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Athena Financial Solutions

How will the markets respond to the more hawkish FOMC?

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How will the markets react to a more hawkish Federal Reserve?

James Brodie C.M.T.



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Impact of a more hawkish U.S. central bank



The U.S. FOMC central bank meeting in September was more hawkish than expected with FOMC board members predicting 7 rate hikes by 2024 (FOMC board member dot plot) while the Eurodollar/STIRT curve was only pricing 3-4.

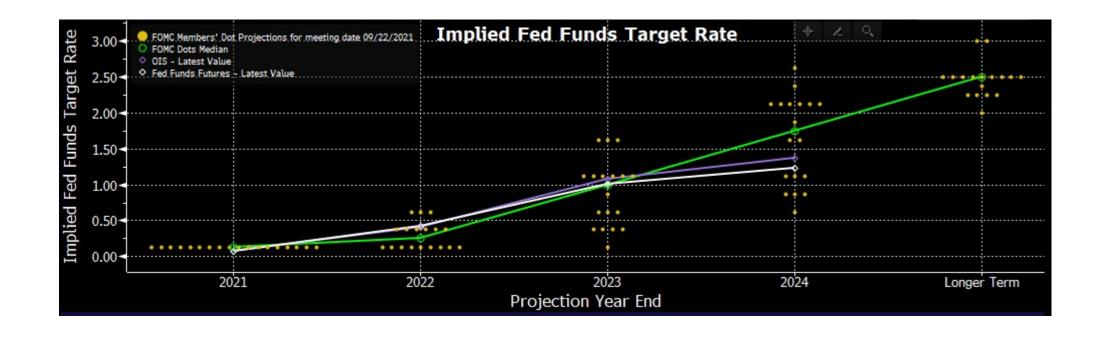
Chair Jeremy Powell made it clear that the 'taper' of \$120 billion per month asset purchases 'may soon be warranted'. He also said, 'substantial progress on jobs has been met', 'substantial progress on inflation has been met' and 'gradual tapering to conclude around mid-2022.

In this presentation, we will look at the market reaction to this more hawkish tone from the Federal Reserve. The charts, the trends and the risks.

