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MARKETS NOW SEE FOUR 50BP FED RATE HIKES THIS YEAR

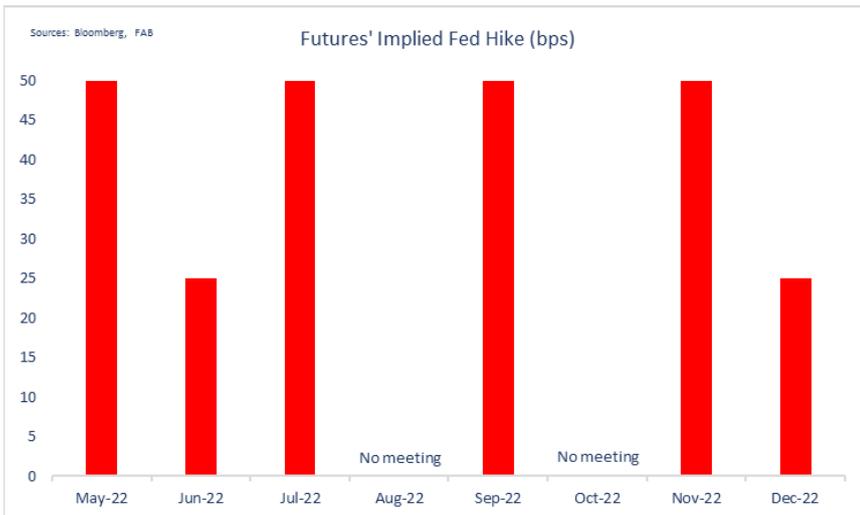
April 25th 2022

- Fed fund futures are forecasting the benchmark rate will be at 2.75% by December
- 10-year Treasury yields have hit 2.98%, and could test 3.2% based on interest rate futures
- Technology stocks are testing some key long-term support levels
- Chinese economic data suggests Beijing may have to add more stimulus

The US economic calendar was sleepy last week, but two events sent conflicting signals. The Fed's Beige Book report indicated that the US economy, particularly job creation, remains strong and can probably weather higher interest rates. Meanwhile, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said that the US job market is "unsustainably strong", comments echoed by other Fed speakers.

Markets are now forecasting a rate hike schedule this that would have the Fed benchmark rate at 2.75% by December. This may happen, unless the unemployment rate rises past 5%. Bonds have priced the shift to a larger extent than stocks. As a result some investors are likely to reallocate some of their equity positions to bond markets as yields become more attractive.

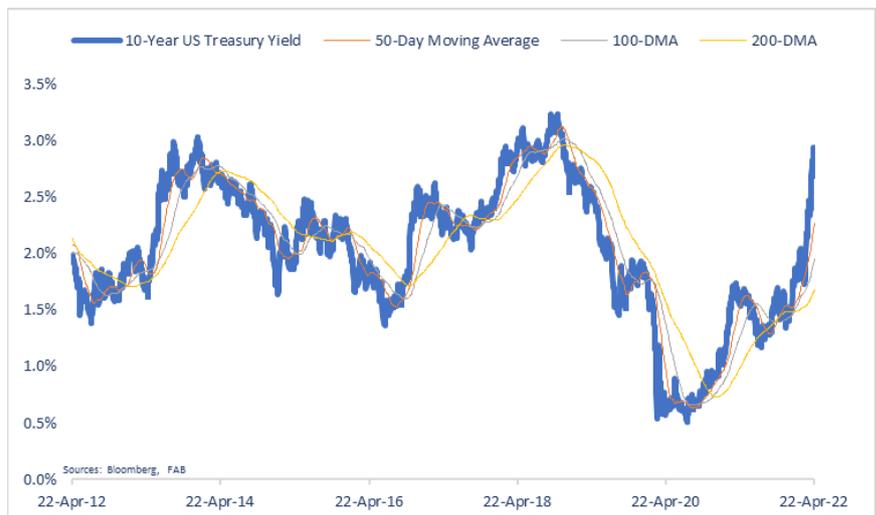
MARKETS ARE NOW PRICING IN FOUR 50 BASIS POINTS FED RATE HIKES THIS YEAR



- Comments from Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell cemented expectations of a 50bp hike in May.
- Mary Daly from the San Francisco Fed has also indicated she wants rates to be above neutral by year-end.
- The latest summary of economic projections shows the Fed believes 2.4% to be the neutral rate level now.
- Futures markets, however, are indicating investors expect the Fed funds rate to rise to 2.75% by December, and to peak some nine months later at around 3.25%.

