

# Monthly Executive Briefing

## Higher inflation, higher recession risk

**Recession and inflation fears took centre stage in financial markets in June**, as investors were torn between two scenarios: 1) a “stagflation” trap / bad recession as broad and persistent inflation pressures trigger ever-more aggressive central bank tightening, versus 2) a ‘soft landing’ scenario, where central banks manage to contain inflation triggering a mild recession with limited damage to the economy. Whenever stagflation concerns dominate, inflation expectations edge higher, rates markets price in front-loaded central bank hiking cycles and risk sentiment takes a hit. In turn, when markets tune in for a ‘soft landing’, inflation expectations moderate, yield curves flatten and stock markets stabilise. In net, it was the stagflation fears that dictated in June: rates and yields continued to tick up, spreads widened, EUR/USD slid and stock markets declined.

**As actual inflation has continued to nudge up and inflation expectations remain elevated, markets are pricing in ever more aggressive, but short-lived central bank hiking cycles.** The Federal Reserve hiked rates by 75bp in June, the biggest one-time move since 1994. In the context of persistent and broad-based price pressures, we expect Fed to hike rates by another 75bp in July and by 50bp in September, November and December. If we are right, the Fed funds target range would be 3.75-4.00% by year-end. Starting next year, we expect Fed to stay put as the US economy falls into a recession in Q2-23 with the fast hikes raising the risk of the recession coming sooner.

**The ECB finds itself between a rock and a hard place as it needs to hike rates while avoiding impairment to its monetary policy transmission.** We (and markets) expect ECB to hike rates by 25bp in July. For September, ECB President Lagarde has said a 50bp hike is warranted if inflation expectations do not improve. Despite moderation in long-term inflation expectations, peak inflation lies still ahead, and we expect ECB to hike rates by 25bp in July and 50bp in September, followed by two more 25bp hikes this year, and another two in Q1 next year. Higher yields triggered concern regarding debt sustainability in Southern Europe and Italy’s 10-year bond yield topped 4% in mid-June, before the ECB announced they are preparing a new tool to address market fragmentation. Similar to the SMP programme, which was active in 2010-2012, the new tool is likely to be liquidity neutral, allowing the ECB to simultaneously tighten monetary policy. Reduced gas deliveries have resurfaced the risk that production shutdowns will be necessary in Europe.

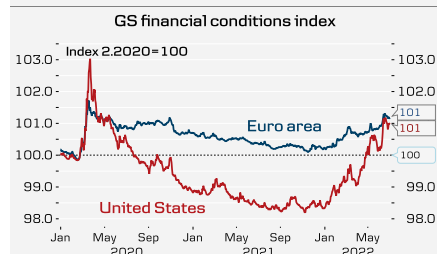
**As Western economies cool down, China is swimming against the tide.** Service sector activity benefited from the easing of covid restrictions in June. Construction sector also improved and manufacturing activity returned to expansionary territory. With government stimulus kicking in, assuming no new outbreaks and a continued trend towards looser restrictions, we expect a stronger growth momentum in China towards the year-end.

**As a result from the recent market rout triggered by re-pricing of central bank expectations, financial conditions have tightened considerably both in the US and in euro area.** Higher financing costs across assets imply hard times for indebted corporates and sovereigns, and particularly for emerging markets with substantial external vulnerabilities. EM FX and EM debt have underperformed in June and as most of the monetary tightening is still ahead, the outlook is not much brighter.

### Key points

- Fear of inflation is increasingly supplemented by fear of recession as a market theme, not least in credit markets where spreads have widened very substantially.
- However, there were also large parts of June where markets moved in the other direction, and uncertainty and volatility is high in many markets.
- Both Sweden and Norway had 50bp rate hikes in June. Rate hikes look set to continue this year.

### Financial conditions have mostly tightened in the US, where it was also needed more



Source: Bloomberg, Macrobond Financial

**Denmark**

Tighter financial conditions in Europe are affecting Denmark not least through much higher yields on 30 year mortgage bonds, and the housing market is showing signs of slowdown, though not yet of lower prices. Decreasing optimism is visible in business surveys, and unemployment is stabilising, at a very low level. On some measures, the Danish labour market is one of the tightest in Europe, but wage growth actually moderated to 3.4% y/y in Q2, from 3.8% in Q1. In 2008, with a similar situation in the labour market and much lower inflation, wage growth reached 4.9%. The moderate pace now suggests that inflation is expected to decline again soon, and that the high degree of economic pessimism among consumers is affecting wage demands. Real wages have been reduced to end-2020 levels, and look set to decline further.

