www.braeburnwealth.com

Weekly Commentary

July 11, 2022

THE MARKETS

Rising inflation is a bit like a child throwing a temper tantrum in the grocery store.

The red-faced parent, in this case the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed), tries to calm the child. Sometimes, it works and the child calms down (soft landing). Other times, the child won't settle, and the parent takes more extreme action, like leaving and coming back for groceries later (recession).

The Fed is laser focused on calming inflation. At a June press conference, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said, "We have both the tools we need and the resolve that it will take to restore price stability on behalf of American families and businesses. The economy and the country have been through a lot over the past two and a half years and have proved resilient. It is essential that we bring inflation down if we are to have a sustained period of strong labor market conditions that benefit all."

To calm inflation, the Fed has tightened monetary policy aggressively, taking steps that include raising the federal funds target rate by 1.5 percent from March through June of this year. Raising the fed funds rate pushes interest rates higher so borrowing costs go up, and consumer and business spending fall. Lower spending slows economic growth and prices fall.

According to data released last week, the United States economy is slowing but remains quite strong. The data showed:

- **Service industries and manufacturing continue to grow.** The ISM® Purchasing Manager's Indexes (PMIs) for manufacturing and services showed continued growth in June, although the pace of growth slowed, reported Karishma Vanjani of *Barron's.*
- **Jobs growth was stronger than expected in June.** More new jobs were created in June than anyone had expected, but the topline number may not tell the whole story. Ben Levisohn of *Barron's* explained:

"…the jobs report, in particular, might not have been as good as it looked. While the establishment number was very strong, the household survey showed a loss of 300,000 jobs, while the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.6% only because the workforce shrank. At the same time, average hourly earnings increased by a mere 0.3% in June from May's level, lower than the rate of inflation."

- **The middle of the yield curve flattened.** At the end of last week, the yield on the two-year U.S. Treasury was 3.12 percent, slightly above the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury. The yield on the three-month Treasury finished the week at 1.98 percent. A flattening yield curve suggests that investors are concerned about what may be ahead for the economy. When the yield curve inverts, it's a sign recession may be ahead.

Last week, major U.S. stock indices moved higher, according to Barron's, while Treasury bonds lost value as yields moved higher across the yield curve.

Data as of 7/8/22	1 WEEK	YTD	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR
Standard & Poor's 500 Index	1.9%	-18.2%	-9.8%	9.4%	9.9%	11.2%
Dow Jones Global ex-U.S. Index	0.8	-20.1	-20.6	-0.7	0.2	2.7
10-year Treasury Note (yield only)	3.1	N/A	1.3	2.0	2.4	1.5
Gold (per ounce)	-3.3	-4.5	-3.8	7.5	7.5	0.9
Bloomberg Commodity Index	-1.0	16.9	25.2	13.6	7.1	-1.8

Notes: S&P 500, DJ Global ex US, Gold, Bloomberg Commodity Index returns exclude reinvested dividends (gold does not pay a dividend) and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; and the 10-year Treasury Note is simply the yield at the close of the day on each of the historical time periods. Sources: Yahoo! Finance, MarketWatch, djindexes.com, London Bullion Market Association. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. N/A means not applicable.

111 W. Western Avenue
Muskegon, Michigan 49442
231.720.0743 Main
866.577.9116 Toll free

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday: 8a - 5p
Fridays: 8a - 4p

BRAEBURN Wealth Management

Michael A. Poland, CFA®
CEO & Founder
Wealth Advisor / Portfolio Manager

Melanie N. Meyer, FPQP™
Wealth Advisor
Financial Planning

Sherri L. Balaskovitz
Director of Marketing
Director of Operations

Caitlyn Mouw, FPQP™
Director of First Impressions
Client Services

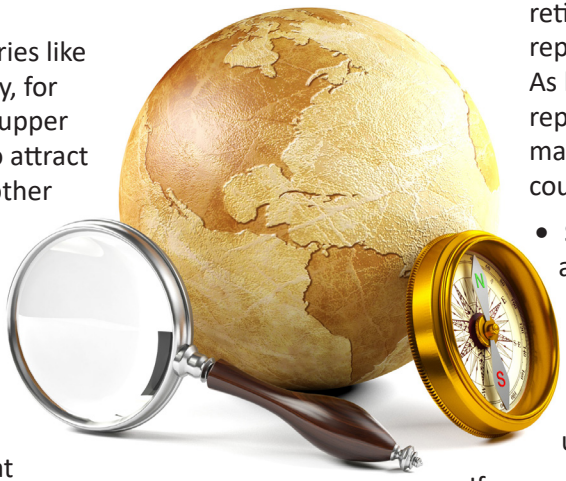
Barb Pasco
Senior Client Services
Compliance Manager

Dimitri Poland
Associate / Investment Research

IN THIS ISSUE:

THINKING ABOUT RETIRING OUTSIDE THE U.S.?

