

US Daily: June Recession Watch Tracker: Lower Recession Risk (Abecasis)

Our Recession Watch Tracker monitors key indicators of whether the US economy is headed for a soft or hard landing. All data are available for download [here](#).

- **Recession odds:** We lowered our judgmental probability that the US economy will enter a recession in the next 12 months to 25% (from 35% previously), well below the 65% median probability in the Bloomberg forecaster survey.
- **Growth:** Activity growth remains positive but below potential, which will allow the rebalancing of supply and demand to continue. Our Current Activity Indicator stands at +0.7% and our business survey trackers stand at 50.4 on average in June. We are tracking Q2 domestic final sales growth at +2.0% (qoq ar).
- **Labor market:** Our jobs-workers gap based on an average of JOLTS and alternative measures of job openings declined to 3.0mn in May, still above the 2mn level we estimate is necessary to rebalance the labor market but down three-fourths of the way from its 5.7mn peak in March 2022. And while initial jobless claims have increased to 262k in recent weeks, they remain 20-30k below our estimate of the level that would keep the unemployment rate unchanged. Additionally, a policy change in Minnesota and potential fraud in Ohio are likely distorting the latest signals from initial jobless claims. Our real-time estimate based on May and June WARN notices suggests the layoff rate is around its pre-pandemic level, at 1.2%.
- **Wage growth:** Average hourly earnings growth slowed to 4.0% on a 1-month annualized basis in May (vs. 4.8% in April) but edged up to 4.0% on a 3-month annualized basis (vs. 3.8% in April). Our monthly wage survey composite declined by 0.2pp to 3.4% in May. Our Q2 wage tracker edged down to 4.8% (qoq ar, vs. 5.0% in Q1) but remains above the 3.5% rate we estimate is consistent with 2% inflation.
- **Inflation:** We estimate that core PCE increased 0.32% in May, implying 5.3% core goods inflation and 5.0% core services inflation on a 3-month annualized basis. Web-based measures of new-tenant rent growth increased at a 2.3% annual rate in April, suggesting that the slower pace of shelter inflation is likely to continue as the gap between rents for new and continuing leases continues to narrow.
- **Yield curve:** The number of hikes priced by the bond market for 2023H2 increased and the number of cuts priced for 2024Q1 decreased, while the number of cuts priced for 2024H2 increased over the last month. Currently, the

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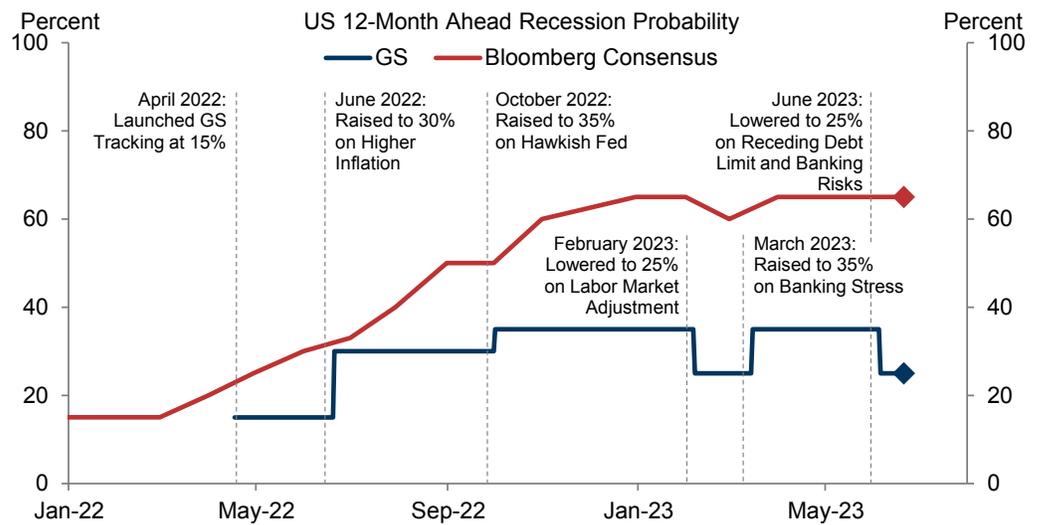
bond market is pricing 21bp of hikes in 2023Q3 (vs. 23bp of cuts in mid-May), 10bp of cuts in 2023Q4 (vs. 48bp), 29bp of cuts in 2024Q1 (vs. 52 bp), 44bp of cuts in 2024Q2 (vs. 50bp), and 79bp of cuts in 2024H2 (vs. 55bp).

