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# **Athena Financial Solutions**

# The Impact of Stronger U.S. Employment Data on Central Bank Policy and Ultimately Asset Prices

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The impact of U.S. employment data on central bank policy and ultimately asset prices

James Brodie C.M.T.



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## U.S. employment data



## The impact of stronger U.S. employment data on central bank policy and ultimately asset prices.

- The 2021 U.S. July employment report (non-farm payrolls) beat expectations among economists surveyed on Bloomberg across multiple metrics (headline number, unemployment rate, average hourly work week and average hourly earnings). In fact according to the JOLTS job openings data (9th August 2021) there are now more job vacancies in the U.S. (10.073 mio) than unemployed people (NFP data 6th August 2021).
- In this presentation, we will look at the impact this has on the U.S. economic recovery, the Federal Reserve central bank policy and the potential knock-on effect to asset prices.

# U.S. August jobs data (released 3<sup>rd</sup> September)



Much weaker headline number, but .........



# **Employment to population ratio falling**



US Full Time Jobs vs. Population

2021: 127m vs. 333m

2019: 131m vs. 328m

2007: 122m vs. 300m

Population up 33 million vs. but just five million full-time jobs.

US Employment-Population Ratio 25 to 54 Years of age was 80.4% in 2019 vs. 78.0% today.

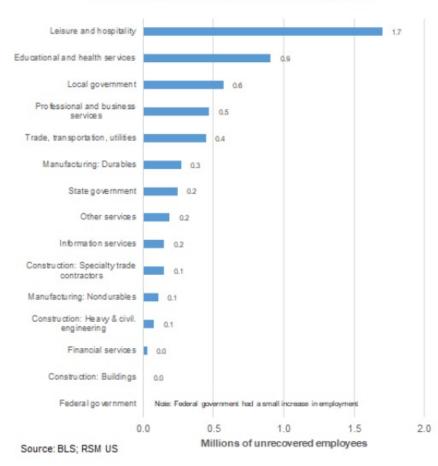
Source: Bureau Labor statistics

## Employment deficits of occupational groups relative to pre-pandemic levels



## Leisure and hospitality lagging

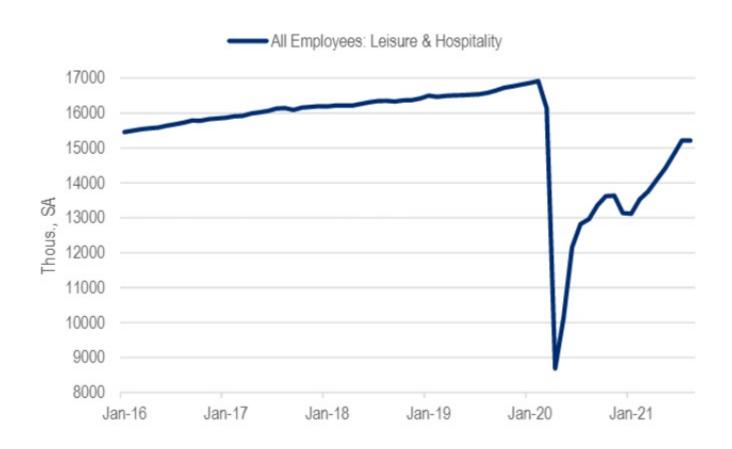




Source: BLS, RSM US

# Leisure & hospitality struggling to recover





Source: Bureau labor statistics

# **Wage inflation**





Source: Bureau labor statistics

## But JOLTS (job openings by industry total) – is at a historic high



### JOLTS definition - Newly created positions, unoccupied and those about to become vacant



Source: Bureau of labor statistics, Bloomberg

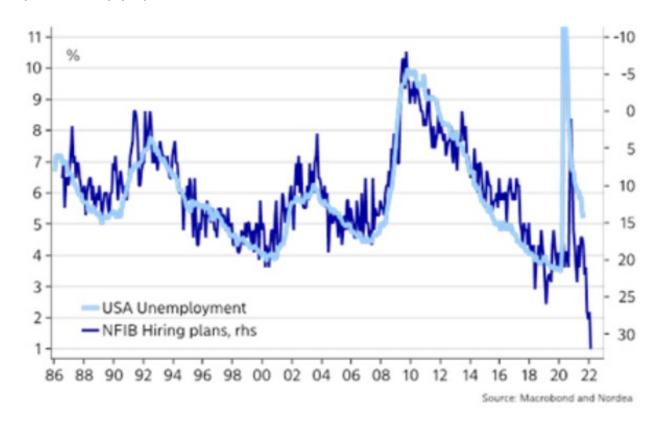
# Why aren't people returning to the workforce



### **National Federation of Independent Businesses**

Lack of new jobs in August is driven mostly by the supply side.