THE YIELD OFFERED BY 10-YEAR US TREASURIES IS RISING AND HIT 2.98% LAST WEEK

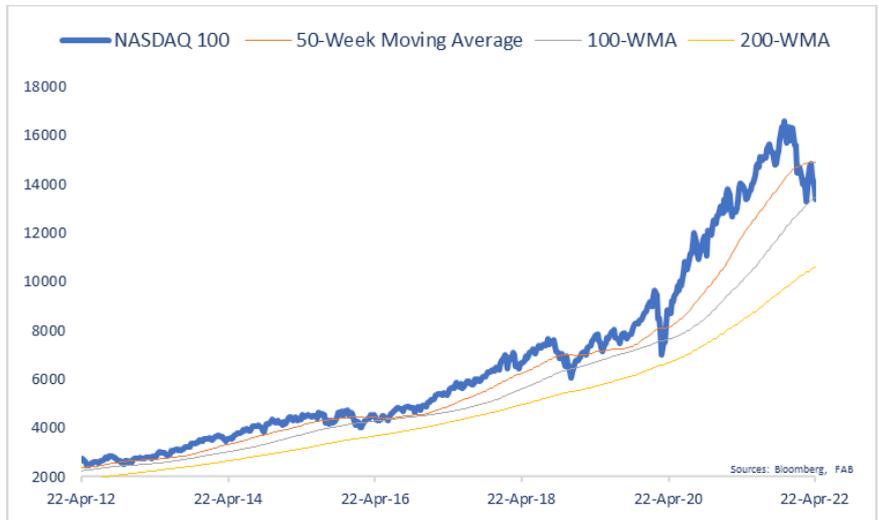
- The yield on the 10-year US Treasury was inches away from 3% last week before retreating.
- Fed fund futures are indicating a peak for rates around 3.25% by the third quarter of 2023, suggesting that 10-year yields could breach that level.
- The yield on two-year US Treasuries traded as high as 2.78% last week.
- Two-year yields could move a lot higher given the likelihood that the curve will flatten again.
- In price terms, most of the bond losses have already happened.



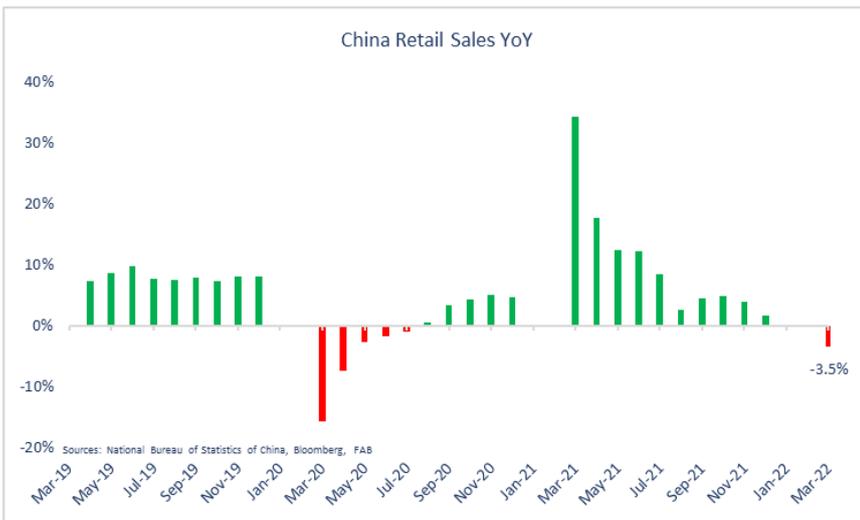


A US TECHNOLOGY STOCK INDEX IS ABOUT TO TEST A KEY LONG-TERM SUPPORT

- The NASDAQ 100 index is close to breaching its 100-week moving average, a key long-term support.
- The index fell 3.86% last week, its third consecutive weekly drop.
- The NASDAQ 100 is down almost 10% so far this month.
- Trading in the next two weeks will be driven mostly by earnings results.
- However, quickly rising rates and a potentially much slower US economy in the coming year could impact earnings expectations and prompt some further selling.



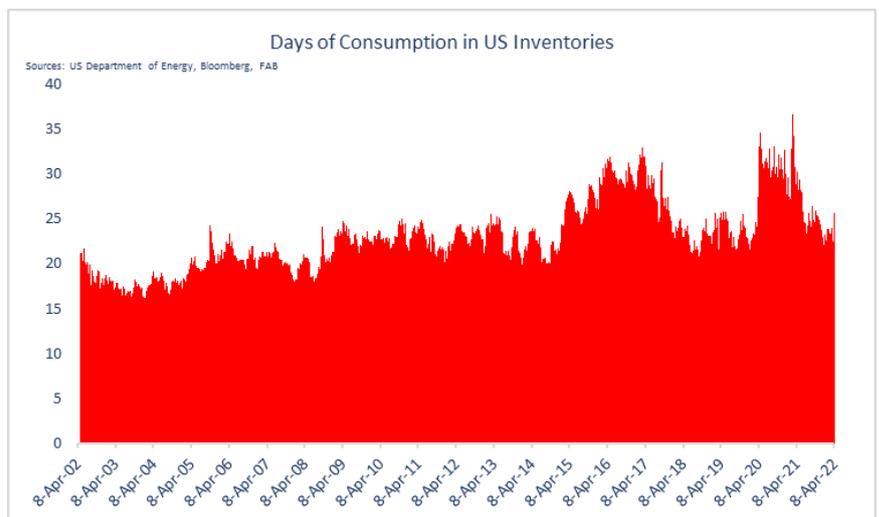
CHINA'S MARCH RETAIL SALES NUMBERS SHOWED THE COUNTRY'S LOCKDOWN PAINS



- Retail sales in March fell by 3.5% year-on-year, the third worst result for the measure since China started to make the survey public.
- The calculation does not include retail sales during the period of the strictest Shanghai lockdowns.
- The People's Bank of China has already cut the reserve requirement ratio for banks and the yuan has weakened 2.8% since April 18th.
- Beijing is now doing mass testing as several COVID cases have been discovered in the capital.

