

Chairman Powell And The Fed Likely Enter A Long Pause

In the November FOMC statement, Chairman Powell and his colleagues at the Fed did as the market expected. Not surprisingly, in a unanimous decision, they left the Fed Funds rate at 5.25-5.50% and made minimal changes to the statement from the prior meeting, as shown below. The Fed continues to threaten another rate hike but, with the addition of the word "*financial*" in the second paragraph, acknowledges that higher long-term interest rates "*are likely to weigh on economic activity, hiring, and inflation.*" Therefore, given the Fed's rhetoric and the recent surge in long-term borrowing rates, it's quite likely a long pause started in July, and the next Fed move will ultimately be a rate cut.

Chairman Powell elaborated on the Fed's mindset in his press conference following the FOMC statement. He started by stressing the utmost importance of getting inflation back to its 2% objective and said he is encouraged that inflation expectations have remained stable. Of importance, Chairman Powell stated: "*Financial conditions have tightened significantly in recent months due to longer-term rates.*" Further, he says the stronger dollar and weaker equity prices will weigh on economic growth. As long as those conditions remain persistent, the Fed is unlikely to hike rates. Based on trading yesterday afternoon, the stock and bond markets seem to agree the Fed is likely done raising rates. Assuming economic activity does slow, the market will start anticipating rate cuts. Fed Fund futures for mid-2024 jumped by 10-12bps, implying bond traders think rate cuts are more likely than they did before Chairman Powell spoke.

For release at 2:00 p.m. EDT ~~November 1~~September 20, 2023

Recent indicators suggest that economic activity ~~expanded~~~~has been expanding~~ at a ~~strong~~~~solid~~ pace ~~in the third quarter.~~. Job gains have ~~moderated since earlier in the~~ ~~years~~~~slowed in recent months~~ but remain strong, and the unemployment rate has remained low. Inflation remains elevated.

The U.S. banking system is sound and resilient. Tighter ~~financial and~~ credit conditions for households and businesses are likely to weigh on economic activity, hiring, and inflation. The extent of these effects remains uncertain. The Committee remains highly attentive to inflation risks.

The Committee seeks to achieve maximum employment and inflation at the rate of 2 percent over the longer run. In support of these goals, the Committee decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 5-1/4 to 5-1/2 percent.

The Committee will continue to assess additional information and its implications for monetary policy. In determining the extent of additional policy firming that may be appropriate to return inflation to 2 percent over time, the Committee will take into account the cumulative tightening of monetary policy, the lags with which monetary policy affects economic activity and inflation, and economic and financial developments. In addition, the Committee will continue reducing its holdings of Treasury securities and agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities, as described in its previously announced plans. The Committee is strongly committed to returning inflation to its 2 percent objective.

In assessing the appropriate stance of monetary policy, the Committee will continue to monitor the implications of incoming information for the economic outlook. The Committee would be prepared to adjust the stance of monetary policy as appropriate if risks emerge that could impede the attainment of the Committee's goals. The Committee's assessments will take into account a wide range of information, including readings on labor market conditions, inflation pressures and inflation expectations, and financial and international developments.

Voting for the monetary policy action were Jerome H. Powell, Chair; John C. Williams, Vice Chair; Michael S. Barr; Michelle W. Bowman; Lisa D. Cook; Austan D. Goolsbee; Patrick Harker; Philip N. Jefferson; Neel Kashkari; Adriana D. Kugler; Lorie K. Logan; and Christopher J. Waller.