**Sweden**

The Riksbank as expected hiked by 50bp to 0.75% and the new policy rate path implies hikes for the rest of 2022, but more modest increases from 2023 and onwards. The average rate in Q2 2023 in the rate path is 1.90% and the end point in Q2 2025 is 2.1%. The new rate path rhymes well with our own forecast for the Riksbank, where we expect continued 50bp hikes in Sep and Nov followed by 25bp in Feb 2023. How about the risks for 75bp? It should not be ruled out, but in our view, it would require another upwards shift in the inflation picture and for global central banks to hike more aggressively. It would also likely require higher inflation and wage expectations, which we do not see at this point. The likelihood for an interim meeting is low in our view. Housing prices decreased for the second month in a row according to Valueguard and our own Boprisindikator measuring prices in Stockholm showed that the decrease in prices further accelerated in June with 4.3% s.a. It remains to be seen how prices develop in the rest of Sweden, we believe the trend will be similar but with slightly lower price decrease.

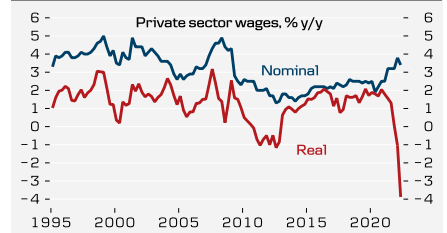
**Norway**

Norges Bank turned significantly more hawkish at its June meeting, hiking by 50bp and lifting the rate path, so it now indicates an additional 185bp worth of rate hikes until the end of 2023, where it shows the policy rate topping at 3.1% in Q4, against a previous top point of 2.5% in Q3 2024. This is based on a positive outlook for the Norwegian economy and upwards revisions to expectations for inflation and wage growth, the latter now forecast at 4.4% in 2023. In our view, the economic outlook is too optimistic, given the weakening global outlook and the impact the interest rate hikes will have on the domestic economy. Hence, our forecast is that the policy rate will reach 2.25% at the end of 2022 and not be hiked any further.

**Finland**

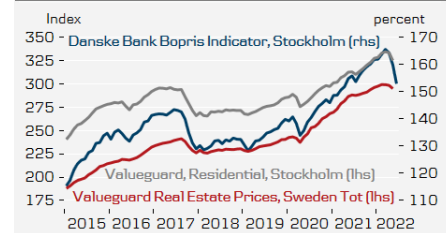
In Finland, economic activity has gradually cooled down. Consumers spend more in retail trade, but due to high inflation (7% in May), less goods are bought. Sanctions and voluntary boycotts have halted most of the trade with Russia. That is negative for the economy, but some industries like sawmills have benefited from lack of competition from Russia. There will be additional investment into energy and national security. Consumer confidence is very weak and business confidence has fallen. Service business confidence is relatively good. Construction sector looks most pessimistic and activity is likely to fall in H2 2022. Housing market activity stays below 2021, but prices are stable. The FIN-FSA recommends that mortgage borrowers' total loan-servicing costs should be no more than 60% of their net income. This DSTI cap may limit lending, especially in growth centers. Open job vacancies are plentiful in many industries, which is a buffer against economic adversities.

**Modest wage growth in Denmark**



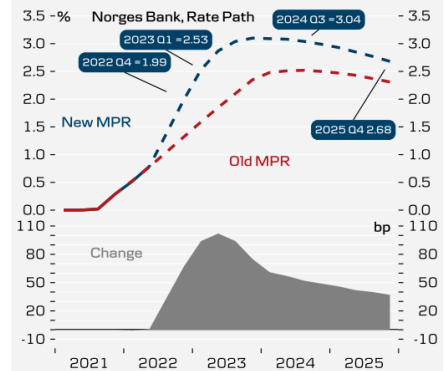
Sources: DA, Statistics Denmark, Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank

**Swedish housing market slowing**



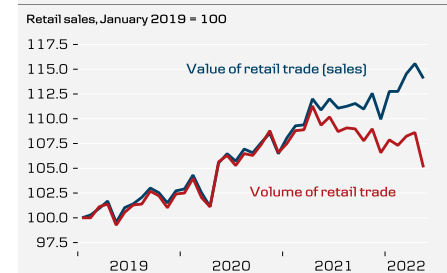
Source: Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank

**Higher rate path in Norway**



Source: Norges Bank, Macrobond Financial

**Finnish consumers spend more to get less**



Source: Macrobond Financial

**Currency markets**

While June was characterised by a month of two halves – deflation fears in the first half, diminished inflation fears in the second – the FX month overall was characterised by a stronger USD driven by both sharper Fed monetary tightening and sour global risk appetite. Also, the CHF has had a strong month following the Swiss National Bank delivering a surprise 50bp rate hike and no longer referring to CHF as “highly valued”. This has sent EUR/CHF close to the psychologically important level of parity. In the other end of the spectrum, JPY weakness resumed as global yields moved higher and Bank of Japan stuck to its yield curve control target. USD/JPY subsequently hit the highest level since 1998. In the Scandies, both NOK and SEK suffered from weaker global growth prospects and souring global risk appetite. EUR/DKK continues to trade just south of 7.44.