June Recession Watch Tracker: Lower Recession Risk

Recession Odds

We have lowered our judgmental probability that the US economy will enter a recession in the next 12 months to 25% (from 35% previously), reflecting the bipartisan budget agreement to suspend the debt ceiling with only modest spending cuts and our view that the turmoil in the banking system appears likely to subtract only modestly from real GDP growth this year. Our 12-month recession odds remain well below the 65% median probability in the Bloomberg forecaster survey.

Exhibit 1: We Lowered Our 12-Month Recession Odds to 25%

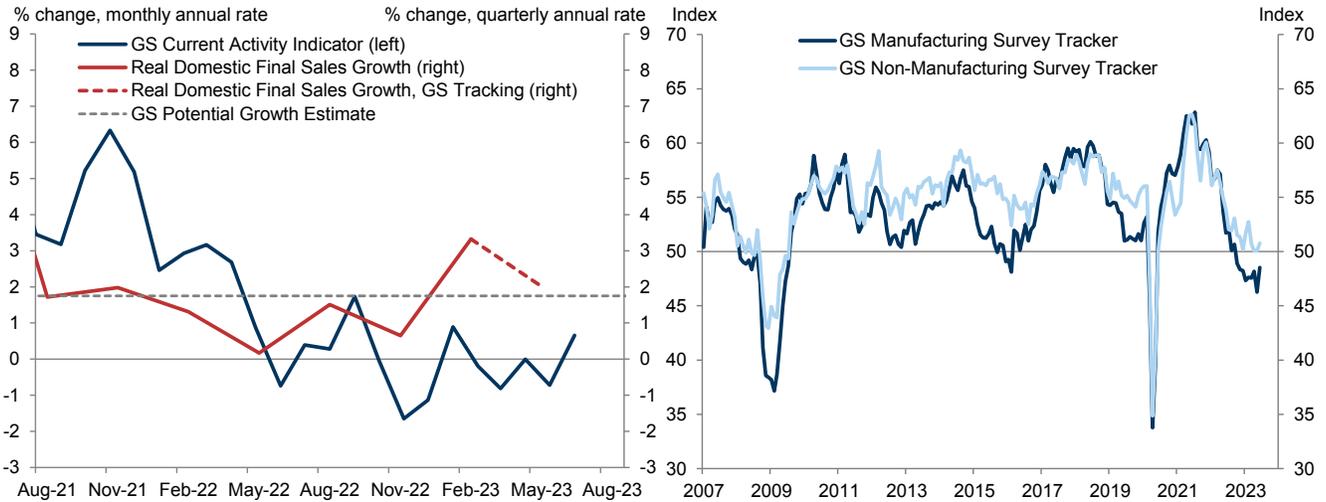


Source: Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Growth

Activity growth remains positive but below potential, keeping the rebalancing of supply and demand on track. Our Current Activity Indicator stands at +0.7% in June and is flat on a 3-month average basis, and our business survey trackers stand at 50.4 on average in June. We are tracking Q2 domestic final sales growth at +2.0% (qoq ar).

Exhibit 2: Our Current Activity Indicator and Business Survey Trackers Suggest Growth Remains Positive but Below Potential, as Desired