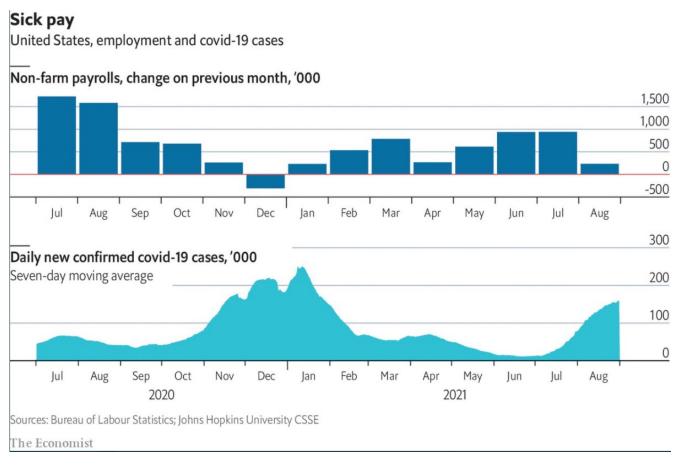
- Low mobility
- School closures
- Delta-fears
- Comfort of employment benefits



Source: Macrobond, Nordea

## Correlation of U.S. NFP with covid cases

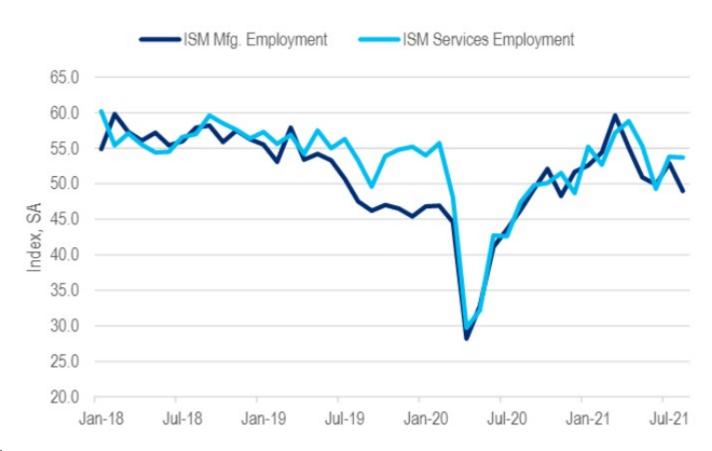




Source: Bureau of labour statistics, John Hopkins University CSSE, The Economist

# Manufacturing employment falling (supply chain effects)



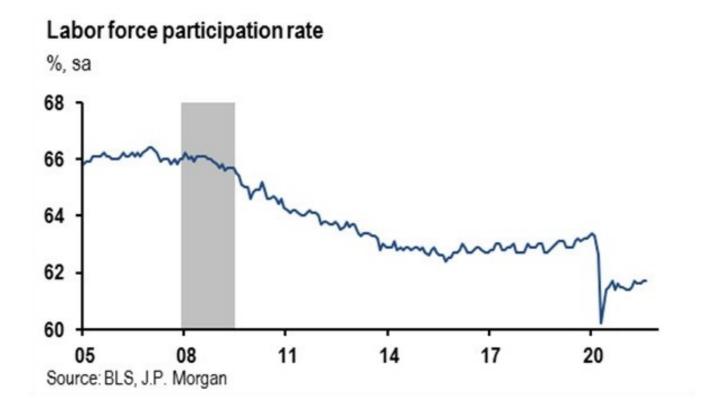


Source: Institute for Supply Management

# Participation rate falling



### Comfort of unemployment benefits? Needs wage rises...... Inflationary or 'transitory'!



Source: BLS, JP Morgan

## **Global issues**



## Truck drivers shortage

- 90,000 UK
- 45,000 Germany
- 20,000 France
- 5,000 Sweden
- 3,000 Norway
- 2,500 Denmark
- Australian truck drivers are on strike

Source: British International Freight Association

# September 6<sup>th</sup> unemployment benefits END for 7.5 mio Americans



## Will people be forced back into the workplace as benefits end?



# End of Covid-19 unemployment benefits poses test for US recovery

More than 7.5m Americans this week lose \$300 a week in top-up payments amid resurgence of virus