FOMC dot plot vs OIS/FF market



Federal Reserve 'unusually' more aggressive tightening path to 2024



U.S. 10 year yield



Breaking higher, first target 1.77%

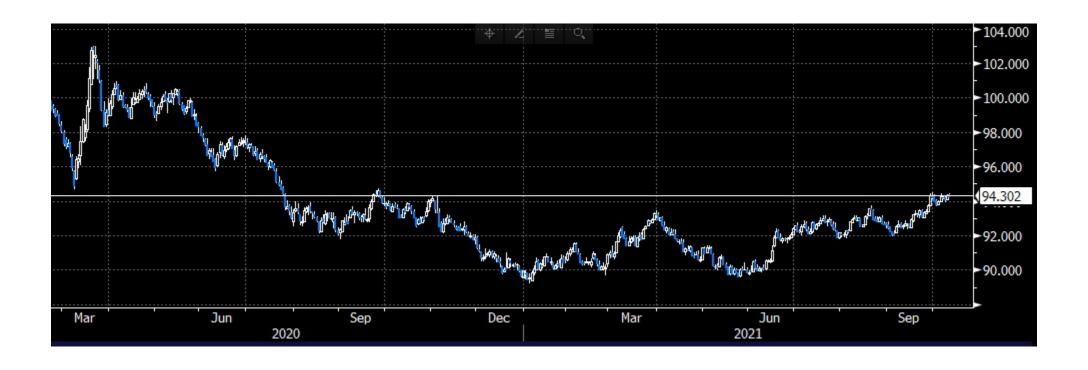


Source: Bloomberg

U.S. dollar strength



Dollar index trending higher, but at key resistance

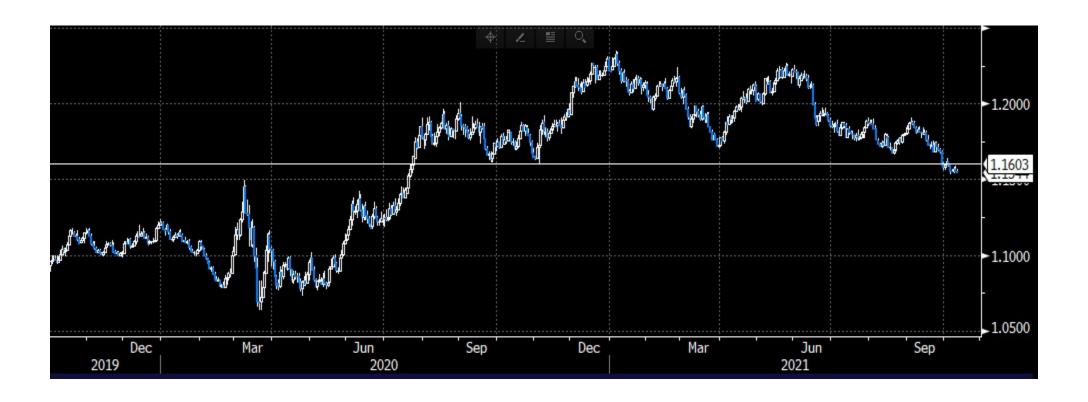


Source: Bloomberg

U.S. dollar strength (and EURO weakness)



EURUSD – already broken key support levels



Source: Bloomberg

US dollar strength



- 1. Non-bank dollar denominated debt in emerging economies \$ 3.7 trillion (Bank for International Settlements)
 - double 2010 levels
- 2. Commodities priced in dollars
- 3. Head wind for equity U.S. markets

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
- UK forward electricity prices +1000% over 3 months (Data sources: Bloomberg)



Source: Refinitiv, Eurostat

Germany – stagflation?



Wholesale prices + 13.2% YOY (highest since 1974) **Industrial production September -4.0% MoM**

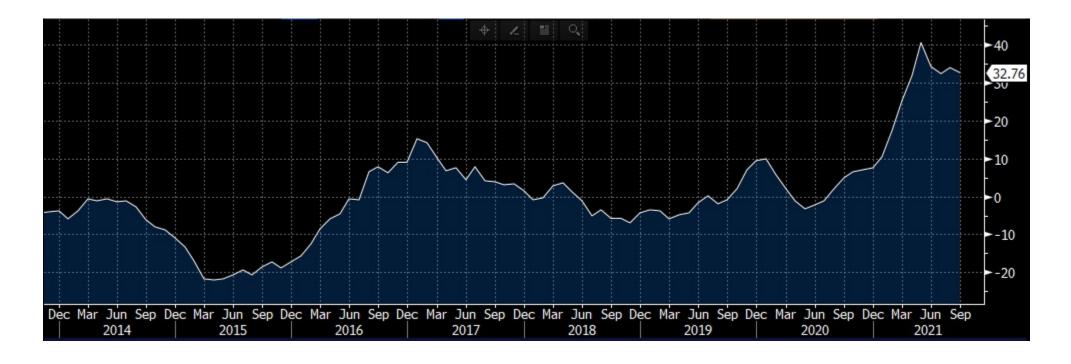


Source: Bureau of labor statistics, Bloomberg

UN food and agriculture world food price Index YoY



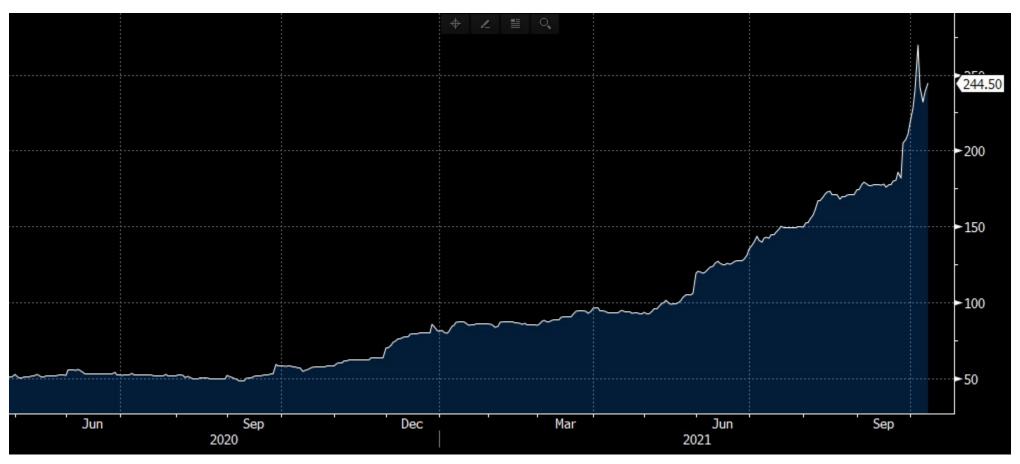
Highest levels since 2010-11 Arab Spring uprisings



Energy prices – Coal



Front contract Newcastle coal future



(Source : Bloomberg)

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What's driving the markets? Fundamentals, Technical, Trends and Risks

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



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



Source: Bureau of labor statistics, Bloomberg

Other global risks



Will Central banks tighten (after the FED taper)?

