MARKET SUMMARY

Complete Recap of Today's Market Activity

CPI Helps Flesh Out Rate Cut Odds, But Not Much Else

Market Summary: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 - 11:57AM

Heading into today's CPI data, there were valid doubts about the data's role as one of the two biggest market movers (the jobs report being the other). Those doubts proved to be well founded as far as MBS and Treasuries are concerned with all of the initial reaction being erased in the first two hours of trading. Specifically, bonds lost ground after the data, but gained it all back. The only place we see any lasting negative impact is in near-term Fed Funds Futures, where CPI has further tipped the scales in favor of a 25bp rate cut next week. So why aren't other bonds suffering? It all goes back to the thesis that the overall pace of rate cuts matters more than the size of the first one.

Latest Video Analysis



Will The Market Still Care About CPI?



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UMBS 6.0 102.38 -0.03

10YR 3.639% -0.007% 9/11/2024 5:00PM EST

CPI Helps Flesh Out Rate Cut Odds, But Not Much Else

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To show that this isn't merely a phenomenon of bonds versus Fed Funds Futures, consider longer term futures contracts. For example, Even the June 2025 contract is showing a return to pre-data levels. In other words, it's all about the pace of rate cuts and not the size of the first one.

ALERT: CPI Slightly Hotter. Bonds Selling Moderately

MBS MORNING: So Far So Good as Bonds Wait on Data and Volatility

Today's Mortgage Rates

30YR Fixed 6.11% -0.11%

15YR Fixed 5.62% +0.00% 9/11/2024

Another Long-Term Low For Rates Ahead of an Inflation Report That Was Once a Really Big Deal

are based on trading in the bond market and bonds consistently take cues from economic data. Among the data, some reports are vastly more important than others--as we've seen after several recent examples of the jobs report.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is another extremely important report. At least it can be, at times. On many occasions in the past few years, CPI had a bigger impact on rates than the monthly jobs report, but times are changing.

Inflation metrics have cooled down significantly and the trend has been more stable. In fact, the last 3 CPI reports were consistent with inflation being under the Fed's 2.0% annual target (the next 9 would need to play ball in similar fashion for official, final victory).

The Fed figures that victory is highly likely at this point, considering some of the softening in other economic data. Even if tomorrow's CPI were to come in much higher than expected, it wouldn't be enough to push rates too much higher in the big picture.

As for today, there were no significant reports and bonds continued drifting into stronger territory. The average mortgage lender was able to offer just slightly lower rates compared to yesterday's latest levels. This means we're at another 17 month low.

| Time | Event | Actual | Forecast | Prior | | |
|-------------------|--|---------|----------|---------|--|--|
| Wednesday, Sep 11 | | | | | | |
| 7:00AM | Sep/06 MBA Mortgage Applications | 1.4% | | 1.6% | | |
| 7:00AM | Sep/06 MBA 30-yr mortgage rate (%) | 6.29% | | 6.43% | | |
| 7:00AM | Sep/06 MBA Purchase Index | 138.6 | | 136.1 | | |
| 7:00AM | Sep/06 Mortgage Market Index | 233.7 | | 230.5 | | |
| 7:00AM | Sep/06 MBA Refi Index | 757.8 | | 751.4 | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug y/y Headline CPI (%) ☆ | 2.5% | 2.6% | 2.9% | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug CPI index, nsa | 314.80 | 314.98 | 314.54 | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug m/m Headline CPI (%) 🖈 | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug m/m CORE CPI (%) ★★ | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.2% | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug y/y CORE CPI (%) | 3.2% | 3.2% | 3.2% | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug Core CPI index, sa | 314.121 | | 313.534 | | |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 EIA Crude Oil Imports Change | 1.526M | | -0.853M | | |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 EIA Cushing Crude Oil Stocks Change | -1.704M | | -1.142M | | |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 Crude Oil Inventory (ml) | 0.833M | 1M | -6.873M | | |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 EIA Distillate Stocks Change | 2.308M | 0.3M | -0.371M | | |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 EIA Distillate Fuel Production Change | 0.04M | | 0.167M | | |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 EIA Refinery Crude Runs Change | -0.141M | | 0.036M | | |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 EIA Gasoline Production Change | -0.371M | | 0.136M | | |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 EIA Heating Oil Stocks Change | -0.695M | | 0.939M | | |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 EIA Gasoline Stocks Change | 2.311M | -0.1M | 0.848M | | |
| 11:30AM | 17-Week Bill Auction (%) | 4.740% | | 4.810% | | |
| 1:00PM | 10-Year Note Auction 🖈 | 3.648% | | 3.96% | | |
| Thursday | y, Sep 12 | | | | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug Core Producer Prices MM (%) | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0% | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug PPI Ex Food, Energy and Trade YoY | 3.3% | | 3.3% | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug PPI | 144.854 | | 144.673 | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug PPI Ex Food, Energy and Trade MoM | 0.3% | | 0.3% | | |
| 8:30AM | Sep/07 Jobless claims 4-wk avg (k) | 230.75K | | 230K | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug PPI YoY | 1.7% | 1.8% | 2.2% | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug Producer Prices (%) | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% | | |
| 8:30AM | Sep/07 Jobless Claims (k) ☆ | 230K | 230K | 227K | | |
| 8:30AM | Aug Core Producer Prices YY (%) 🖈 | 2.4% | 2.5% | 2.4% | | |

| Time | Event | Actual | Forecast | Prior |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 8:30AM | Aug/31 Continued Claims (ml) | 1850K | 1850K | 1838K |
| 10:30AM | Sep/06 Nat gas-EIA, change bcf | 40Bcf | 49Bcf | 13Bcf |
| 11:30AM | 8-Week Bill Auction | 4.990% | | 5.040% |
| 11:30AM | 4-Week Bill Auction | 4.965% | | 5.080% |
| 11:30AM | Aug Federal budget, \$ (bl) | \$-380B | \$-349.6B | \$-244B |
| 12:00PM | Sep/11 15-Year Mortgage Rate | 5.27% | | 5.47% |
| 12:00PM | Sep/11 30-Year Mortgage Rate | 6.2% | | 6.35% |
| 12:00PM | WASDE Report (%) | | | |
| 1:00PM | 30-Year Bond Auction ☆ | 4.015% | | 4.314% |
| 4:30PM | Sep/11 Central Bank Balance Sheet | \$7.11T | | \$7.11T |

Recent Housing News

- Purchase Applications Respond to Another Small Rate Dip
- Pending Home Sales Set a New Record, but not in a Good Way
- Mortgage Apps Stall as Borrowers Seem to be Waiting on Fed

Read My Latest Newsletter

Why You Might Regret Waiting For Better Rates After The Fed Cuts

This week's labor market data and Fed speeches solidified the case for the Fed to cut rates by at least 0.25% when it meets in 2 weeks. With more and more buzz surrounding that rate cut, it's only natural for consumers to enthusiastically wait for the lower mortgage rates that are sure to follow. All too often, those who wait are surprised to learn that the only rate that's guaranteed to mov...

Mortgage Calculators

- Mortgage Payment w Amortization
- Loan Comparison
- Advanced Loan Comparison
- Early Payoff
- Should I Refinance?
- Rent vs. Buy
- ₩ Blended Rate