

## The Weekly Bottom Line

October 20, 2023

### Highlights

#### United States

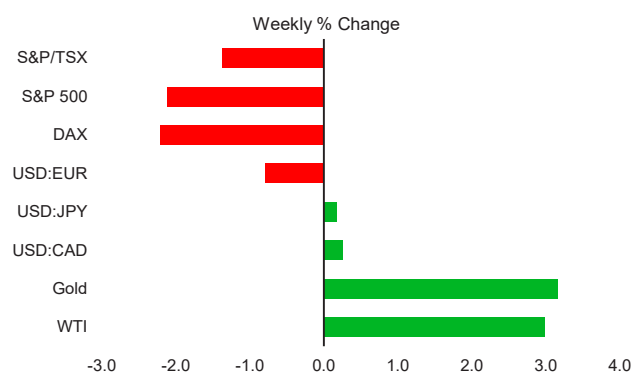
- Treasury yields continued their steep ascent this week, amidst a heavy week for Fed speakers. FOMC members broadly agreed that positive progress had been made on inflation, although few were willing to take the prospect of further policy tightening off the table.
- Previous increases in mortgage rates weighed heavily on the housing market in September, although new home construction rebounded from its August decline.
- The consumer appeared undeterred by higher borrowing costs in September, with retail sales growth doubling expectations.

#### Canada

- Canada's inflation moved back in the right direction in the month of September, which should give the Bank of Canada confidence in holding the policy rate at 5.00% next week.
- Markets have largely removed bets for further interest rate hikes in coming meetings, previously expecting at least one more hike by early next year. We also expect the policy rate to remain on hold until the middle of next year.
- The Bank of Canada's quarterly business and consumer surveys pointed to downbeat sentiment on the state of the economy, while higher interest rates have consumers pressing the spending brakes.

This Week in the Markets				
	Current*	Week Ago	52-Week High	52-Week Low
Stock Market Indexes				
S&P 500	4249	4328	4589	3666
S&P/TSX Comp.	19199	19463	20767	18579
DAX	14897	15187	16470	12731
FTSE 100	7425	7600	8014	6944
Nikkei	31259	32316	33753	25717
Fixed Income Yields				
U.S. 10-yr Treasury	4.94	4.61	4.99	3.31
Canada 10-yr Bond	4.11	3.97	4.24	2.72
Germany 10-yr Bund	2.90	2.74	2.97	1.78
UK 10-yr Gilt	4.67	4.39	4.75	3.01
Japan 10-yr Bond	0.84	0.76	0.84	0.24
Foreign Exchange Cross Rates				
C\$ (USD per CAD)	0.73	0.73	0.76	0.72
Euro (USD per EUR)	1.06	1.05	1.12	0.97
Pound (USD per GBP)	1.21	1.21	1.31	1.12
Yen (JPY per USD)	149.9	149.6	150.2	127.9
Commodity Spot Prices**				
Crude Oil (\$US/bbl)	90.3	87.7	93.7	66.7
Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)	2.84	3.11	7.49	1.77
Copper (\$US/met. tonne)	7928.0	7875.8	9330.8	7522.0
Gold (\$US/troy oz.)	1987.0	1932.8	2050.3	1628.0

### Equity Markets Slip on Soaring Bond Yields



Note: Data as of 11:21 AM ET, Friday, October 20, 2023.  
Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.

Global Official Policy Rate Targets	
Central Banks	Current Target
Federal Reserve (Fed Funds Rate)	5.25 - 5.50%
Bank of Canada (Overnight Rate)	5.00%
European Central Bank (Refi Rate)	4.50%
Bank of England (Repo Rate)	5.25%
Bank of Japan (Overnight Rate)	-0.10%

Source: Bloomberg.

