Deutsche Bank
Chief Investment Office

CIO Memo

July 26, 2023

FOMC: As you were

Authors:
Deepak Puri, CFA®
Chief Investment Officer Americas

Sam Matthews
Head of Chief Investment Office Americas

Key takeaways

- The FOMC announced a return to its rate hiking policy, following its June ‘pause’, with a unanimous decision to raise the Fed Funds Rate by 25-basis points to 5.25% - 5.50%.
- The Federal Reserve’s decision to raise rates to their highest level in 22 years was also accompanied by a prepared statement and subsequent press conference from Chairman Powell, reaffirming that further rate hikes would be depended on the latest economic data.
- Markets were widely expecting today’s rate hike with little price action seen in equity markets. Treasury yields also fluctuated lower over the course of trading.

1. What happened?

Today the FOMC announced its decision to raise the Fed Funds Rate by 25-basis points, reaching a target range of 5.25% - 5.50%. The move higher in rates follows on from the committee's decision to pause its rate hike policy during last month’s FOMC meeting.

In one of two slight changes to the June statement, the committee highlighted that economic activity has continued to expand at a “moderate” pace, a change from “modest”, over the course of 2023. Highlighting the continued gains made in the labor market as well as persistent inflation levels, the FOMC also altered its previous statement confirming that the committee “will continue” to assess additional information over the coming months and will “be prepared to adjust” monetary policy when necessary.

During the press conference, Chairman Jerome Powell continued to emphasize several of the driving forces behind the elevated inflation levels, including the strength of the labor market as well as a pickup in housing activity. Whilst agreeing that inflation levels had moderated since last year, Powell also stated that monetary policy had not been “restrictive enough for long enough” in order to have the desired effect. Powell further acknowledged that bringing inflation down to their target level of 2% will require economic growth to slow over the coming quarters with the labor market especially, needing to show signs of weakness.

Over the course of the Q&A session, Chairman Powell was pressed on how the committee were viewing future FOMC meetings with the possibility of further rate hikes still being considered. Powell reiterated the FOMC’s commitment to data dependency, stating that further tightening decisions will be taken on a “meeting-by-meeting” basis. With such a focus on further rate hikes, Powell further reminded his audience that another ‘pause’ was also a possibility. Such a comment was, in turn, interpreted by markets as a potential skip in September before further hiking rates at the November meeting.

2. How did markets react?

In the build up to the rate decision, stocks were trending lower in both U.S. and European markets. Another factor playing its part in market direction was the ongoing earnings releases, with particular focus on the mega-tech names that have dominated returns thus far this year.

Markets turned positive during Powell’s press conference, with investors taking today’s announcement in its stride. For the FOMC, the next important data point will be the latest Nonfarm Payrolls (August 4th) and CPI (August 10th) reports.

3. What does it mean for investors?

As it turned out, the much discussed ‘pause’ that was announced at last month’s FOMC meeting turned out to be just a ‘skip’ as the Federal Reserve resumed its rate hiking with a further 25-basis move higher to the Fed Funds Rate. Following today’s decision, the range is now as its highest since 2001.

In recent weeks, investors have revisited the possibility of the Federal Reserve delivering a ‘soft landing’ whereby the U.S. economy is able to avoid recession as the central bank deliver rate hikes to tame inflation. Certainly, we have seen headline inflation rates come down from their post-COVID highs (currently annualized U.S. CPI sits at +3.0%) but concern remains within the Core component of inflation, stripping out both Energy and Food.

With labor markets remaining tight (unemployment at an historically low +3.6%) and strong year-on-year wage growth (+4.4%) still feeding into the services elements of inflation, Chairman Powell is staying on the side of data dependency before any victory can be claimed in the battle against inflation. The subtle changes to the Fed’s statement today allude to this commitment, while also using his press conference to focus attention on a possible further hike later in the year.

The risk of market complacency around ‘calling’ the end of the Fed’s rate hikes has precedence in recent months. Following pressures within the regional banking sector in March and subsequent rate hike by the FOMC, the probability of further rate hikes fell to 25% according to futures markets. As such, as regional banks stabilized, inflation remained elevated and further hikes were delivered in May.

With inflation levels remaining above the desired +2% target, the possibility of further rate hikes should not be taken off an investors table. In fact, based on the previous 12 cycles, the Federal Reserve have only ever cut rates with Core CPI above +3%, when the unemployment rate was also above +5%.