**Bond markets**

Inflation and central bank response keep being the main theme in fixed income markets with underlining push for higher yields. However, the recession fears have lately pulled both short term and long term yields 40bp lower during June. Still, daily volatility is very high and yield moves of +/-10bp day to day is beginning to be common, and this is also limiting risk appetite among market participants, reducing liquidity. For Danish mortgage bonds, spreads widened in the first half of the month with flex/FLT bonds seeing a rare large spread widening of some 10bp. Since mid-June, mortgage bonds have seen spread tightening and especially callables have seen one of the best performance periods ever with 30-40bp within two-three weeks driven by the still very high buybacks from borrowers in the lower coupon callables.

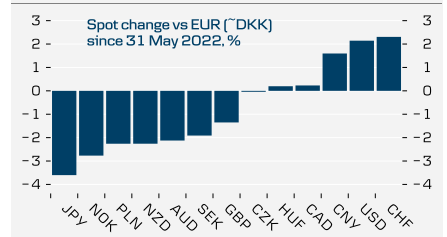
**Credit markets**

June was a rough month for credit markets. iTraxx Xover widened c.150bp and Main more than 30bp. The indices are trading in 587bp and 120bp, respectively, which is their highest levels since 2012 if we exclude the most extreme levels reached during the COVID crisis and early 2016 (where higher levels were only sustained for a couple of weeks). Distress is particularly pronounced in the real estate segment where investor panic has reached extreme levels due to high debt burdens and financing costs. The adverse market conditions have also been visible in the primary market where issuance activity in June was around half the level from 2021. When new deals have come to the market it has usually been with heavy new issue concessions thus putting further pressure on secondary spreads.

**Equities**

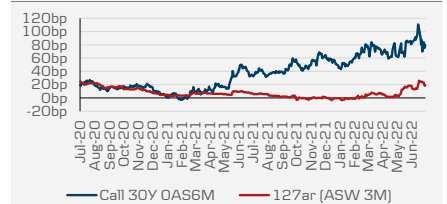
June became another very bad month for equities and first half of 2022 turned out to be one of the worst on record for equities. However, June also marked an important change in the equity investment narrative as the stagflation trade turned into a recession trade. Put it differently, materials, energy and partly financials turning into leading underperformers. Q3 earnings season will start in a couple of weeks and it will be an okay earnings season while guidance will be very poor. The big drop in momentum in June will continue in Q3 and hence most managements will have to issue conservative guidance. The combination of macro data and guidance will also mean a big shift to analysts’ estimates. We are expecting earnings estimates will be cut by 5-10% within the next six months. The positive take is that markets have already priced in some of the further deterioration we expect to see in macro and earnings.

**FX. Sorted spot returns vs EUR over the last month**



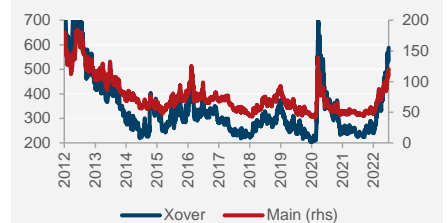
Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results. Source: Macrobond Financial

**Still high spreads on Danish callables**



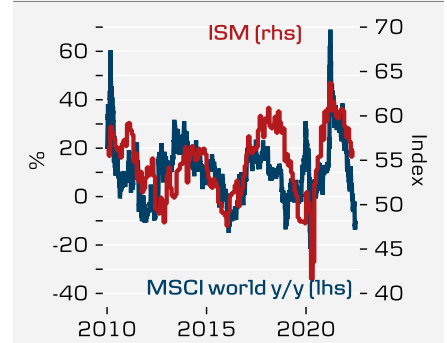
Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results. Source: Danske Bank

**Credit spreads at multi-year highs**



Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results. Source: BondRadar

**Market pricing weaker PMI**



Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results. Source: Macrobond Financial, Refinitiv and Danske Bank securities