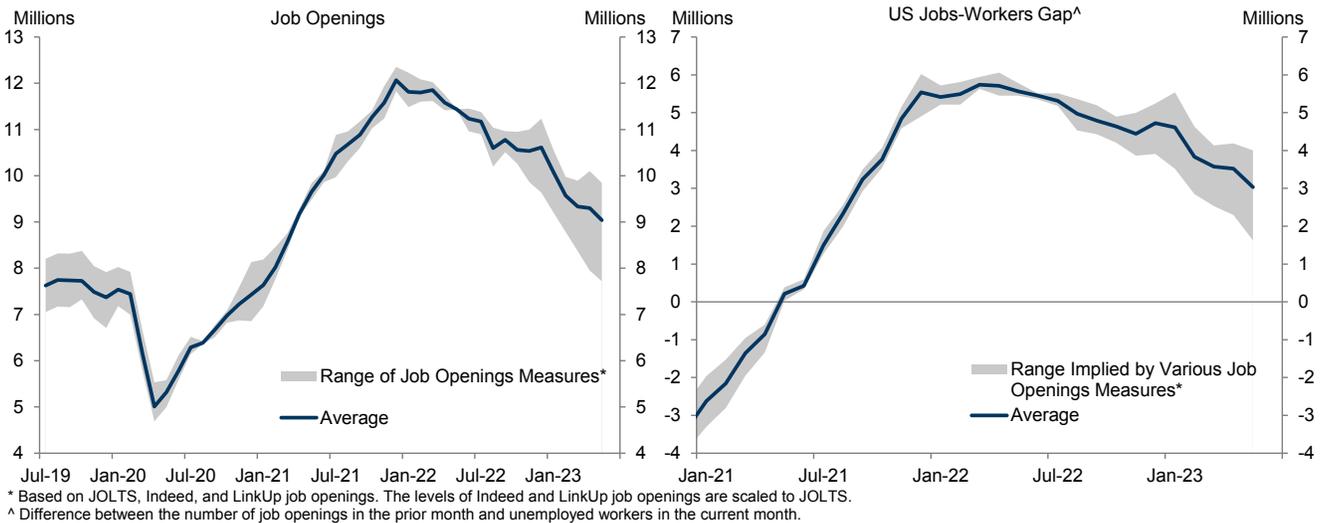


Source: Department of Commerce, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Labor Market

Labor-market rebalancing is also underway, driven by a decline in job openings. Our jobs-workers gap based on an average of JOLTS and alternative web-based measures of job openings declined to 3.0mn in May, still above the 2mn level we estimate is necessary to rebalance the labor market but down three-fourths of the way from its 5.7mn peak in March 2022.

Exhibit 3: Our Jobs-Workers Gap Has Fallen Three-Fourths of the Amount Needed to be Consistent with 3.5% Wage Growth and 2% Inflation

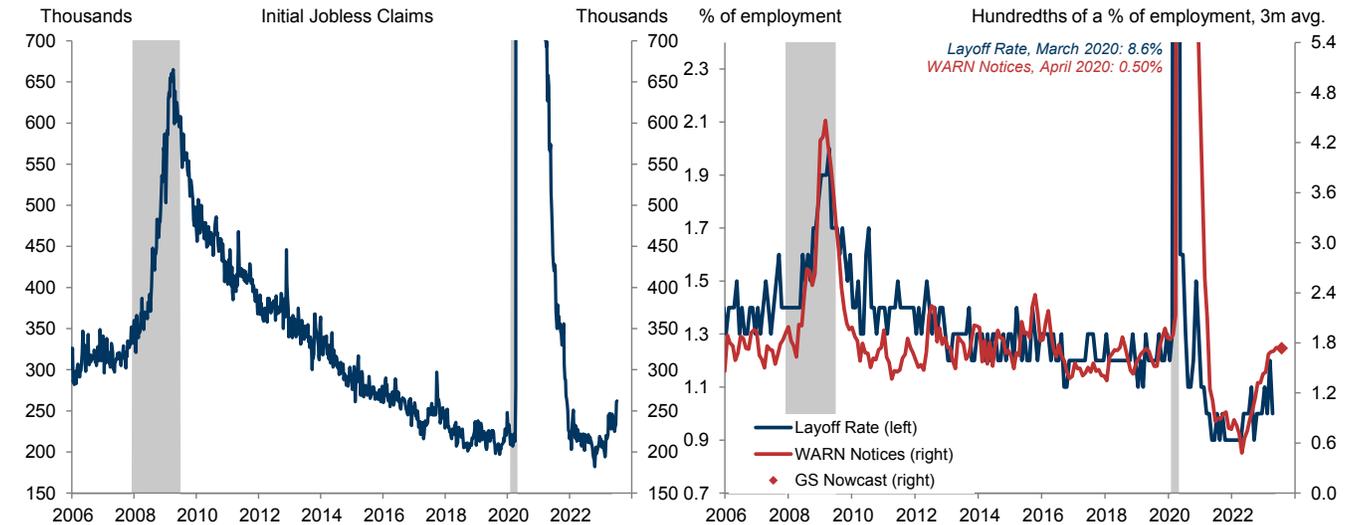


Source: Department of Labor, Indeed, LinkUp, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