Following its 25-basis point hike, the Federal Reserve reiterated its desire to remain data dependent in bringing inflation down to target. Elevated labor and price data will keep the potential of further hikes “on the table”.

Glossary

The Fed funds rate is the interest rate at which depository institutions lend overnight to other depository institutions.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) is the central bank of the United States. Its Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meets to determine interest rate policy.

Four times a year, the Federal Reserve releases a Summary of Economic Projections (SEP) for GDP growth, the unemployment rate, inflation, and the appropriate policy interest rates.

The FOMC Dot Plot is comprised typically of 19 dots: seven members of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and presidents of the 12 regional banks. Each is asked to indicate where they believe the Federal Funds rate should be in the future.

The Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) is a price index for goods and services, particularly relevant to the context of U.S. GDP

Treasuries are bonds issued by the U.S. government.

USD is the currency code for the U.S. Dollar.

Important information

General

This document may not be distributed in Canada or Japan. This document is intended for retail or professional clients only. This document is being circulated in good faith by Deutsche Bank AG, its branches (as permitted in any relevant jurisdiction), affiliated companies and its officers and employees (collectively, "Deutsche Bank").

This material is for your information only and is not intended as an offer, or recommendation or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any investment, security, financial instrument or other specific product, to conclude a transaction, or to provide any investment service or investment advice, or to provide any research, investment research or investment recommendation, in any jurisdiction. All materials in this communication are meant to be reviewed in their entirety.

If a court of competent jurisdiction deems any provision of this disclaimer unenforceable, the remaining provisions will remain in full force and effect.

This document has been prepared as a general market commentary without consideration of the investment needs, objectives or financial circumstances of any investor. Investments are subject to generic market risks which derive from the instrument or are specific to the instrument or attached to the particular issuer. Should such risks materialise, investors may incur losses, including (without limitation) a total loss of the invested capital. The value of investments can fall as well as rise and you may not recover the amount originally invested at any point in time. This document does not identify all the risks (direct or indirect) or other considerations which may be material to an investor when making an investment decision.

This document and all information included herein are provided "as is", "as available" and no representation or warranty of any kind, express, implied or statutory, is made by Deutsche Bank regarding any statement or information contained herein or in conjunction with this document. All opinions, market prices, estimates, forward looking statements, hypothetical statements, forecast returns or other opinions leading to financial conclusions contained herein reflect Deutsche Bank's subjective judgment on the date of this report. Without limitation, Deutsche Bank does not warrant the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, reliability, timeliness or availability of this communication or any information in this document and expressly disclaims liability for errors or omissions herein. Forward looking statements involve significant elements of subjective judgments and analyses and changes thereto and/or consideration of different or additional factors could have a material impact on the results indicated. Therefore, actual results may vary, perhaps materially, from the results contained herein.

Deutsche Bank does not assume any obligation to either update the information contained in this document or inform investors about available updated information. The information contained in this document is subject to change without notice and based on a number of assumptions which may not prove valid, and may be different from conclusions expressed by other departments within Deutsche Bank. Although the information contained in this document has been diligently compiled by Deutsche Bank and derived from sources that Deutsche Bank considers trustworthy and reliable, Deutsche Bank does not guarantee or cannot make any guarantee about the completeness, fairness, or accuracy of the information and it should not be relied upon as such. This document may provide, for your convenience, references to websites and other external sources. Deutsche Bank takes no responsibility for their content and their content does not form any part of this document. Accessing such external sources is at your own risk.

Before making an investment decision, investors need to consider, with or without the assistance of an investment adviser, whether any investments and strategies described or provided by Deutsche Bank, are appropriate, in light of their particular investment needs, objectives, financial circumstances and instrument specifics. When making an investment decision, potential investors should not rely on this document but only on what is contained in the final offering documents relating to the investment. As a global financial services provider, Deutsche Bank from time to time faces actual and potential conflicts of interest. Deutsche Bank's policy is to take all appropriate steps to maintain and operate effective organisational and administrative arrangements to identify and manage such conflicts. Senior management within Deutsche Bank are responsible for ensuring that Deutsche Bank's systems, controls and procedures are adequate to identify and manage conflicts of interest.