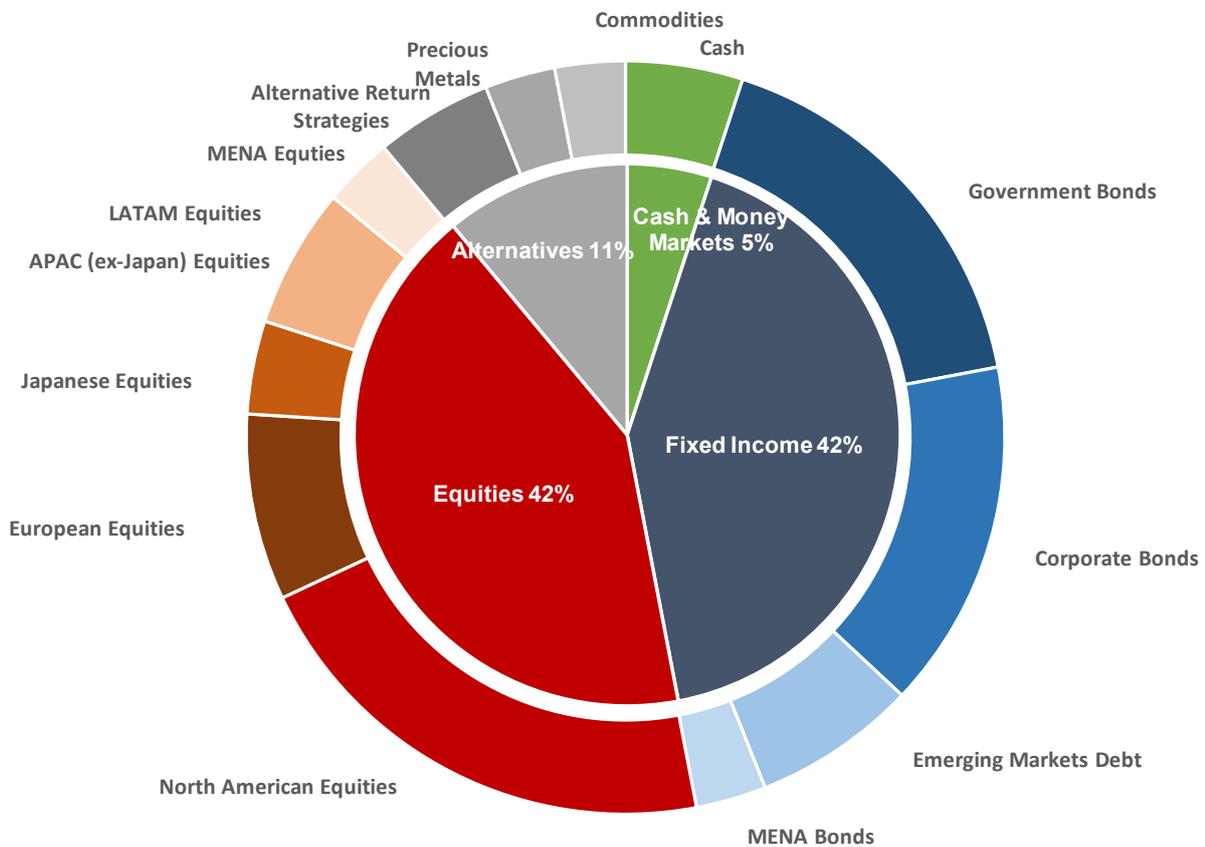
COMPARED TO CONSUMPTION, US OIL INVENTORIES HAVE STARTED TO FLASH RED

- US commercial inventories are only enough to cover about three weeks of demand, though, one of the lowest covers in several years, suggesting demand is still outpacing supply.
- Brent crude prices were falling 4.36% today amid fears that a potential Beijing lockdown could dent demand in the world's biggest consumer.
- US shale producers are yet to notably ramp up output, and geopolitical issues continue to limit exports from some places, suggesting prices are likely to remain high this year.





Asset Class	Positioning	Detail
Cash	Underweight	Putting cash to work in risk assets.
Fixed Income	Overweight	Keeping a slight overweight focused on EM dollar debt.
Equities	Overweight	Slightly overweight in Asia ex-Japan and US markets.
Alternatives	Underweight	However, reducing the underweight in hedge funds.





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