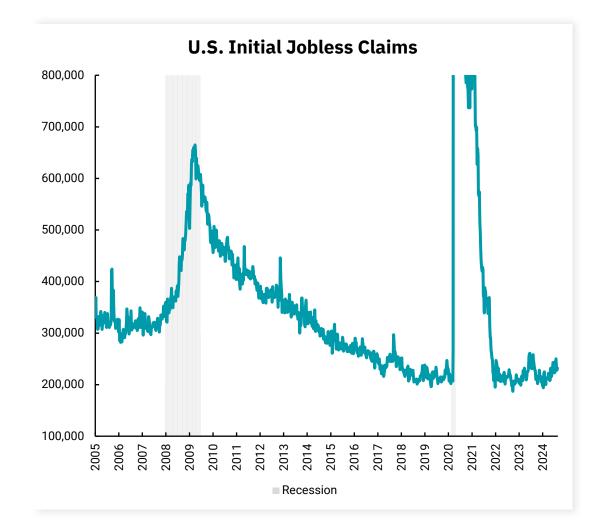
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Weekly market update

Chart of the week (Aug. 23, 2024)





As the Federal Reserve considers the future path of interest rates, the labor market will loom large in the discussion. Of course, full employment is one of their two mandates, with price stability being the other. In some ways, the labor market cuts across both mandates as an economy with a healthy labor market is a growing economy. However, at the same time, an economy with a hot labor market is probably dealing with increasing price pressures, as wages play a key role in longer-term inflation expectations.

The weekly jobless claims report is the timeliest measure of the labor market's health. Although there is the risk of week-to-week variability from issues like strikes or even weather, such a frequent view can reveal trends as they develop, giving us clues about what to expect in the all-important monthly labor report from the Department of Labor (DOL).

Much as in the DOL report, our periods of risk are when the weekly jobless claims begin to trend higher, slowly at first but then at an accelerating rate. This is the environment in which we may find ourselves now. Looking at the right side of this week's chart, we can see that the trend of initial jobless claims is moving higher. This is occurring as the headline unemployment rate is increasing to 4.3%, according to the DOL labor report. Yet we can also see that weekly jobless claims increased last year but then receded as economic growth improved in the third and fourth quarters of 2023. And so, we would not want to sound alarm bells just yet.

This data all will put Fed Chair Powell's recent comments at the Jackson Hole Wyoming Economic Conference under the microscope, as it appears that the Fed is setting the table for a September rate cut. This move is understandable, as inflation is declining (although not at the Fed's 2% target) and the labor market is becoming more balanced as open jobs decline and quit rates subside. Altogether, this should provide the level of confidence that the Fed needs to begin recalibrating policy.

Thankfully, economic growth, in aggregate, remains positive. However, there are enough signs of consumer stress and labor market changes to give the Fed room to lower rates.

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Weekly market update

Commentary (Aug. 23, 2024)



Domestic Equities

- U.S. stocks were about flat for the week until Friday morning, when Fed Chair Powell's remarks at Jackson Hole sparked a rally. His message could not have been clearer: "The time has come" for rate cuts. Powell noted that he has increasing confidence that inflation is returning to target levels and that he is now more concerned about supporting employment.
- All U.S. equities rallied on Friday. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index outpaced the S&P 500 Index for the day, and the Russell 2000 Index jumped over 3%.
- A few positive earnings reports out on Friday also helped boost sentiment. Cloud software provider Workday unveiled a strong long-term outlook, and Ross Stores (a lower-end retailer) and CAVA restaurants showed strongerthan-expected revenue growth and profits.

Bonds

- U.S. Treasury yields were lower for the week on estimates that jobs data will be revised lower for the preceding 12 months and confirmation from Fed Chair Powell that "the time has come for policy adjustment," setting the stage for lower rates in September.
- Spreads on agency mortgage-backed securities made a new low for the year, with the option-adjusted spread on the Bloomberg U.S. MBS Index finishing the week just shy of 0.40%.
- As per ICI, money market fund assets reached a new high at \$6.24 trillion after receiving over \$100 billion in net flows month-to-date.
- In international markets, European bonds rallied on a weaker U.S. dollar and more subdued manufacturing and inflation data. Additionally, the Riksbank cut rates for a second time this year on slowing inflation data.

