

Weekly Bottom Line

July 12, 2024

Highlights

U.S.

- U.S. inflation eased by more than expected in the month of June, raising the likelihood of a September rate cut.
- Small business confidence continued to edge higher in June, though several forward-looking indicators suggests some softening in the months ahead.
- Eyes will be on Chair Powell's appearance in DC next week for a reaction to this week's CPI data.

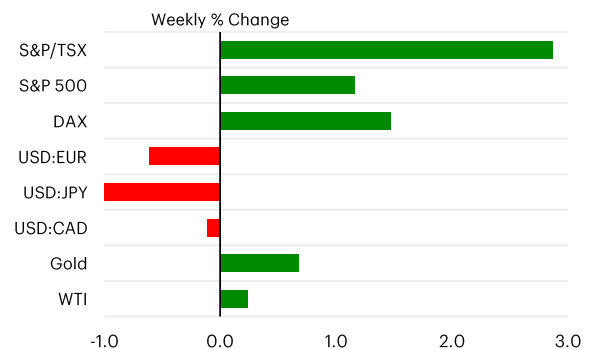
Canada

- Taking the lead from the U.S., Canadian yields took a dive this week as a softer-than-expected U.S. CPI report raised the odds of the Federal Reserve easing its policy rate earlier than previously expected.
- Home sales picked up in June, although benchmark home price growth remained subdued – a welcome sign for consumer inflation.
- CPI will be next week's headliner. Core inflation likely eased, but not enough to fully support a July rate cut.

This Week in the Markets				
	Current*	Week Ago	52-Week High	52-Week Low
Stock Market Indexes				
S&P 500	5632	5567	5634	4117
S&P/TSX Comp.	22689	22059	22689	18737
DAX	18749	18475	18869	14687
FTSE 100	8253	8204	8446	7258
Nikkei	41191	40912	42224	30527
Fixed Income Yields				
U.S. 10-yr Treasury	4.20	4.28	4.99	3.75
Canada 10-yr Bond	3.41	3.50	4.24	3.06
Germany 10-yr Bund	2.49	2.56	2.97	1.90
UK 10-yr Gilt	4.11	4.13	4.75	3.44
Japan 10-yr Bond	1.07	1.08	1.10	0.45
Foreign Exchange Cross Rates				
C\$ (USD per CAD)	0.73	0.73	0.76	0.72
Euro (USD per EUR)	1.09	1.08	1.12	1.05
Pound (USD per GBP)	1.30	1.28	1.31	1.21
Yen (JPY per USD)	157.6	160.8	161.7	138.1
Commodity Spot Prices**				
Crude Oil (\$US/bbl)	83.4	83.2	93.7	68.6
Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)	2.23	2.02	13.20	1.24
Copper (\$US/met. tonne)	9628.0	9795.2	10800.8	7823.8
Gold (\$US/troy oz.)	2408.7	2392.2	2425.3	1820.3

*As of 10:53 AM on Friday. **Oil-WTI, Cushing, Nat. Gas-Henry Hub, LA (Thursday close price), Copper-LME Grade A, Gold-London Gold Bullion. Source: Bloomberg.

Equities Surge as Cooling Inflation Lifts Rate Cut Bets



Global Official Policy Rate Targets

Central Banks	Current Target
Federal Reserve (Fed Funds Rate)	5.25 - 5.50%
Bank of Canada (Overnight Rate)	4.75%
European Central Bank (Refi Rate)	4.25%
Bank of England (Repo Rate)	5.25%
Bank of Japan (Overnight Rate)	0.10%

Source: Bloomberg.

U.S. – Inflation Cooling

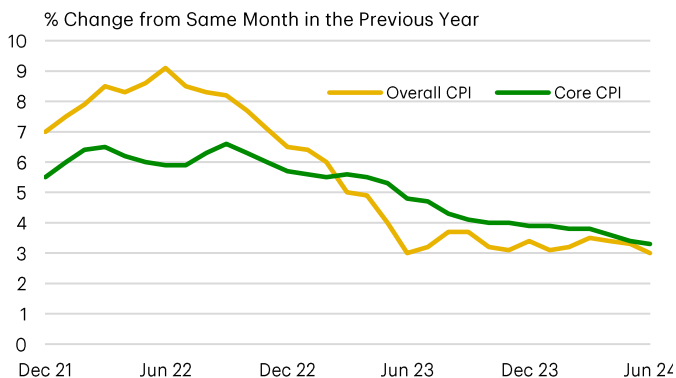
Vikram Rai, Senior Economist
416-923-1692

Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook said on Wednesday this week that the “soft landing” was starting to line up in U.S. data, a statement that, while intended to be backward-looking, may have been an unexpected act of prescience. A day later, the CPI report for June was released and as we wrote in [our commentary](#) yesterday, the report was exactly what the FOMC was looking for. The pace of inflation eased for both headline and core, as shown in Chart 1.