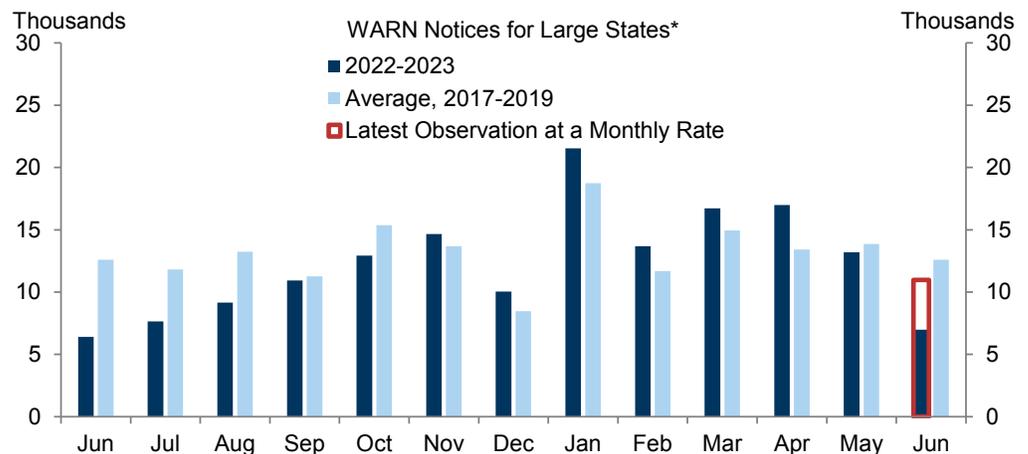
And while initial jobless claims have increased to 262k in recent weeks, they remain 20-30k below our estimate of the level that would keep the unemployment rate unchanged. Additionally, a policy change in Minnesota and potential fraud in Ohio are likely distorting the latest signals from initial jobless claims. Our real-time estimate of the layoff rate based on May and June WARN notices suggests the layoff rate is around

its pre-pandemic level, at 1.2%.

Exhibit 4: Initial Claims Remain 20-30k Below Our Estimate of Their Breakeven Level Despite Recent Distortions, and Our Real-Time Estimate of the Layoff Rate (1.2%) Is Around Its Pre-Pandemic Level



Source: Department of Labor, Federal Reserve, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

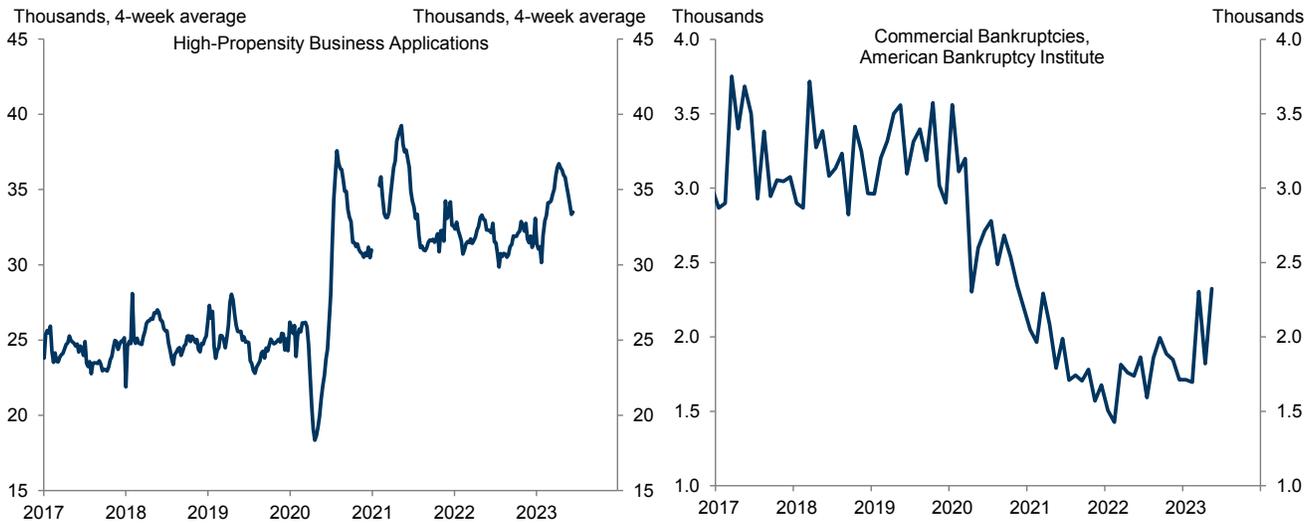


* California, New York, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio. Observations for the three latest months are adjusted for the average delay between when notices are dated and when they are reported on state government websites.

Source: Federal Reserve, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Business applications remain high (34k, vs. 25k average in 2019) and commercial bankruptcies remain low (2.3k, vs. 3.3k on average in 2019). Strong net business formation suggests that the current healthy pace of job growth is unlikely to be revised away when the BLS incorporates new source data on business births and deaths into the payrolls statistics.