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## Macroeconomic forecast

### Macro forecast. Scandinavia

	Year	GDP <sup>1</sup>	Private cons. <sup>1</sup>	Public cons. <sup>1</sup>	Fixed inv. <sup>1</sup>	Ex-ports <sup>1</sup>	Im-ports <sup>1</sup>	Infla-tion <sup>1</sup>	Wage growth <sup>1</sup>	Unem-ploym <sup>3</sup>	Public budget <sup>4</sup>	Public debt <sup>4</sup>	Current acc. <sup>4</sup>
Denmark	2021	4.9	4.3	4.2	6.2	8.0	8.0	1.9	3.0	3.7	2.6	36.7	8.3
	2022	3.5	2.1	-0.3	3.3	4.1	1.9	6.4	3.7	2.5	1.0	31.9	8.8
	2023	0.7	1.3	0.9	-0.4	2.2	2.5	2.6	4.0	2.7	0.7	29.9	8.1
Sweden	2021	4.8	6.1	2.6	5.9	7.6	9.3	2.2	2.7	8.8	-0.2	37.7	5.2
	2022	1.1	2.6	0.1	-0.3	5.4	6.3	6.4	2.0	7.4	-0.3	33.0	4.9
	2023	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.3	3.9	3.4	3.5	2.1	7.2	0.3	31.0	5.2
Norway	2021	4.1	4.9	3.8	-0.9	4.7	2.3	3.5	3.5	3.2	-	-	-
	2022	3.6	6.7	1.3	3.1	6.0	7.5	4.6	3.7	1.8	-	-	-
	2023	1.6	2.5	1.3	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	3.7	2.1	-	-	-

### Macro forecast. Euroland

	Year	GDP <sup>1</sup>	Private cons. <sup>1</sup>	Public cons. <sup>1</sup>	Fixed inv. <sup>1</sup>	Ex-ports <sup>1</sup>	Im-ports <sup>1</sup>	Infla-tion <sup>1</sup>	Wage growth <sup>1</sup>	Unem-ploym <sup>3</sup>	Public budget <sup>4</sup>	Public debt <sup>4</sup>	Current acc. <sup>4</sup>
Euro area	2021	5.3	3.6	3.9	4.1	10.8	8.7	2.6	4.1	7.7	-5.1	97.4	3.2
	2022	2.8	2.4	2.9	2.4	5.5	6.5	7.3	3.2	6.8	-3.7	94.7	2.4
	2023	1.8	0.7	3.7	3.5	3.9	4.4	2.8	3.4	6.8	-2.5	92.7	2.9
Germany	2021	2.9	0.3	2.9	1.0	9.5	9.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	-3.7	69.3	7.4
	2022	1.4	3.0	1.3	2.2	1.9	6.7	7.9	3.3	3.0	-2.5	66.4	6.4
	2023	1.8	0.7	4.1	3.5	3.9	4.5	3.3	3.9	3.0	-1.0	64.5	6.8
Finland	2021	3.0	3.6	2.7	1.1	5.6	5.6	2.2	2.3	7.7	-2.6	72.3	0.9
	2022	1.5	1.6	1.5	4.0	1.0	2.5	6.0	2.8	6.4	-2.8	65.0	-0.6
	2023	1.6	2.5	1.0	2.5	2.0	3.5	2.5	2.6	6.3	-2.3	64.8	-0.2

### Macro forecast. Global

	Year	GDP <sup>1</sup>	Private cons. <sup>1</sup>	Public cons. <sup>1</sup>	Fixed inv. <sup>1</sup>	Ex-ports <sup>1</sup>	Im-ports <sup>1</sup>	Infla-tion <sup>1</sup>	Wage growth <sup>1</sup>	Unem-ploym <sup>3</sup>	Public budget <sup>4</sup>	Public debt <sup>4</sup>	Current acc. <sup>4</sup>
USA	2021	5.7	7.9	0.5	7.8	4.5	14.0	4.7	4.2	5.4	-12.4	126.9	-3.5
	2022	2.4	2.9	-0.8	3.9	2.9	9.6	8.4	5.2	3.6	-4.2	124.0	-3.5
	2023	0.1	0.1	1.1	-1.2	-2.3	-1.7	4.6	4.2	3.9	-3.8	121.0	-3.2
China	2021	8.0	10.2	-	5.2	-	-	0.7	5.0	-	-5.6	68.9	3.0
	2022	3.7	4.8	-	3.0	-	-	2.5	5.0	-	-7.7	77.8	1.1
	2023	5.7	6.5	-	5.0	-	-	2.5	5.5	-	-7.1	81.8	1.0
UK	2021	7.4	6.2	14.3	5.9	-1.3	3.8	2.6	5.1	4.5	-5.4	95.6	-2.6
	2022	4.0	4.8	1.3	8.1	0.7	14.7	8.4	4.4	3.6	-3.9	95.5	-4.8
	2023	-0.2	-0.3	1.2	-1.9	-2.4	-2.4	5.6	3.3	4.1	-1.9	97.0	-3.7
Japan	2021	1.7	1.1	2.1	-1.3	11.9	5.1	-0.2	-	2.8	-	-	-
	2022	1.7	3.3	1.4	-1.8	3.6	4.1	1.6	-	2.5	-	-	-
	2023	1.8	1.6	0.7	1.7	2.9	1.1	1.1	-	2.5	-	-	-

