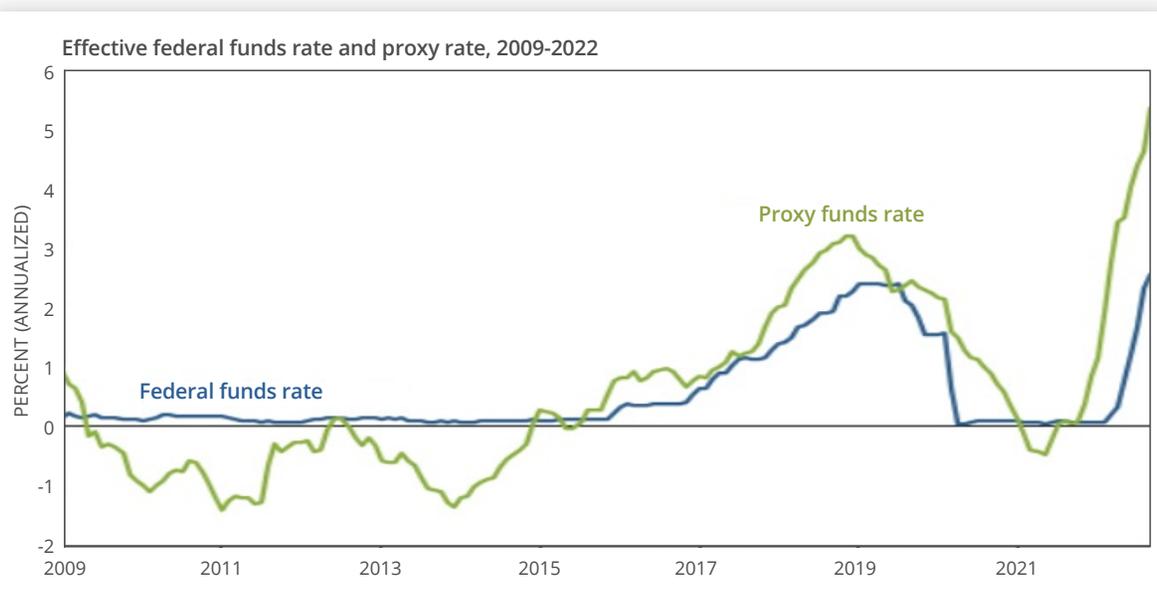


Will the Real Fed Funds Rate Please Stand Up?

We have written often about the quality and quantity of the macroeconomic research produced by the regional banks that make up the Federal Reserve System, with two of our favorite sources being the St. Louis Fed's [FRED website](#) and the Atlanta Fed's [GDPNow website](#) (which, as of November 9th puts Q4 real GDP at a very healthy 4%). If you haven't yet investigated either site, we highly recommend doing so. And this week we turn our attention to a third regional bank and a bit of research that – given the market's focus on inflation and monetary policy – strikes us as particularly timely, and those are the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and its Economic Letter that looks at a "proxy" Federal Funds Rate (you can find the FRBSF Economic Letter on the bank's [economic research page](#)).

In a nutshell, the authors of the Letter compare the stated Fed Funds Rate (which, as we know today sits between 3.75% and 4.0%) and a proxy Fed Funds Rate that considers the impact of the Fed's forward guidance (which as we know has been quite hawkish of late) and the impact of the Fed's balance sheet activity (which as we know has been shrinking of late as the Fed has moved from quantitative easing to quantitative tightening, which is also quite hawkish) on monetary policy. According to the Economic Letter, when those two additional factors are considered, the result is a proxy Fed Funds Rate which is meaningfully higher than the stated Fed Funds Rate (at 5.25%+ vs 3.75% to 4.0%, see chart), which makes sense to us, again, given the Fed has more than once stated its determination to bring down the rate of inflation and the Fed is aggressively shrinking its balance sheet.

If the research is on point, and monetary policy is much tighter than previously thought, we think a few conclusions, positive and negative, can be drawn – on the positive side of the ledger, it is possible that the Fed is much closer to winning its battle against inflation and much closer to the end of its rate hiking cycle than we thought; on the negative side of the ledger, it is possible that the Fed has already gone too far, too fast in tightening monetary policy, and in so doing has made an economic hard landing more likely than we thought.