Sources: Financial Times

## Other global risks



### Will the Fed 'taper'?

- Stagflation
- Global manufacturing growth stalling
- China credit impulse declining
- China credit markets collapsing
- China tech stocks in bear market

**Economics** 

Goldman Cuts U.S. Growth Forecast as Consumer Sees 'Harder Path'

New Economy Daily

Stagflation Threatens to Upend the Global Economy

## Real estate developer Evergrande



Evergrande domestic bonds no longer accepted as collateral on Shenzhen's exchange

- World's largest RE developer
- \$ 15-16bn in offshore debt
- over \$300bn in total liabilities

## Evergrande's troubles shake China's property bond market

Trading suspended for second time since Friday as Moody's downgrades indebted developer again



Problems at Evergrande have thrown the spotlight on the ability of other highly leveraged developers to refinance as liquidity conditions tighten in China © Lam Yik/Bloomberg

Source: Financial Times

## China credit risks

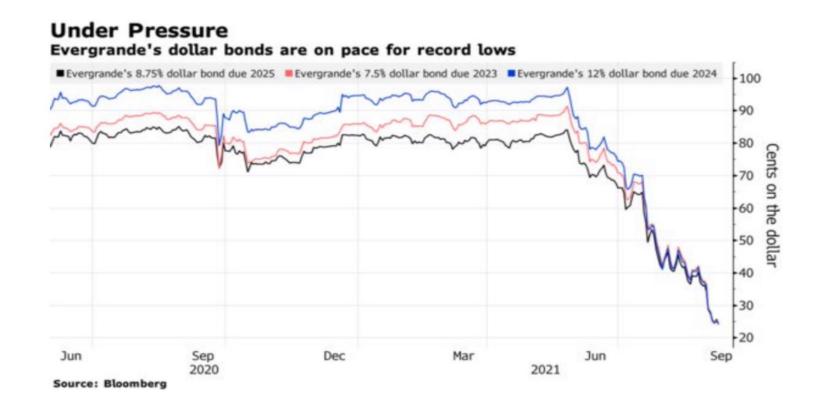


## Debt service ratios unsustainable

- Anbang, HNA, Founders, Evergrande
- Many local government financing vehicles and developers under pressure
- Plus Huarong, largest bad-debt bank

# Evergrande's dollar bonds are on pace for record lows





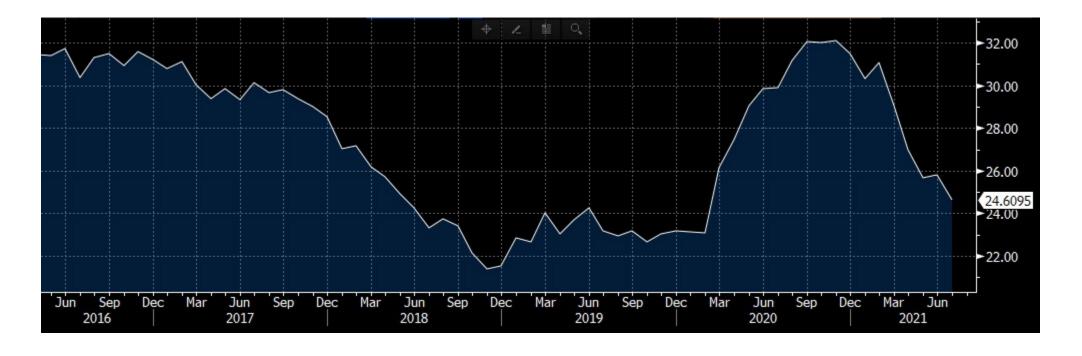
Source: Bloomberg

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# China credit impulse



Measures the impacts of new lending increments, or acceleration of credits, to GDP growth.



