns		
	Forward	Trailing	Book	Yield		,	J IVIO	2 11	5 11	, ,		0 11	30 11		1 Month	YTD
Index Characteristics							1 Month	*			Y	ear to Da	te*	Communication Services	4.29%	42.08%
Dow Jones Industrial Avg	19.18	20.40	4.58	2.01		Short		Long			Short	Interm.	Long	Information Technology	-3.25%	36.39%
S&P 500	20.35	20.38	4.26	1.56		Onon		20119					20119			
S&P 500 Value	17.94	18.28	2.85	1.96	Govt	0.35	0.02	-3.48	> 10%	Govt	1.42	0.84	-2.51	Consumer Discretionary	0.03%	33.95%
	22.98	22.65	7.40	1.96	Ь	0.33	0.02	-3.46	> 10%	တိ	1.42	0.64	-2.51	Industrials	-0.08%	11.80%
S&P 500 Growth														Materials	0.88%	7.53%
NASDAQ	28.99	34.56	5.38	0.83	ا ۾	0.40	0.00	4.00		٥	0.00	0.40	4.00	Energy	7.85%	4.23%
S&P Midcap 400	15.76	14.50	2.28	1.94	Corp	0.40	-0.26	-1.96	0% - 10%	Corp	2.08	2.19	1.02	Financials	2.32%	3.06%
S&P Smallcap 600	16.23	13.85	1.77	1.64	ا ک ا									Real Estate	-2.52%	2.94%
MSCI EAFE	13.32	13.23	1.74	3.37	1.1	_								Consumer Staples	1.92%	2.30%
MSCI Emerging Markets	13.47	12.73	1.56	2.93		1.23	1.22	0.85	<0%	₹	6.81	6.59	5.77	Health Care	4.29%	0.63%
					-					_				Utilities	-2.03%	-6.96%
Source: Bloomberg						Bloomberg	Indices.		_						,	

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