Stocks, bonds, and commodities (11/11/2022)

Security name	Last	QTD chg	YTD chg	12mo chg
S&P 500	3992.93	11.36%	-16.22%	-14.73%
MSCI AC World ex USA	278.49	12.73%	-19.12%	-20.88%
MSCI EAFE	1918.41	15.46%	-17.88%	-18.86%
MSCI EM	935.73	6.84%	-24.05%	-27.21%
Bloomberg Barclays US Agg	87.97	0.30%	-16.00%	-16.23%
Crude Oil WTI	88.86	11.79%	18.15%	9.99%
Natural Gas	6.31	-6.78%	77.31%	29.24%

Treasury rates (11/11/2022)

	Price	Yield
2Y	100.0 / 0.00	4.319
3Y	100.2 / 0.00	4.201
5Y	100.2 / 0.00	3.946
7Y	100.2 / 0.00	3.873
10Y	102.1 / 0.00	3.817
30Y	81.26 / 0.00	4.055

Weekly reports

This week (11/14/2022)
• Oct PPI NSA Y/Y
• Nov NAHB Housing Market Index SA
Week of 11/7/2022
• Oct NFIB Small Business Index 91.3
• Nov UofM Sentiment NSA 54.7

Brinker Capital Market Barometer

NOVEMBER 2022

Markets staged a much-needed comeback in October. Although the Consumer Price Index (CPI) remains elevated, year-over-year changes have slowed for several months, aiding sentiment. There was no Federal Open Market Committee meeting (FOMC) in October, fueling hopes of any sign of a policy change or reduction in the pace of interest rate hikes. Despite this, yields continued to rise, as the yield curve shifted upward in near parallel fashion. Economic activity showed resilience in the labor market and consumer sector and slowing in other areas such as housing. Both the US dollar and commodities eased off of their highs during the month. Third quarter earnings began in October, and early results were mixed as fewer companies than average beat estimates, but growth overall remained positive. Markets are entering the strongest seasonal period of the year in November, which has historically been amplified in midterm election years. Going forward, even the slightest monetary policy reprieve may have the power to support and build on October's rally.

SHORT-TERM FACTORS (< 6 months)

	CHANGE	NEGATIVE	NEUTRAL	POSITIVE	
Momentum		●			Solid October gains across markets, but intermediate-term returns remain depressed
Trend		●			Markets have rebounded off of lows, but major indices remain below major moving averages
Investor sentiment				●	Surveys continue to show significantly more bears than bulls; tends to be a contrarian signal
Seasonality	→			●	Markets are in the strongest seasonal period of the year, particularly following midterm elections

INTERMEDIATE-TERM FACTORS (6-36 months)

	CHANGE	NEGATIVE	NEUTRAL	POSITIVE	
Fiscal policy			●		Upcoming midterm election results will shed light on likelihood of major policy initiatives
Monetary policy		●			Rate hikes continue at a rapid pace; still unclear that the pace of hikes has peaked
Inflation		●			Headline inflation has moderated, but y/y numbers are still at very elevated levels
Interest rate environment		●			Absolute level of rates is moderate, but rate volatility and curve inversion are at historical levels
Macroeconomic			●		Labor market healthy and consumer resilient but wide array of economic data is decelerating
Business sentiment		●			Business confidence measures remain subdued with elevated inflation as a primary driver
Consumer sentiment		●			Consumer sentiment has rebounded over the past few months but near the lowest recorded levels
Corporate earnings	←		●		Earnings growth and the number of companies beating estimates continues to slow during Q3 season
Credit environment				●	Level of credit spreads at long-term averages, defaults remain low, credit conditions modest

LONG-TERM FACTORS (36+ months)

	CHANGE	NEGATIVE	NEUTRAL	POSITIVE	
Valuation			●		U.S. equity valuations near long-term averages; overseas markets below average valuations
Business cycle			●		Strong initial Q3 GDP release diminishes near-term recession risk
Demographics			●		Emerging markets possess more favorable trends overall than developed markets

For informational purposes only. Indices are unmanaged, and an investor cannot invest directly in an index. Source: Brinker Capital. Information is accurate as of November 7, 2022. Themes and specific funds utilized to implement themes are discussed within the context of Brinker Capital's managed asset allocations and are based on current market conditions and constitute Brinker Capital's judgment and opinions, which are subject to change without notice. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Statements referring to future actions or events, such as the future financial performance of certain asset classes or market segments, are based on the current expectations and projections about future events provided by various sources, including Brinker Capital's Investment Management Group. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual events may differ materially from those discussed. MSCI AC World ex US Growth: An index made up of approximately the top 50% of the MSCI AC World ex US Index as composite ranked by five growth rates. This is a common proxy used to represent the growth segment of the developed international market. MSCI EAFE Index: A market-capitalized weighted index representing developed international equity markets located in Europe, Australia, Asia and Far East (EAFE). S&P 500 Index: An index consisting of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry grouping, among other factors. The S&P 500 is designed to be a leading indicator of U.S. equities and is meant to reflect the risk/return characteristics of the large-cap universe. Companies included in the Index are selected by the S&P Index Committee, a team of analysts and economists at Standard & Poor's. Barclays US Aggregate Index: A market capitalization-weighted index, maintained by Barclays Capital, and is often used to represent investment grade bonds being traded in the US. MSCI Emerging Markets: a float-adjusted market capitalization index representing 13% of global market capitalization. Captures mid and large cap across more than two dozen emerging market countries. Brinker Capital Investments, LLC a registered investment advisor.