Defying expectations for a modest gain of 0.1% from the previous month, headline CPI declined 0.1%. Core prices increased by a ‘soft’ 0.1%, compared to the 0.4% monthly gain averaged in the first 3 months of the year. By almost all measures, this is perhaps the most promising CPI report the FOMC has seen since it stopped raising interest rates just under a year ago. In Chart 2, we can see how much this release brings down recent trends in CPI. The possibility of a September rate cut was already live, especially as concerns have been mounting over how quickly the labor market has been cooling— now we expect it to be at the forefront of the Fed’s decision-making.

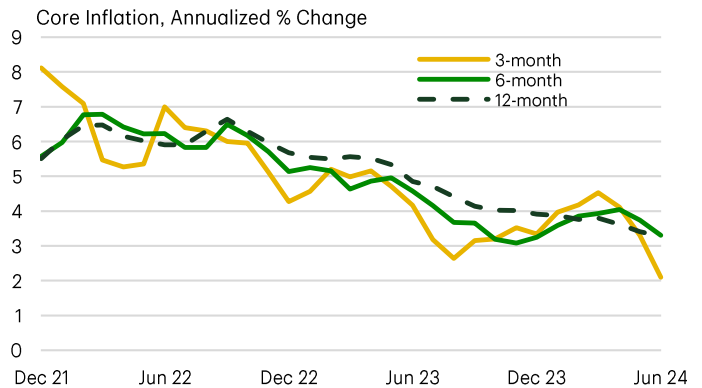
Aside from the CPI report, it was a fairly light week for U.S. data. We did see the release of the [NFIB Small Business Optimism Index](#), which generally painted a still upbeat picture for small businesses. However, there were hints of soft landing throughout the release, including a further easing in the share of firms planning

Chart 1: U.S. Inflation Continued Coming Down in June



Source: Bureau of Labour Statistics, TD Economics.

Chart 2: Recent Trends in U.S. Core Inflation Came Down this Month



Source: Bureau of Labour Statistics, TD Economics.

to raise prices and further evidence that the labor market is cooling, with hiring intentions remaining handily below pre-pandemic levels.

We already mentioned Governor Lisa Cook’s speech which signaled, even before the last release of the CPI data, that prices, labor markets, and economic activity were evolving constructively in the eyes of the Fed. Chairman Powell offered a similar observation in his testimony to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs the day before. The Fed chairman made the point in his testimony that they see risks to the Fed’s dual mandate as more balanced than earlier this year when inflation had turned meaningfully higher. More balanced risks means the Federal Reserve will not delay rate cuts too long for fear of cooling the economy and the labor market too much.

Next week, attention will shift to the June readings of retail sales and housing starts as investors try and gauge to what extent domestic activity has slowed alongside the recent cooling in the labor market. We also look ahead to Chairman Powell’s appearance at the Economic Club of Washington on Monday, which is the first time we will hear from a voting FOMC member following this week’s inflation data. With the trend on inflation lower, and a number of employment metrics showing increasing slack building in the labor market, Powell will likely use next week’s appearance to start priming markets for a September cut.

Canada – Calm Before the Storm

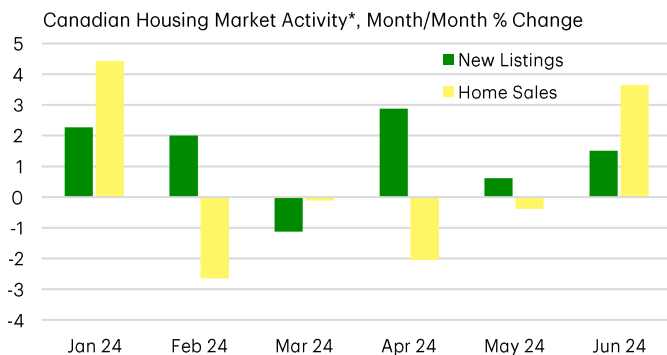
Rishi Sondhi, Economist
416-983-8806

Even with no week-shortening holiday to blame it on, there was a paucity of major Canadian economic data this week. Instead, Canadian markets were left to take their cues from developments elsewhere. In oil markets, prices were flat, as an improved summer demand backdrop faced off with easing supply concerns. Elsewhere, the benchmark 10-year bond yield followed its U.S. counterpart lower, after a soft U.S. CPI inflation print raised the expectation that the Federal Reserve could be getting closer to cutting its policy rate. This same factor also helped propel a gain in the TSX this week. Meanwhile, the Canadian dollar was broadly unchanged during the week and has been range-bound for nearly 2 years.