What To Watch Today

Earnings

Time	Symbol	Company Name	Market Cap ▼	Fiscal Quarter Ending	Consensus EPS* Forecast	# Of Ests	Last Year's Report Date	Last Year's EPS*
🕒	AAPL	Apple Inc.	\$2,669,857,798,640	Sep/2023	\$1.39	12	10/27/2022	\$1.29
☀️	LLY	Eli Lilly and Company	\$525,843,075,179	Sep/2023	(\$0.11)	4	11/01/2022	\$1.98
☀️	SHEL	Shell PLC	\$435,826,400,540	Sep/2023	\$1.85	2	10/27/2022	\$2.58
☀️	NVO	Novo Nordisk A/S	\$432,436,759,051	Sep/2023	\$0.69	4	11/02/2022	\$0.43
☀️	COP	ConocoPhillips	\$142,261,891,952	Sep/2023	\$2.04	9	11/03/2022	\$3.60
☀️	SPGI	S&P Global Inc.	\$111,150,442,000	Sep/2023	\$3.05	10	10/27/2022	\$2.93
☀️	SBUX	Starbucks Corporation	\$105,651,696,000	Sep/2023	\$0.97	12	11/03/2022	\$0.81
🕒	SYK	Stryker Corporation	\$102,623,686,551	Sep/2023	\$2.44	13	10/31/2022	\$2.12
🕒	BKNG	Booking Holdings Inc.	\$99,565,410,691	Sep/2023	\$67.84	10	11/02/2022	\$53.03
☹️	PBR	Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.-Petrobras	\$97,831,509,465	Sep/2023	\$0.90	3	11/03/2022	\$1.35
☀️	CI	The Cigna Group	\$91,517,057,742	Sep/2023	\$6.66	10	11/03/2022	\$6.04
☹️	PBR.A	Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.-Petrobras	\$90,200,651,726	Sep/2023		12	N/A	\$1.35
☀️	REGN	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$84,663,858,581	Sep/2023	\$9.39	9	11/03/2022	\$9.98
🕒	EOG	EOG Resources, Inc.	\$73,510,438,372	Sep/2023	\$2.95	11	11/03/2022	\$3.71
☀️	SO	Southern Company (The)	\$73,393,784,766	Sep/2023	\$1.32	5	10/27/2022	\$1.31
☀️	ZTS	Zoetis Inc.	\$72,269,754,085	Sep/2023	\$1.35	8	11/03/2022	\$1.21
☀️	CNQ	Canadian Natural Resources Limited	\$69,391,277,800	Sep/2023	\$1.62	3	11/03/2022	\$2.37
☀️	DUK	Duke Energy Corporation	\$68,508,193,675	Sep/2023	\$1.92	5	11/03/2022	\$1.78
☀️	SHOP	Shopify Inc.	\$60,519,775,580	Sep/2023	\$0.06	13	10/27/2022	(\$0.14)
☀️	ICE	Intercontinental Exchange Inc.	\$60,198,779,515	Sep/2023	\$1.40	6	11/03/2022	\$1.31
☀️	RACE	Ferrari N.V.	\$58,495,084,540	Sep/2023	\$1.59	3	11/02/2022	\$1.24
☀️	MAR	Marriott International	\$56,236,055,770	Sep/2023	\$2.10	9	11/03/2022	\$1.69
🕒	PXD	Pioneer Natural Resources Company	\$55,720,735,567	Sep/2023	\$5.53	10	10/27/2022	\$7.48
🕒	MNST	Monster Beverage Corporation	\$53,528,186,407	Sep/2023	\$0.40	11	11/03/2022	\$0.30
☀️	ING	ING Group, N.V.	\$47,848,766,871	Sep/2023	\$0.59	1	11/03/2022	\$0.26
☀️	PH	Parker-Hannifin Corporation	\$47,379,628,142	Sep/2023	\$5.33	7	11/03/2022	\$4.74
🕒	MSI	Motorola Solutions, Inc.	\$46,508,286,726	Sep/2023	\$2.79	6	11/03/2022	\$2.79
🕒	TEAM	Atlassian Corporation	\$46,493,243,506	Sep/2023	(\$0.10)	9	11/03/2022	(\$0.16)
🕒	FTNT	Fortinet, Inc.	\$44,897,712,688	Sep/2023	\$0.30	13	11/02/2022	\$0.28
☀️	LNG	Cheniere Energy, Inc.	\$40,044,514,941	Sep/2023	\$2.55	8	11/03/2022	\$7.80
☀️	AEP	American Electric Power Company, Inc.	\$38,916,398,363	Sep/2023	\$1.73	4	10/27/2022	\$1.62
🕒	MCHP	Microchip Technology Incorporated	\$38,805,591,248	Sep/2023	\$1.55	11	11/03/2022	\$1.39
☀️	EXC	Exelon Corporation	\$38,753,835,453	Sep/2023	\$0.68	4	11/03/2022	\$0.75
☀️	COR	Cencora, Inc.	\$37,432,674,588	Sep/2023	\$2.79	12	N/A	\$2.60
☀️	CVE	Cenovus Energy Inc	\$36,185,086,440	Sep/2023	\$0.59	3	11/02/2022	\$0.62
☀️	BCE	BCE, Inc.	\$33,873,311,622	Sep/2023	\$0.60	6	11/03/2022	\$0.67
☹️	JCI	Johnson Controls International plc	\$33,349,288,066	Sep/2023	\$1.09	7	11/03/2022	\$0.99
☀️	PLTR	Palantir Technologies Inc.	\$31,847,015,594	Sep/2023	\$0.02	7	11/07/2022	(\$0.06)
☀️	CMI	Cummins Inc.	\$30,638,274,002	Sep/2023	\$4.63	7	11/03/2022	\$3.21
🕒	ED	Consolidated Edison Inc	\$30,280,841,527	Sep/2023	\$1.58	5	11/03/2022	\$1.63
☀️	ROK	Rockwell Automation, Inc.	\$30,186,380,515	Sep/2023	\$3.49	8	11/02/2022	\$3.04