International Equities

- Foreign markets rose as investors focused on digesting policy actions from global central banks while looking for cues from Fed Chair Powell's speech that U.S. rate cuts would start in September.
- Foreign developed markets rallied as European markets maintained their momentum, advancing for the third consecutive week. Investors welcomed positive inflation news as Canada's inflation rate fell to a 40-month low of 2.5% in July. Meanwhile, data from Japan showed the country's headline inflation to be at 2.8%, unchanged from the previous month.
- Emerging markets moved higher as gains in markets across Asia lifted returns. Mexican stocks survived a volatile week as the country's retail sales numbers unexpectedly contracted nearly 4%. At the same time, the peso continues to weaken over concerns about political reforms supported by the country's president.

Economics

- On Friday, Fed Chair Powell clearly stated that the Fed intends to cut policy rates soon. This decision comes as the Fed "[does] not welcome further cooling in labor market conditions."
- Jobless claims from last week were revised higher, to 228,000 from 227,000. This week's number came in at 232,000, which was lower than the consensus of 234,000.
- New home sales rose 10.6% month-over-month to 739,000. This was the highest reading since May 2023 and continued a trend of rising home sales since the low in 2022.
- Consumer Confidence will come out on Tuesday and Consumer Sentiment on Friday.



Weekly Mark

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Markets					Style Eco	nomic Data
mu nelo		Change From	Change From	Change From	ECO	nomic Data
	Last Price	Prior Week	Year End	Year Ago	040 500	
Capital Markets				J. J.	S&P 500	ation
Dow Jones Industrial Avg	41,175.08	1.3%	10.6%	21.8%	CPI	Headline Inflation
S&P 500 Index	5.634.61	1.5%	19.2%	28.9%	CPI	Core Inflation
NASDAQ Composite	17.877.79	1.4%	19.7%	31.3%	Per	sonal Consumption Exp (PCE) Core
S&P 400 Midcap Index	3.096.25	2.9%	12.4%	21.2%		
S&P 600 Smallcap Index	1,412,16	3.1%	8.3%	19.3%	Job	S
MSCI EAFE	8.662.35	2.8%	11.3%	20.4%	Une	employment Rate (U3)
MSCI Emerging Markets	585.08	0.7%	9.6%	16.4%		ader Unemployment Rate (U6)
Bloomberg US Agg	2.239.80	0.7%	3.6%	8.6%		T Survey (in millions)
Bloomberg Municipal 5 Yr	495.99	0.5%	1.5%	5.2%		less Claims (000's)
Bloomberg US Corporate	3,353.28	0.8%	4.1%	10.8%		ange in Non-Farm Payroll (000's)
Bloomberg Glb Agg ex US Hdg	583.62	0.3%	3.3%	8.1%		rage Hourly Earnings (Y/Y % Change)
Bloomberg High Yield	2,630.46	0.7%	6.1%	13.3%		
MSCI US REIT Index	2,388.99	3.6%	11.1%	21.3%	1 Month* Year to Date*	nsumer & Spending
Bloomberg Commodity Index	229.24	0.9%	1.2%	-2.7%		sumer Confidence (Conf Board)
bloomberg commonly maex	223.24	0.570	1.270	-2.1 /0		sumer Spending (\$ Bil)