The week did offer a look at how Canadian housing markets performed in June and as it turns out, both buyers and sellers were more active, although sales levels remained low (Chart 1). A drop in interest rates during the month likely played some role in enticing buyers back into the market. Listings also picked up, posting their 5th increase in 6 months and offering buyers more choice. For their part, the Bank of Canada was likely pleased with the report, as overall economic growth was boosted by rising home sales. What’s more, the mild performance in benchmark prices suggests that the underlying trend in home price inflation remains subdued – a meaningful development for the CPI.

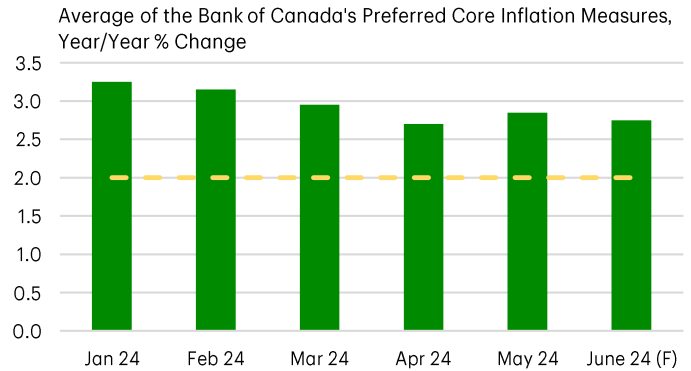
The real data fireworks come next week, with the Bank of Canada’s Business Outlook Survey (BoS) and

Chart 1: A 2024 Rarity - Both Homebuying and Selling Increased in June



*Seasonally adjusted. Source: CREA, TD Economics.

Chart 2: Projected June Inflation Easing Unlikely to Trigger July Rate Cut



Source: Statistics Canada, TD Economics.

Survey of Consumer Expectations on Monday and the June CPI report on Tuesday. Markets will also receive a pulse-check on the consumer via the retail trade report on Friday. On the latter, Statcan’s preliminary estimate suggests that retail spending dropped 0.6% month-on-month in May, offering some contrast to the gain shown in TD’s internal credit and debit card data. However, these same metrics point to a spending slowdown in June. A key takeaway from the prior BoS was that 2-year inflation expectations continued to decline while firms’ pricing behaviour further normalized in the first quarter. We’ll be looking for a continuation of these trends in the second quarter report. Economic growth indicators are also part of the Survey, but we’ve had plenty of other data showing the Canadian economy’s resilience in Q2, including decent job gains in the first two months of the quarter, an above-trend GDP growth print in April, and a preliminary estimate showing another monthly gain in May.

However, the inflation report will be the marquee print of the week. We expect that the average of the Bank of Canada’s preferred core inflation measures dipped to 2.8% year-on-year from 2.9% in May (Chart 2). If it materializes, this result would obviously be an improvement, although probably wouldn’t be enough to tip the scales in favour of a July rate cut. Indeed, the Bank’s next move is likely to come in September, which is when markets have the next rate cut fully priced-in.

Exhibits

Recent Key Economic Indicators: Jul 08 - 12, 2024					
Release Date	Economic Indicator/Event	Data for Period	Units	Current	Prior
United States					
Jul 8	NY Fed 1-Yr Inflation Expectations	Jun	%	3.0	3.2
Jul 9	NFIB Small Business Optimism	Jun	Index	91.5	90.5
Jul 10	Wholesale Trade Sales	May	M/M % Chg.	0.4	0.2
Jul 11	Consumer Price Index	Jun	M/M % Chg.	-0.1	0.0
Jul 11	Consumer Price Index	Jun	Y/Y % Chg.	3.0	3.3
Jul 11	Consumer Price Index Ex Food and Energy	Jun	M/M % Chg.	0.1	0.2
Jul 11	Consumer Price Index Ex Food and Energy	Jun	Y/Y % Chg.	3.3	3.4
Jul 11	Initial Jobless Claims	Jul 06	Thsd	222.0	239.0
Jul 12	PPI Ex Food and Energy	Jun	M/M % Chg.	0.4	0.3
Jul 12	PPI Final Demand	Jun	M/M % Chg.	0.2	0.0
Canada					
Jul 12	Existing Home Sales	Jun	M/M % Chg.	3.7	-0.6
International					
Jul 09	CH Consumer Price Index	Jun	Y/Y % Chg.	0.2	0.3
Jul 11	UK Monthly Gross Domestic Product	May	3M/3M % Chg.	0.9	0.8