Economy

Time	Event	Impact	Actual	Dev	Consensus	Previous
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2						
11:30	USD Challenger Job Cuts(Oct)		-	-	- 47.457K	
12:30	USD Continuing Jobless Claims(Oct 20)		-	-	1.8M 1.79M	
12:30	USD Initial Jobless Claims(Oct 27)		-	-	210K 210K	
12:30	USD Initial Jobless Claims 4-week average(Oct 27)		-	-	- 207.5K	
12:30	USD Nonfarm Productivity(Q3) PREL		-	-	4.2% 3.5%	
12:30	USD Unit Labor Costs(Q3) PREL		-	-	0.7% 2.2%	
14:00	USD Factory Orders (MoM)(Sep)		-	-	2.3% 1.2%	
14:30	USD EIA Natural Gas Storage Change(Oct 27)		-	-	- 74B	
15:30	USD 4-Week Bill Auction		-	-	- 5.295%	
19:30	USD Total Vehicle Sales(Oct)		-	-	15.3M 15.7M	

Market Trading Update

Yesterday, the FOMC was as expected, noting that there was one rate hike left on the table. However, the market saw through that and has now determined the Fed is on pause. As such, both the stock and bond markets rallied sharply yesterday as the market looks forward to next year and the beginning of rate cuts.