Source: OECD and Danske Bank. 1) % y/y. 2) % contribution to GDP growth. 3) % of labour force. 4) % of GDP.

# Financial forecast

Bond and money markets										
		Key interest rate	3m interest rate	2-yr swap yield	10-yr swap yield	Currency vs EUR	Currency vs USD	Currency vs DKK	Currency vs NOK	Currency vs SEK
USD	01-Jul	1.75	2.28	3.20	3.04	104.6	-	711.1	991.6	1030.1
	+3m	2.00	2.59	3.25	3.40	103.0	-	722.6	1038.8	1009.7
	+6m	2.50	3.11	3.55	3.60	102.0	-	729.9	1019.6	1049.0
	+12m	3.25	3.40	3.65	3.40	100.0	-	745.0	1000.0	1080.0
EUR	01-Jul	-0.50	-0.18	1.33	2.19	-	104.6	743.9	1037.2	1077.5
	+3m	0.25	0.52	1.30	2.05	-	103.0	744.3	1070.0	1040.0
	+6m	0.50	0.90	1.45	2.30	-	102.0	744.5	1040.0	1070.0
	+12m	1.25	1.37	1.50	2.20	-	100.0	745.0	1000.0	1080.0
JPY	01-Jul	-0.10	-0.03	0.11	0.49	120.5	135.4	6.17	8.61	8.94
	+3m	-0.10	-	-	-	133.9	130.0	5.56	7.99	7.77
	+6m	-0.10	-	-	-	130.6	128.0	5.70	7.97	8.20
	+12m	-0.10	-	-	-	125.0	125.0	5.96	8.00	8.64
GBP*	01-Jul	1.25	-	2.60	2.32	86.6	120.8	858.7	1197.4	1243.9
	+3m	1.50	-	2.15	2.10	86.0	119.8	865.4	1244.2	1209.3
	+6m	1.75	-	2.25	2.10	85.0	120.0	875.9	1223.5	1258.8
	+12m	1.75	-	2.15	1.90	84.0	119.0	886.9	1190.5	1285.7
CHF*	01-Jul	-0.25	-	0.70	1.67	100.3	95.9	741.4	1033.8	1074.0
	+3m	0.25	-	-	-	101.0	98.1	736.9	1059.4	1029.7
	+6m	0.75	-	-	-	100.0	98.0	744.5	1040.0	1070.0
	+12m	0.75	-	-	-	99.0	99.0	752.5	1010.1	1090.9
DKK	01-Jul	-0.60	0.09	1.64	2.48	743.86	711.11	-	139.44	144.86
	+3m	0.15	0.72	1.55	2.30	744.25	722.57	-	143.77	139.74
	+6m	0.65	1.13	1.70	2.55	744.50	729.90	-	139.69	143.72
	+12m	1.15	1.55	1.75	2.45	745.00	745.00	-	134.23	144.97
SEK	01-Jul	0.25	0.74	2.46	2.72	1077.5	1030.1	69.0	96.3	100.0
	+3m	1.25	0.85	2.25	2.65	1040.0	1009.7	71.6	102.9	-
	+6m	1.75	1.10	2.45	2.65	1070.0	1049.0	69.6	97.2	-
	+12m	2.00	1.40	2.40	2.60	1080.0	1080.0	69.0	92.6	-
NOK	01-Jul	1.25	1.67	3.18	3.22	1037.2	991.6	71.7	100.0	103.9
	+3m	1.50	2.38	2.95	3.30	1070.0	1038.8	69.6	-	97.2
	+6m	2.25	2.60	2.85	3.40	1040.0	1019.6	71.6	-	102.9
	+12m	2.25	2.60	2.75	3.30	1000.0	1000.0	74.5	-	108.0

\*Note: GBP swaps are SONIA and CHF swaps are SHARON

## Commodities

	01-Jul	2022				2023				Average	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2022	2023
ICE Brent	111	98	112	120	100	95	95	95	95	106	95

Source Danske Bank

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