Exhibit 5: Business Applications from Candidates Who Are Likely to Hire Remain Above Their Pre-Pandemic Levels; Commercial Bankruptcies Remain Below Their Pre-Pandemic Levels

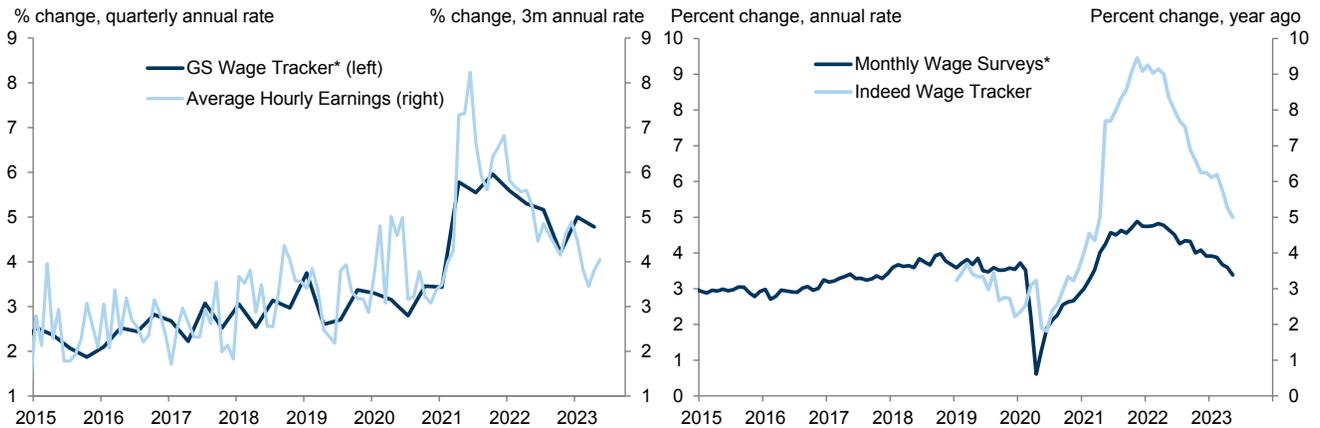


Source: Census Bureau, American Bankruptcy Institute, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Wage Growth

Average hourly earnings growth slowed to 4.0% on a 1-month annualized basis in May (vs. 4.8% in April) but edged up to 4.0% on a 3-month annualized basis (vs. 3.8% in April). Our monthly wage survey composite declined by 0.2pp to 3.4% in May. Our Q2 wage tracker edged down to 4.8% (qoq ar, vs. 5.0% in Q1) but remains above the 3.5% rate we estimate is consistent with 2% inflation.

Exhibit 6: Our Q2 Wage Tracker Edged Down to 4.8%; Our Wage Survey Indicator Declined to 3.4% Annualized in May



* Our sequential wage tracker is the first principal component of average hourly earnings for private industry workers, the Employment Cost Index, and hourly compensation in the nonfarm business sector.
 Note: Both series are adjusted for changes in the composition of the labor force between 2020Q1 and 2022Q3.

* Average of NFIB, Dallas Fed manufacturing, Dallas Fed services, Richmond Fed Manufacturing, Richmond Fed services, NY Fed services, and Kansas City Fed services, scaled to 6-month annualized average hourly earnings.