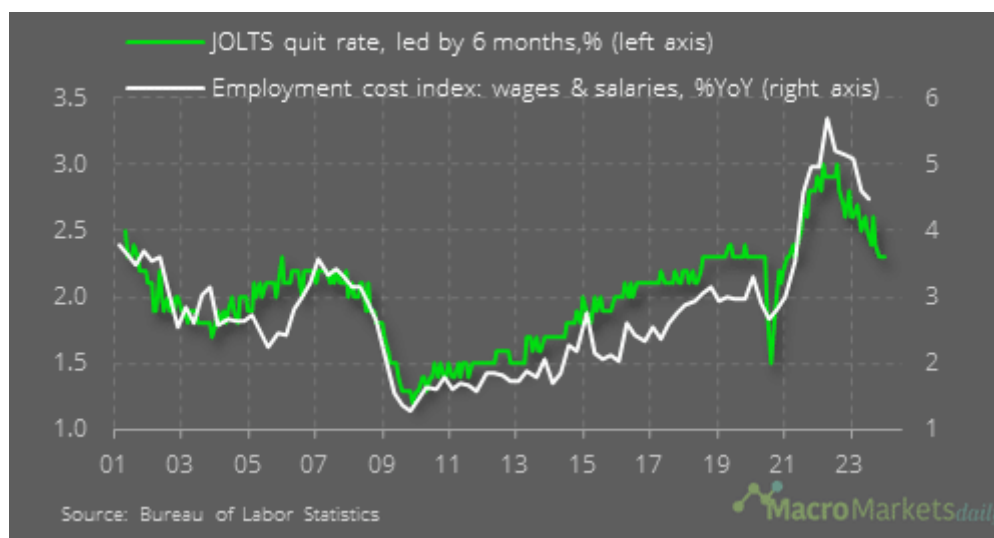
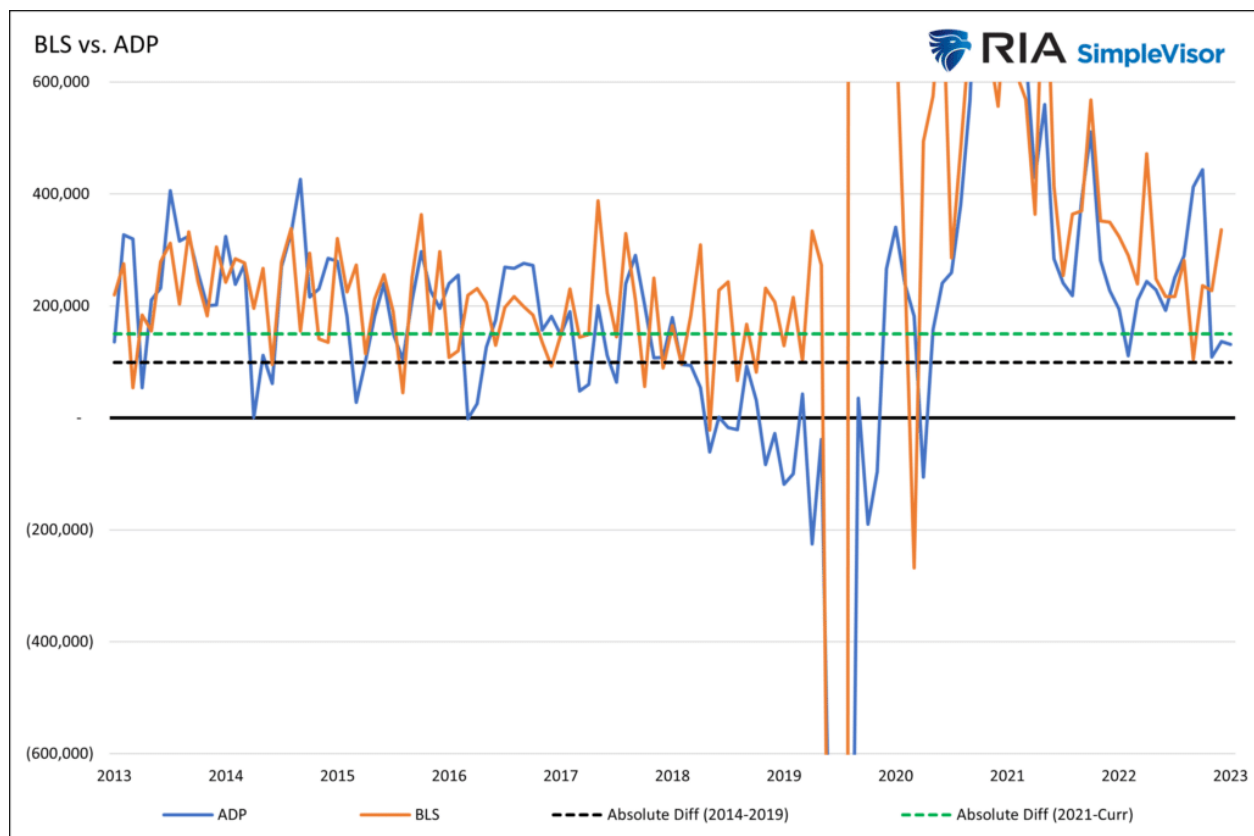
Yesterday's rally pushed the market into its first resistance test at the 200-DMA. A failure at this initial test will be unsurprising as many trapped longs will be looking for an exit. The recent low is now critical support. We are also closing in on a reversal of the MACD sell signal, which would give the market a more optimistic outlook in the near term. With the market not overbought, there is more room for the market to push higher. However, I would not expect that push higher to be without a bit of volatility along the way. Look for pullbacks to add exposure if needed as we head into year-end. However, such will be a short-term trade, so look to take profits between 4200-4250.