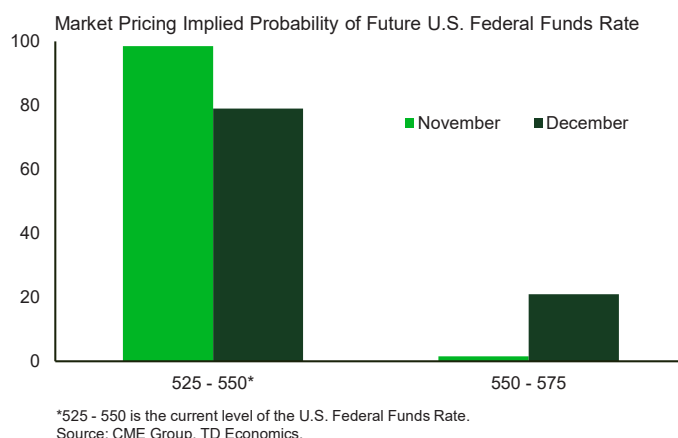
# U.S. – Treasury Yields Flirt with Multidecade Highs

The steep ascent of U.S. Treasury yields continued unabated this week, as markets revised their expectations for yields, particularly over the longer term. The persistent political dysfunction in Congress amid rising deficits and heightened geopolitical tensions is likely playing a role in the increase in the term premium, which has recently contributed to the higher 10-Year yield. The term premium reflects the added compensation investors require for the unknowns associated with holding longer-term government debt. The 10-Year Treasury yield is now just under 5%, its highest level since before the Global Financial Crisis (Chart 1). Equities in turn fell this week, with the S&P 500 down 1.8% as of the time of writing.

Outside of financial markets, the real economy has seen divergent trends between economic sectors depending on their sensitivity to interest rates. The housing market softened further in September to reach a 13 year low, reflecting the strain of higher mortgage rates (see [here](#)). While existing home inventory levels improved on the month, supply remains low, which continued to place upward pressure on housing prices. Low resale listings have in turn increased the demand for new units, but elevated rates remain a headwind to homebuilding activity as well. While housing starts rose in September, they remain well below year-ago levels, primarily resulting from weakness in the more rate-sensitive multi-family segment.

Despite higher interest rates, the health of the American consumer has remained robust (see [here](#)). Retail sales growth in September more than doubled expectations. Somewhat surprisingly, the most rate-sensitive segment of

**Chart 2: Financial Markets Expect Fed To Remain on Hold for Now**



retail sales (Automobile & other motor vehicle dealers) saw its strongest growth in four months. However pent-up demand from the extended shortage of vehicles in previous years continues to be a factor. But, even excluding the more volatile categories, the retail sales “control group” was very strong on the month. All in all, the resilience of the consumer has been a key growth contributor in 2023.

In terms of what this means for interest rate moves, we heard remarks from nearly every member of the FOMC this week, including Chair Powell. The balance of opinion was skewed towards maintaining a wait and see approach given the positive progress that has been made on inflation thus far, which pushed market pricing for a hold at the next meeting on November 1st to a virtual certainty (Chart 2). However, Powell also noted that additional evidence of persistently above trend growth or tightening labor market conditions could put inflation progress at risk and warrant further policy tightening. We currently expect that the resilience of the U.S. economy will lead to one last interest rate hike, but the recent tightening in financial conditions makes it a close call.

Next week we will see the advance estimate for third quarter GDP growth, which is expected to show eye-popping growth. Perhaps more importantly, the September consumer spending data will show how momentum is looking heading into the fourth quarter, along with the Fed’s preferred inflation metric. A moderation in both metrics would be welcome news for the Fed.

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**Chart 1: U.S. Treasury Yields Approach Multidecade Highs**

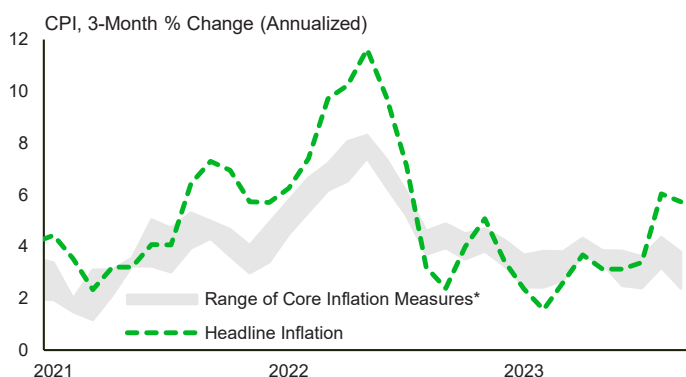


## Canada – Inflation Deflates Bets for Interest Rate Hikes

The Bank of Canada's (BoC) October 25th interest rate decision is right around the corner, and markets have increased the odds for a stand pat decision. September's softer-than-expected inflation reading helped on that score, and likely gives Tiff Macklem & Co. some comfort to hold the policy rate at 5.00% next week. Next week's decision will be accompanied by a fresh set of forecasts in the Monetary Policy Report (MPR), which will be closely watched for the Bank's assessment of how their recent rate hikes are affecting the economy. Canadian yields were taken on rollercoaster this week, with two-year yields finishing flat and the 10-year yield up around 12 basis points (bps). Although a lot of this week's curve move was influenced more by strong economic data state-side than developments in Canada.