- Inflation handbrake
- Global energy prices
- Global manufacturing growth stalling
- Tax increases?
- 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

After tapering would central bank tightening be a policy mistake?

China credit risks



Chinese real estate developers

- Oct 4th Fantasia default
- Oct 11th Evergrande coupon not received
- Oct 15th Xinyuan will pay just 5% of note
- Oct 18th Sinic wont pay principle & interest due
- Modern Land has asked for 3 month extension

(Source: Sofia Hoeta e Costa, Bloomberg Business)

China HY Index yield



Contagion across real estate developers

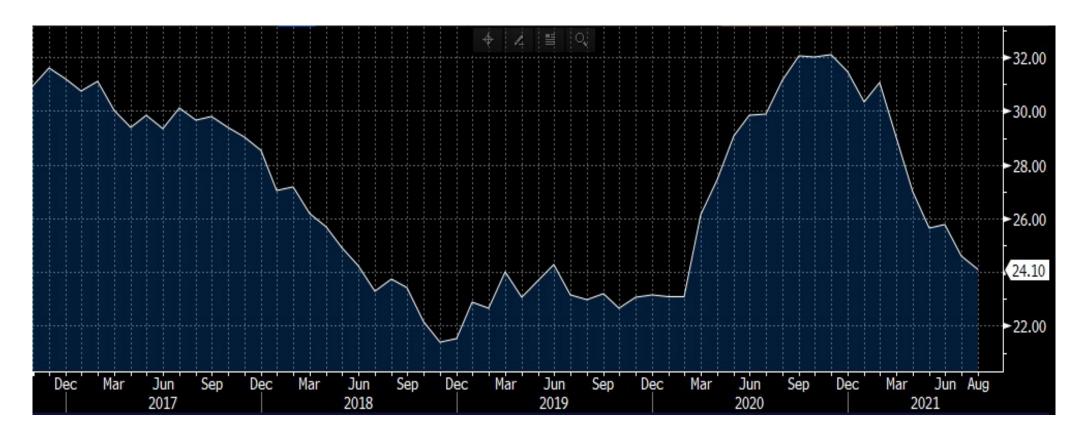


Source: Bloomberg

China credit impulse



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



Source: Bloomberg

Nasdaq vs China Tech ETF



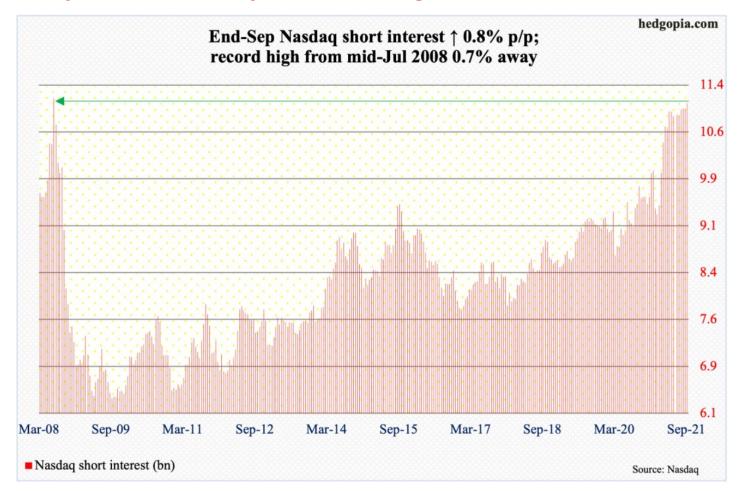
Temporary or permanent?



Nasdaq short interest



Nasdaq short interest just 0.7% from July 2008 record high



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Source: Hedgopia, Nasdag

NYSE composite index vs % stocks closing above 200dma



Breadth continues to weaken



(Source: Bloomberg)



Trend line support and 50 dma broken. Bulls need 200 dma to hold at 4,156.



(Source: Bloomberg)

Russell 2000 Index



Key risk levels 2,127 support versus 2350 resistance



(Source: Bloomberg)

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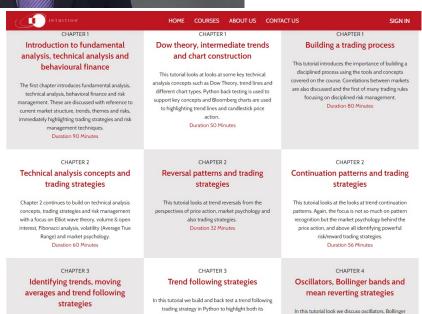


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