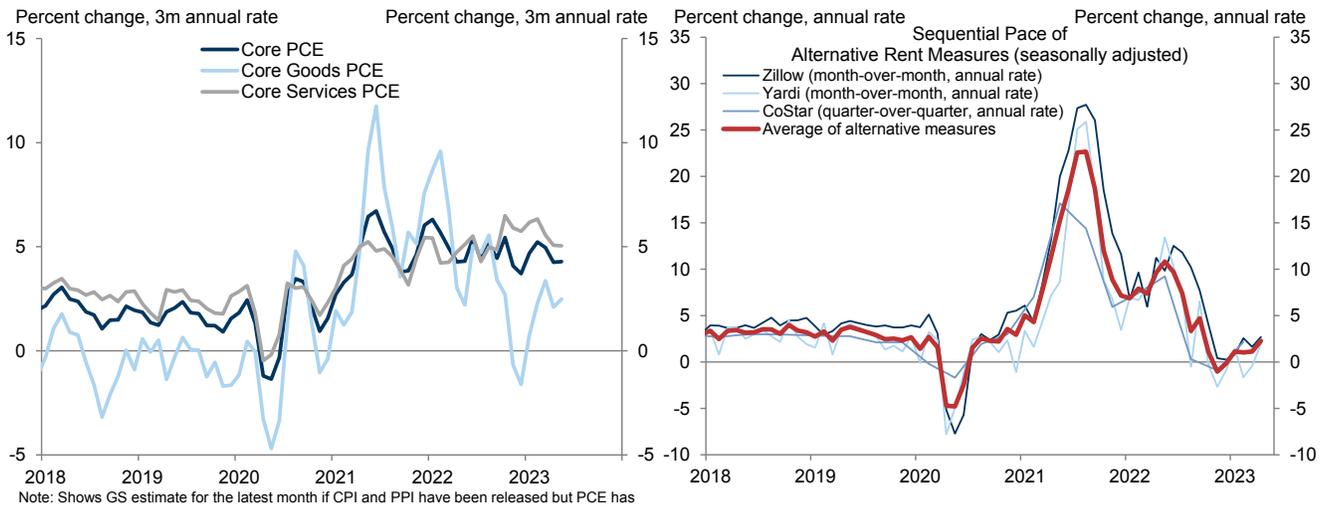
Source: Department of Labor, Indeed, Federal Reserve, NFIB, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Inflation

We estimate that core PCE increased 0.32% in May, implying 5.3% core goods inflation and 5.0% core services inflation on a 3-month annualized basis. Web-based measures of new-tenant rent growth increased at a 2.3% annual rate in April, suggesting that the

slower pace of shelter inflation is likely to continue as the gap between rents for new and continuing leases continues to narrow.

Exhibit 7: We Estimate That Core PCE Increased 0.32% Month-over-Month in May; Alternative Web-Based Measures of New Tenant Rents Increased 2.3% Annualized in April

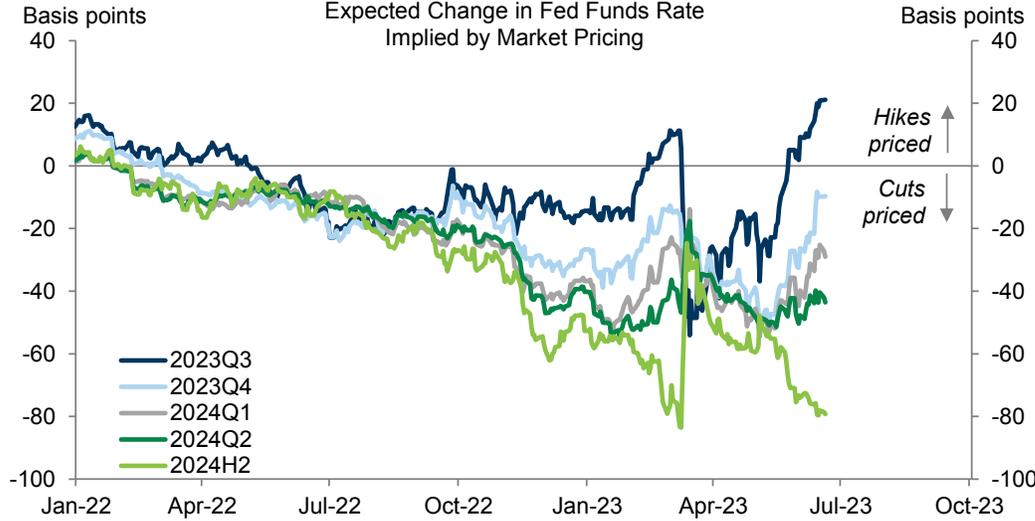


Source: Department of Labor, Zillow, Yardi, CoStar, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Yield Curve

When financial market participants see a higher probability of recession, they are more likely to expect the FOMC to cut the federal funds rate to stimulate the economy. The number of hikes priced by the bond market for 2023H2 increased and the number of cuts priced for 2024Q1 decreased, while the number of cuts priced for 2024H2 increased over the last month. Currently, the bond market is pricing 21bp of hikes in 2023Q3 (vs. 23bp of cuts in mid-May), 10bp of cuts in 2023Q4 (vs. 48bp), 29bp of cuts in 2024Q1 (vs. 52bp), 44bp of cuts in 2024Q2 (vs. 50bp), and 79bp of cuts in 2024H2 (vs. 55bp).

Exhibit 8: Market Expectations for the Funds Rate Suggest Investors Expect More Hikes in 2023H2 and Fewer Cuts in 2024Q1 Than Last Month



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Manuel Abecasis

Disclosure Appendix

Reg AC

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