ADP And JOLTS Jobs Market Update

The ADP jobs report underwhelmed for the second month in a row. ADP reported the private sector added 113k jobs in October, versus expectations for 155k. September job growth was 89k, which is in stark contrast to the 336k growth in jobs reported by the BLS. Typically, we would suspect some catch-down in this Friday's BLS report. However, that may not occur, as the correlation between the two measures of job growth has been less dependable since the pandemic. The graph below compares the BLS and ADP jobs data. As it shows, they tend to correlate. But, the BLS has been running 150k more than ADP monthly since 2021. Such compares to slightly less than 100k before the pandemic.

The number of job openings was 9.55 million, slightly higher than expectations (9.42 million) and last month's downwardly revised number (9.50 million). The quit rate was steady at 2.3% and back to the pre-pandemic highs. The second graph below shows the job quit rate tends to lead wages by about six months. Given the Fed follows wages closely as they tend to correlate with inflationary pressures, the recent quit rate should ease their inflation concerns.



Treasury Refunding Announcement

Every quarter, the U.S. Treasury announces its plans for debt issuance for the coming three months. These reports are often ignored by all except bond traders. However, given the impact higher yields are having on stock and bond returns, yesterday's announcement was closely followed by many investors,

Per the U.S. Treasury's quarterly refunding announcement:

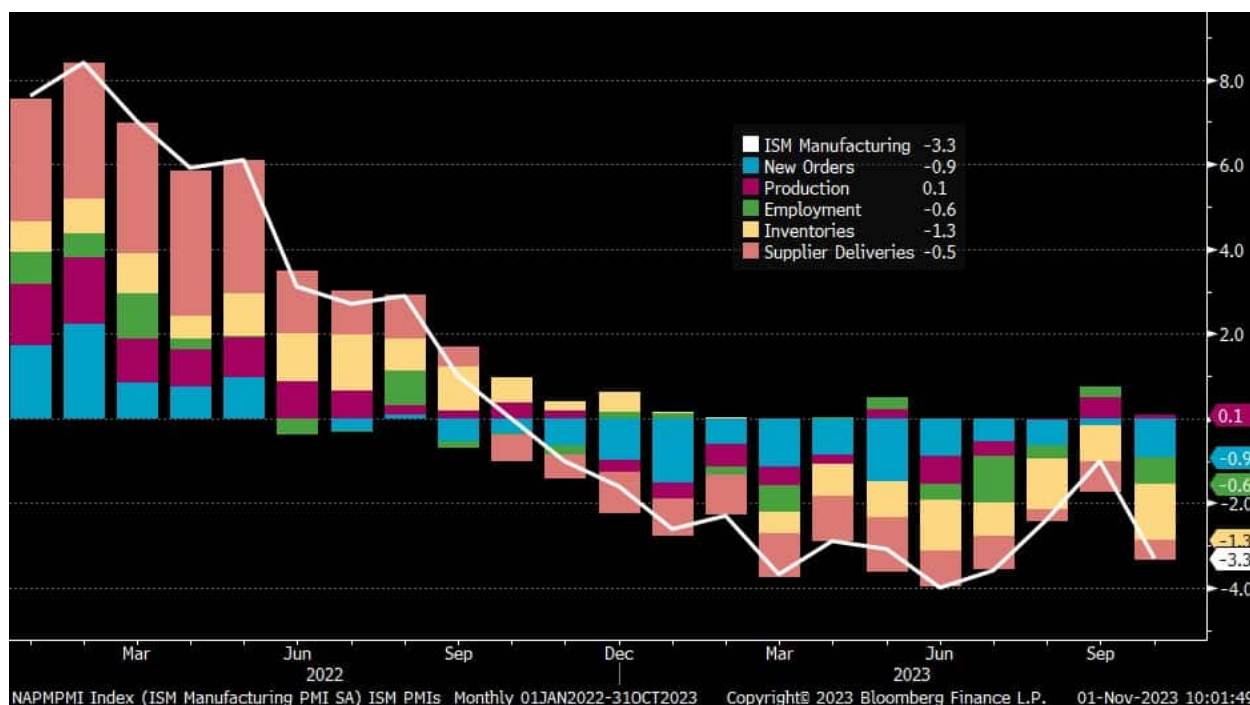
The U.S. Department of the Treasury is offering \$112 billion of Treasury securities to refund approximately \$102.2 billion of privately-held Treasury notes maturing on November 15, 2023. This issuance will raise new cash from private investors of approximately \$9.8 billion.