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

Upcoming Economic Releases and Events: July 15 - 19 2024

Release Date	Time*	Economic Indicator/Event	Data for Period	Units	Consensus Forecast	Last Period
United States						
Jul 15	8:30	Empire Manufacturing	Jul	Index	-8.0	-6.0
Jul 15	12:30	<i>Fed's Powell Interviewed by David Rubenstein</i>				
Jul 15	16:35	<i>Fed's Daly Speaks in Q&A on Economy, Tech</i>				
Jul 16	8:30	Retail Sales Advance	Jun	M/M % Chg.	-0.2	0.1
Jul 16	8:30	Retail Sales Ex Auto and Gas	Jun	M/M % Chg.	0.3	0.1
Jul 16	10:00	Business Inventories	May	M/M % Chg.	0.3	0.3
Jul 16	10:00	NAHB Housing Market Index	Jul	Index	43.0	43.0
Jul 16	14:45	<i>Fed's Kugler Speaks at NABE Conference</i>				
Jul 17	8:30	Building Permits	Jun	Thsd	1395.0	1399.0
Jul 17	8:30	Housing Starts	Jun	Thsd	1300.0	1277.0
Jul 17	9:00	<i>Fed's Barkin Q&A on Economy</i>				
Jul 17	9:15	Industrial Production	Jun	M/M % Chg.	0.3	0.7
Jul 17	9:15	Manufacturing (SIC) Production	Jun	M/M % Chg.	-0.1	0.9
Jul 17	9:15	Capacity Utilization	Jun	%	78.5	78.2
Jul 17	9:35	<i>Fed's Waller Speaks on Economic Outlook</i>				
Jul 17	14:00	<i>Federal Reserve Releases Beige Book</i>				
Jul 18	8:30	Initial Jobless Claims	Jul 13	Thsd	-	222.0
Jul 18	13:45	<i>Fed's Logan Gives Opening Remarks</i>				
Jul 18	18:05	<i>Fed's Daly Participates in Fireside Chat</i>				
Jul 18	19:45	<i>Fed's Bowman Gives Keynote Address</i>				
Jul 18	10:40	<i>Fed's Williams Speaks on Panel on Monetary Policy</i>				
Jul 19	13:00	<i>Fed's Bostic Gives Closing Remarks</i>				
Canada						
Jul 15	8:30	Manufacturing Sales	May	M/M % Chg.	0.2	1.1
Jul 15	10:30	BoC Business Outlook Future Sales	2Q	Q/Q % Chg.	-	1.0
Jul 15	10:30	BoC Overall Business Outlook Survey	2Q	Q/Q % Chg.	-	-2.4
Jul 16	8:15	Housing Starts	Jun	Thsd	258.6	264.5
Jul 16	8:30	Consumer Price Index NSA	Jun	M/M % Chg.	0.1	0.6
Jul 16	8:30	Consumer Price Index	Jun	Y/Y % Chg.	2.8	2.9
Jul 19	8:30	Retail Sales	May	Y/Y % Chg.	-0.2	0.7
Jul 19	8:30	Retail Sales Ex Auto	May	M/M % Chg.	-	1.8
Jul 19	8:30	Industrial Product Price	Jun	M/M % Chg.	-	0.0
International						
Jul 17	2:00	UK Consumer Price Index	Jun	Y/Y % Chg.	2.0	2.0
Jul 17	5:00	EZ Consumer Price Index	Jun	Y/Y % Chg.	2.5	2.5
Jul 18	2:00	UK ILO Unemployment Rate	May	Q/Q % Chg.	4.4	4.4
Jul 18	8:15	EZ ECB Main Refinancing Rate	Jul 18	%	4.3	4.3
Jul 18	19:30	JN Natl Consumer Price Index	Jun	Y/Y % Chg.	2.9	2.8
Jul 19	2:00	UK Retail Sales Ex Auto Fuel	Jun	Y/Y % Chg.	0.2	1.2

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

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