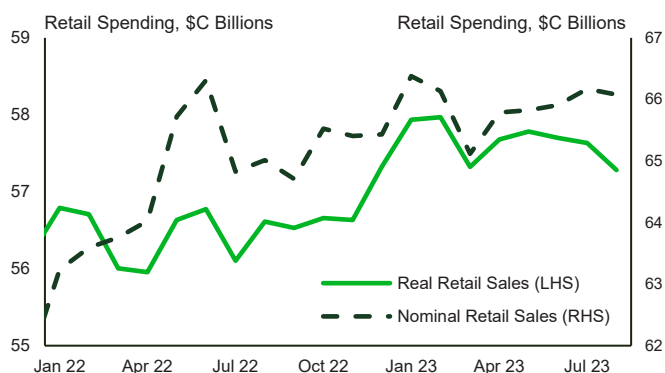
Canada's inflation data moved in the right direction in September, coming in below consensus estimates. More importantly, the BoC's preferred measures of core inflation also cooled. More encouragingly, the slowdown was also broad-based. Sticky inflation has been a thorn in the BoC's side, and a large driver of the additional interest rate hikes delivered back in June and July. Chart 1 shows that the range of various core measures are back inside the 3.5–4.0% range from the first half of 2023, still too high, but moving in the right direction. Of note, food inflation decelerated the most of all major categories. The price of gasoline is still higher relative to a year ago, but did moderate on a month-on-month basis. Services inflation was flat on the month while core goods prices continue

**Chart 1: Canadian Core Inflation Is Moving Back in the Right Direction**



\*Includes BoC's core measures (CPI-trim & CPI-median), CPIX, and core excl. food & energy.  
Source: Statistics Canada, TD Economics.

**Chart 2: Higher Interest Rates Are Slowing Down Canadian Consumer Spending**



Source: Statistics Canada, TD Economics.

to cool. Base-effects alone could see headline inflation in October push down to just north of 3% y/y.

Consumer and business sentiment is another mark in the cooling column. The BoC's companion business and consumer outlook surveys showed weakening sentiment in the third quarter this year. Businesses expect sales to slow over the coming year, which is weighing on plans for investment and employment. Inflation expectations amongst businesses and consumers alike have edged down but remain at elevated levels. On wage expectations, businesses report wage pressures have peaked but remain high. However, consumers' wage expectations are at the highest point since the inception of the survey. From the BoC's perspective, there is evidence in these surveys to suggest that economic conditions are cooling, which should help them achieve their inflation target.

The hard data is bearing this out, as spending fatigue looks to be setting in for Canadian consumers. August retail sales dropped by 0.1% m/m, with volumes dropping by a larger magnitude (Chart 2). Declines were broad-based across industries. Given weak goods prices in September and early estimates of flat nominal spending, September sales volumes might register positive. That said, third quarter real spending is set to slow, with the outlook for the consumer weakening in coming quarters.