The market was expecting \$114 billion, \$2 billion more than the Treasury will auction. The table below shows the actual auction sizes for the three months ended October 2023 (highlighted gray) and the anticipated auction sizes for November 2023 through January 2024. The Treasury is favoring shorter-term debt as it likely wants to avoid locking in current yields for long periods. Consequently, less than 10% of the debt increase will come from the 10-30 year sectors. Long-term Treasury note and bond investors should like the Treasury's stance.

U.S. Treasury Refunding Announcement (\$ billions)								
	Floating Rate	2yr	3yr	5yr	7yr	10yr	20yr	30yr
Aug-23	24	45	42	46	36	38	16	23
Sep-23	24	48	44	49	37	35	13	20
Oct-23	26	51	46	52	38	35	13	20
Nov-23	26	54	48	55	39	40	16	24
Dec-23	26	57	50	58	40	37	13	21
Jan-24	28	60	52	61	41	37	13	21
Change	6	27	18	27	9	6	0	3
As %	6.25%	28.13%	18.75%	28.13%	9.38%	6.25%	0.00%	3.13%

ISM Manufacturing Survey

The ISM manufacturing survey remains in economic contractionary (<50) as it has for the last 12 months. The index was 46.7, decently below expectations of 49.1 and 49 in the prior survey. The graph below shows every factor except production fell, accounting for the 3.3 decline. Of the most interest of economic forecasters, new orders and employment came in at 45.5 and 46.8, respectively. Both figures signal manufacturing woes. As a result, the Tweet of the Day shares a recession warning from the ISM report.



Tweet of the Day

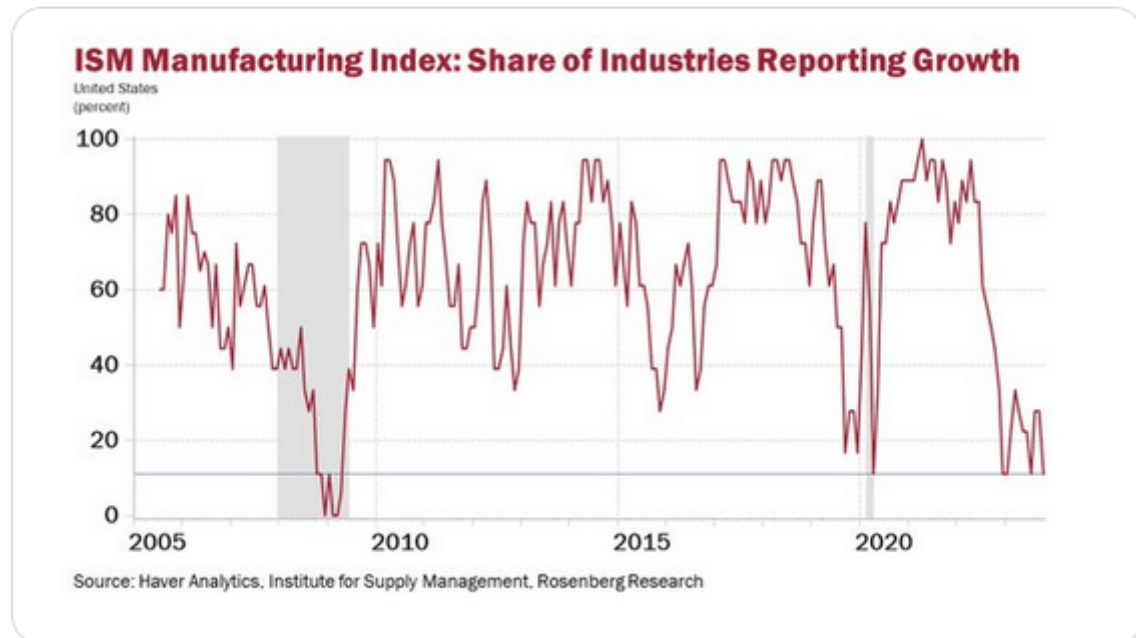


David Rosenberg ✓

@EconguyRosie

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Today's ISM showed that a grand total of 11% of industries (2 out of 18) posted any growth in October, the same depressed share as in the spring of 2020 and the fall of 2008. But there's no recession, right?



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