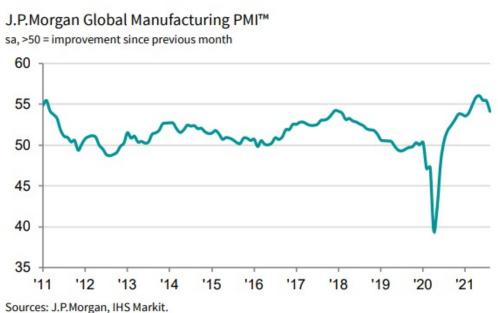
Source: Bloomberg

# China services PMI and G3 manufacturing PMI



## Has the recovery trade peaked? Delta resurgence, supply chain constraints China non-manufacturing PMI, second worst print ever



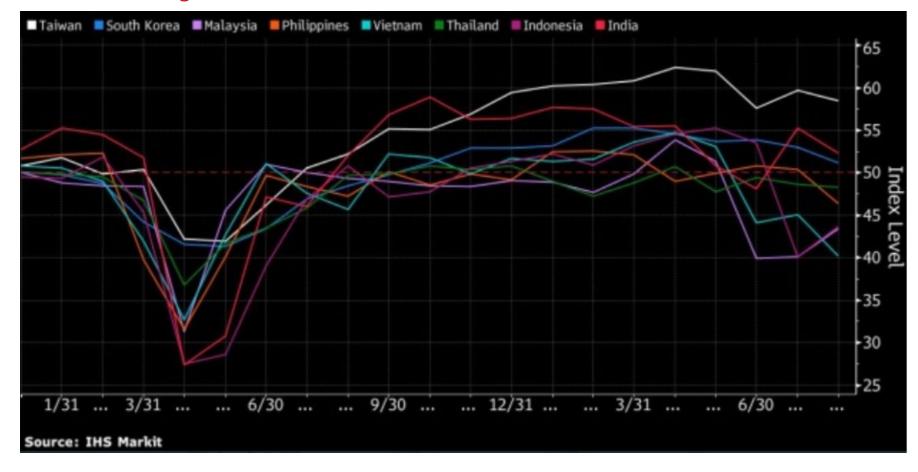


Sources: Bloomberg, JP Morgan, HIS Markit

# Delta spread across Southeast Asia hits manufacturing



### **Southeast Asia manufacturing PMI's**



Source: IHS Markit

# Inflation is 'transitory' or are we heading towards stagflation?



- German import prices hit highest level since 1981
- Eurozone inflation hits 10-year high
- Federal reserves preferred PCE inflation gauge posting its fastest annual gain in 30 years
- Aluminium prices hit 10-year high .......



Source: Refinitiv, Eurostat

# Nasdaq vs China Tech ETF



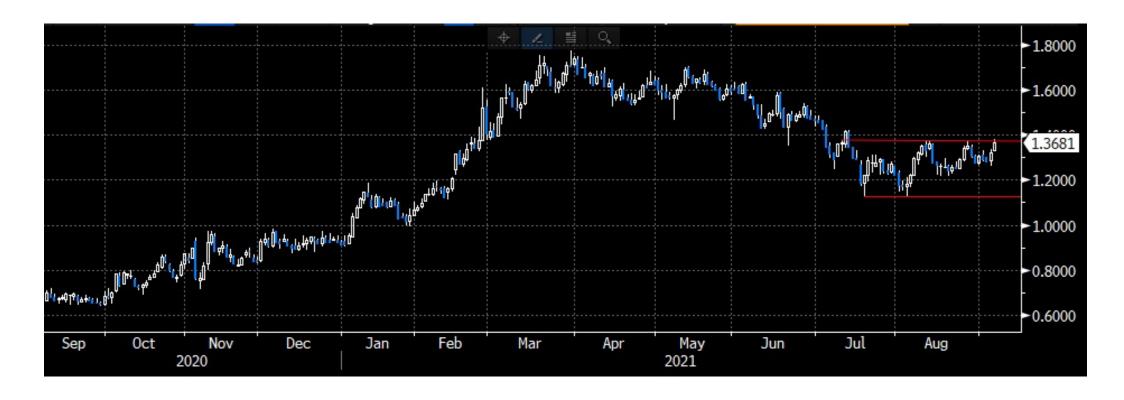
## **Temporary or permanent?**



# U.S. 10 year yield



### **Key risk levels 1.12% support versus 1.37% resistance**



## Russell 2000 Index



## Key risk levels 2,127 support versus 2350 resistance



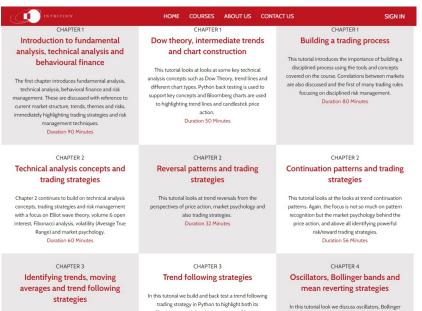
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# **THANK YOU!**

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