	Last Price/Yield	Prior Week	Year End	Year Ago		nsumer Credit (\$ Bil)
Key Rates	Last Frice/ field	FIIOI WEEK		Teal Ago	30 1.33 0.40 > 10% a 12.44 13.20 23.43 Col	ail Sales (\$ Bil)
Fed Funds Target	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%		
3-Month Treasury		5.21%			37 1.36 0.44 <u>0%-10%</u> 8.30 12.39 16.27 Ho u	
1-Year Treasury	5.13% 4.37%	5.21% 4.48%	5.33% 4.76%	5.44% 5.36%	37 1.36 0.44 0% - 10% $\stackrel{2}{\leq}$ 8.30 12.39 16.27 Hou	using
,						using Starts (000's)
2-Year Treasury	3.92%	4.05%	4.25%	4.97%		e-Shiller Home Price Index
5-Year Treasury	3.65%	3.76%	3.85%	4.37%	54 0.23 -0.09 <0% 👸 4.91 8.33 11.72	Provident fields
7-Year Treasury	3.70%	3.79%	3.88%	4.30%	0:5	Productivity
10-Year Treasury	3.80%	3.88%	3.88%	4.19%		al Gross Domestic Product (\$ Bil)
30-Year Treasury	4.09%	4.14%	4.03%	4.27%		arter over Quarter Change
						ar Over Year Change
Consumer Rates						I Manufacturing
30-Year Mortgage	6.84%	6.93%	6.99%	5.83%	Cap	pacity Utilization
Prime Rate	9.25%	9.25%	9.25%	9.25%	Mar	kit US Composite PMI
SOFR	5.33%	5.32%	5.38%	5.30%		
						. General
Commodities						ding Economic Indicators
Gold	2,512.59	2,508.01	2,062.98	1,915.48	Irac	de Weighted Dollar Index
Crude Oil (WTI)	74.83	75.54	71.65	74.94		R / USD
Gasoline	3.36	3.42	3.12	3.84	JPY	//USD
Natural Gas	2.02	2.12	2.33	3.34	CAL	D/USD
Copper	4.25	4.18	3.89	3.88	AUE	D/USD
	P/E	P/E	Price to	Current Div	3 Mo 2 Yr 5 Yr 7 Yr 10 Yr 30 Yr S&P	500 Sector Returns
	Forward	Trailing	Book	Yield		
Index Characteristics		Ŭ			1 Month* Year to Date* Con	nmunication Services
Dow Jones Industrial Avg	20.56	21.60	5.29	1.81		rmation Technology
S&P 500	23.20	24.73	5.10	1.37		
S&P 500 Value	17.64	18.01	2.88	2.37		ancials
S&P 500 Growth	29.64	33.52	11.52	0.68		nsumer Staples
NASDAQ	33.38	35.73	6.98	0.75		alth Care
S&P Midcap 400	17.50	17.45	2.60	1.72		ustrials
S&P Smallcap 600	16.44	16.52	1.86	2.59		
MSCI EAFE	14.86		1.00	2.59	Ene	
		15.84			34 1.66 4.61 <0%	al Estate
MSCI Emerging Markets	13.03	14.95	1.81	2.86		erials
						nsumer Discretionary
Source: Bloomberg					3 Yrs 1-10 Yrs +10 Yrs 1-3 Yrs 1-10 Yrs +10 Yrs	

For Week Ending August 23, 2024

Last Release

2.9%

3.2%

2.6%

4.3%

7.8%

8.18

232

114

3.6%

100.3

19,444

5.078

1,238

323.48

22.919

2.8%

3.1%

46.80

77.85

54.10

100.4

122.7

144.37

1.12

0.74

0.68

1 Month

-0.23%

-0.57%

7.35%

2 92%

5.21%

4.64%

2.69%

6.27%

0.43%

2.24%

-1.39%

710

Year Ago

3.2%

4.7%

4.3%

3.5%

6.7%

9.13

184

4.7%

114.0 18,485

4.986

691

1,473

305.34

22.225

2.1% 2.4%

46.50

78.99

50.20

105.9

120.7

1.09

0.74

0.65

YTD

29.05%

23.97%

21.13%

19.06%

16.72%

15.04%

14.31%

10.25%

10.22%

9.38%

6.55%

144.84

241

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