Marc Ercolao, Economist

Recent Key Economic Indicators: Oct 16 - 20, 2023					
Release Date	Economic Indicator/Event	Data for Period	Units	Current	Prior
United States					
Oct 16	Empire Manufacturing	Oct	Index	-4.6	1.9
Oct 17	Retail Sales Advance	Sep	M/M % Chg.	0.7	0.8
Oct 17	Retail Sales Ex Auto and Gas	Sep	M/M % Chg.	0.6	0.3
Oct 17	Industrial Production	Sep	M/M % Chg.	0.3	0.0
Oct 17	Capacity Utilization	Sep	%	79.7	79.5
Oct 17	Manufacturing (SIC) Production	Sep	M/M % Chg.	0.4	-0.1
Oct 17	Business Inventories	Aug	M/M % Chg.	0.4	0.1
Oct 17	NAHB Housing Market Index	Oct	Index	40.0	44.0
Oct 18	Building Permits	Sep	Thsd	1473.0	1541.0
Oct 18	Housing Starts	Sep	Thsd	1358.0	1269.0
Oct 19	Initial Jobless Claims	Oct 14	Thsd	198.0	211.0
Oct 19	Existing Home Sales	Sep	Mlns	3.96	4.04
Canada					
Oct 16	Manufacturing Sales	Aug	M/M % Chg.	0.7	1.6
Oct 16	BoC Overall Business Outlook Survey	3Q	Q/Q % Chg.	-3.5	-2.3
Oct 16	BoC Business Outlook Future Sales	3Q	Q/Q % Chg.	14.0	-6.0
Oct 17	Housing Starts	Sep	Thsd	270.5	250.4
Oct 17	Consumer Price Index NSA	Sep	M/M % Chg.	-0.1	0.4
Oct 17	Consumer Price Index	Sep	Y/Y % Chg.	3.8	4.0
Oct 19	Industrial Product Price	Sep	M/M % Chg.	0.4	1.9
Oct 20	Retail Sales	Aug	M/M % Chg.	-0.1	0.3
Oct 20	Retail Sales Ex Auto	Aug	M/M % Chg.	0.1	1.0
International					
Oct 17	CH Retail Sales	Sep	Y/Y % Chg.	5.5	4.6
Oct 17	CH Surveyed Jobless Rate	Sep	%	5.0	5.2
Oct 18	UK Consumer Price Index	Sep	Y/Y % Chg.	6.7	6.7
Oct 18	EZ Consumer Price Index	Sep	Y/Y % Chg.	4.3	4.3
Oct 19	JN Natl Consumer Price Index	Sep	Y/Y % Chg.	3.0	3.2
Oct 20	UK Retail Sales Ex Auto Fuel	Sep	Y/Y % Chg.	-1.2	-1.3

\*Eastern Standard Time. Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.

Upcoming Economic Releases and Events: Oct 23 - 27, 2023						
Release Date	Time*	Economic Indicator/Event	Data for Period	Units	Consensus Forecast	Last Period
United States						
Oct 24	9:45	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI	Oct	Index	49.5	49.8
Oct 24	9:45	S&P Global US Services PMI	Oct	Index	49.4	50.1
Oct 24	9:45	S&P Global US Composite PMI	Oct	Index	-	50.2
Oct 25	10:00	New Home Sales	Sep	Thsd	684.0	675.0
Oct 26	8:30	Advance Goods Trade Balance	Sep	Blns	-85.5	-84.6
Oct 26	8:30	Gross Domestic Product Annualized	3Q	Q/Q % Chg.	4.3	2.1
Oct 26	8:30	Personal Consumption	3Q	Q/Q % Chg.	3.7	0.8
Oct 26	8:30	Durable Goods Orders	Sep	M/M % Chg.	1.1	0.1
Oct 26	8:30	Cap Goods Orders Nondef Ex Air	Sep	M/M % Chg.	0.0	0.9
Oct 26	8:30	Initial Jobless Claims	Oct 21	Thsd	-	198.0
Oct 26	9:00	Fed's Waller Delivers Opening Remarks at Payments Conference				
Oct 27	8:30	Personal Income	Sep	M/M % Chg.	0.4	0.4
Oct 27	8:30	Real Personal Spending	Sep	M/M % Chg.	-	0.1
Oct 27	8:30	PCE Deflator	Sep	Y/Y % Chg.	3.4	3.5
Oct 27	9:00	Fed's Barr Delivers Opening Remarks at Payments Conference				
Canada						
Oct 25	10:00	Bank of Canada Rate Decision	Oct 25	%	5.0	5.0
Oct 25	11:00	Bank of Canada Releases Monetary Policy Report				
Oct 26	7:00	CFIB Business Barometer	Oct	Index	-	48.7
Oct 26	8:30	Payroll Employment Change - SEPH	Aug	Thsd	-	4.9
International						
Oct 23	20:30	JN Jibun Bank Japan PMI Mfg	Oct	Index	-	48.5
Oct 24	2:00	UK ILO Unemployment Rate	Aug	Q/Q % Chg.	4.3	4.3
Oct 26	8:15	EZ ECB Main Refinancing Rate	Oct 26	%	4.5	4.5
Oct 26	19:30	JN Tokyo Consumer Price Index	Oct	Y/Y % Chg.	2.7	2.8

\*Eastern Standard Time. Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.

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