There are lots of amazing places to retire in the United States but retiring elsewhere can be an attractive alternative. Some countries offer incentives to Americans who retire abroad, reported Laura Kiniry of *Condé Nast Traveler (CNT).*



"Small towns in countries like France, Spain, and Italy, for example, sell off fixer-upper homes for one euro to attract foreign investments; other places are more directly trying to tempt retirees and pensioners looking to relocate, with visas that promise tax cuts, and steep-discount programs that make U.S. dollars go a long way."

Every year, the *International Living Retirement Index* identifies "locations where retirees can spend less money, live happily and healthily, and experience a new country without straying too far from all that is familiar," reported Caitlin Morton of *CNT*. For 2022, top destinations include Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, Portugal and Columbia.

If you're considering retiring overseas, plan carefully. In addition to visiting and researching your retirement destination, make sure you work with experts who understand:

- **Banking options.** Anti-money laundering laws can make banking in foreign countries tricky. "It can take several months to open the account and you might still have to explain to the bank each time you transfer money from the U.S.," reported a source cited by Greg Bartalos of *Barron's.*
- **International taxes.** Depending on where you retire, the tax implications could be significant, reported Sarah Ovaska in the *Journal of Accountancy*. As long as you're an American citizen, you have to report – and pay taxes on – the income you earn, no matter where you live. You may also owe taxes in the country where you retire.
- **Social Security benefits.** More than one-half of a million Americans who receive Social Security benefits live outside the United States. The Social Security Administration has tools that can help you determine whether you're eligible, but it never hurts to work with someone who understands the nuances.

If you retired overseas, where would you settle?

WEEKLY FOCUS - THINK ABOUT IT

"Travel isn't always pretty. It isn't always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts, it even breaks your heart. But that's okay. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind."

—Anthony Bourdain, Chef and author

P.S. Please feel free to forward this commentary to family, friends, or colleagues. If you would like us to add them to the list, please reply to this e-mail with their e-mail address and we will ask for their permission to be added. Michael A. Poland, CFA® – Financial Advisor and Portfolio Manager. Mike is a Chartered Financial Analyst with a BA from Michigan State University and an MBA from the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mike has been in the financial service industry since 1989. Mike's prior experience was with PaineWebber, Merrill Lynch and Rehmann Financial. Mike is a member of the CFA Society of West Michigan, and has served on the boards of The Builders Exchange of Grand Rapids and West Michigan , Mona Shores Education Foundation. and the West Michigan Symphony Orchestra. Mike lives in Norton Shores with his wife and three children.

Sources:
https://www.federalreserve.gov/mediacenter/files/FOMCpresconf20220615.pdf
https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/DFEDTARU
https://www.investopedia.com/articles/stocks/09/how-interest-rates-affect-markets.asp
https://www.barrons.com/articles/services-economy-recession-51657120253?mod=Searchresults&mod=article_inline (or go to https://resources.carsongroup.com/hubfs/WMC-Source/2022/07-11-22_Barrons_Services%20Growth%20Slows%20Reaches%20Lowest%20Levels%20in%202%20Years_4.pdf)
https://www.barrons.com/articles/stock-market-dow-nasdaq-sp500-51657330112?refsec=the-trader&mod=topics_the-trader (or go to https://resources.carsongroup.com/hubfs/WMC-Source/2022/07-11-22_Barrons_The%20Stock%20Market%20Just%20Had%20a%20Great%20Week%20The%20Next%20One%20Could%20Be%20Messier_5.pdf)
https://home.treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/interest-rates/TextView?type=daily_treasury_yield_curve&field_tdr_date_value_month=202207
https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/flatyieldcurve.asp
https://www.cntraveler.com/gallery/6-countries-with-incentives-to-retire-there
https://www.cntraveler.com/gallery/best-places-in-the-world-to-retire
https://www.barrons.com/advisor/articles/retiring-overseas-income-investments-community-conversations-51657222902?mod=hp_ADVISOR (or go to https://resources.carsongroup.com/hubfs/WMC-Source/2022/07-11-22_Barrons_Retiring%20Overseas%20and%20Income%20Investments_10.pdf)
https://www.journalofaccountancy.com/newsletters/2020/aug/client-retiring-abroad-taxes.html
https://blog.ssa.gov/social-security-benefits-u-s-citizens-outside-the-united-states/
https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/872000-travel-isn-t-always-pretty-it-isn-t-always-comfortable-sometimes-it

Photo by: Globe © Geerati | Dreamstime.com