Deutsche Bank does not give tax or legal advice, including in this document and nothing in this document should be interpreted as Deutsche Bank providing any person with any investment advice. Investors should seek advice from their own tax experts, lawyers and investment advisers in considering investments and strategies described by Deutsche Bank. Unless notified to the contrary in a particular case, investment instruments are not insured by any governmental entity, not subject to deposit protection schemes and not guaranteed, including by Deutsche Bank. This document may not be reproduced or circulated without Deutsche Bank's express written authorisation. Deutsche Bank expressly prohibits the distribution and transfer of this material to third parties. Deutsche Bank accepts no liability whatsoever arising from the use or distribution of this material or for any action taken or decision made in respect of investments mentioned in this document the investor may have entered into or may enter in future.

The manner of circulation and distribution of this document may be restricted by law or regulation in certain countries, including, without limitation, the United States. This document is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction, where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would subject Deutsche Bank to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction not currently met. Persons into whose possession this document may come are required to inform themselves of, and to observe, such restrictions. Past performance is no guarantee of future results; nothing contained herein shall constitute any representation, warranty or prediction as to future performance. Further information is available upon investor's request.

Kingdom of Bahrain

For Residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain: This document does not constitute an offer for sale of, or participation in, securities, derivatives or funds marketed in Bahrain within the meaning of Bahrain Monetary Agency Regulations. All applications for investment should be received and any allotments should be made, in each case from outside of Bahrain. This document has been prepared for private information purposes of intended investors only who will be institutions. No invitation shall be made to the public in the Kingdom of Bahrain and this document will not be issued, passed to, or made available to the public generally. The Central Bank (CBB) has not reviewed, nor has it approved, this document other marketing of such securities, derivatives or funds in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Accordingly, the securities, derivatives or funds may not be offered or sold in Bahrain or to residents thereof except as permitted by Bahrain law. The CBB is not responsible for performance of the securities, derivatives or funds.

State of Kuwait

This document has been sent to you at your own request. This presentation is not for general circulation to the public in Kuwait. The Interests have not been licensed for offering in Kuwait by the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority or any other relevant Kuwaiti government agency.

Important information

The offering of the Interests in Kuwait on the basis a private placement or public offering is, therefore, restricted in accordance with Decree Law No. 31 of 1990 and the implementing regulations thereto (as amended) and Law No. 7 of 2010 and the bylaws thereto (as amended). No private or public offering of the Interests is being made in Kuwait, and no agreement relating to the sale of the Interests will be concluded in Kuwait. No marketing or solicitation or inducement activities are being used to offer or market the Interests in Kuwait.

United Arab Emirates
Deutsche Bank AG in the Dubai International Financial Centre (registered no. 00045) is regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority. Deutsche Bank AG -DIFC Branch may only undertake the financial services activities that fall within the scope of its existing DFSA license. Principal place of business in the DIFC: Dubai International Financial Centre, The Gate Village, Building 5, PO Box 504902, Dubai, U.A.E. This information has been distributed by Deutsche Bank AG. Related financial products or services are only available to Professional Clients, as defined by the Dubai Financial Services Authority.

State of Qatar
Deutsche Bank AG in the Qatar Financial Centre (registered no. 00032) is regulated by the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority. Deutsche Bank AG -QFC Branch may only undertake the financial services activities that fall within the scope of its existing QFCRA license. Principal place of business in the QFC: Qatar Financial Centre, Tower, West Bay, Level 5, PO Box 14928, Doha, Qatar. This information has been distributed by Deutsche Bank AG. Related financial products or services are only available to Business Customers, as defined by the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority.

Kingdom of Belgium
This document has been distributed in Belgium by Deutsche Bank AG acting though its Brussels Branch. Deutsche Bank AG is a stock corporation (“Aktiengesellschaft”) incorporated under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany and licensed to carry on banking business and to provide financial services subject to the supervision and control of the European Central Bank (“ECB”) and the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (“Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht” or “BaFin”).Deutsche Bank AG, Brussels Branch has its registered address at Marnixlaan 13-15, B-1000 Brussels, registered at the RPM Brussels, under the number VAT BE 0418.371.094. Further details are available on request or can be found at www.deutschebank.be.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Deutsche Securities Saudi Arabia Company (registered no. 07073-37) is regulated by the Capital Market Authority. Deutsche Securities Saudi Arabia may only undertake the financial services activities that fall within the scope of its existing CMA license. Principal place of business in Saudi Arabia: King Fahad Road, Al Olaya District, P.O. Box 301809, Faisaliah Tower, 17th Floor, 11372 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

United Kingdom
In the United Kingdom (“UK”), this publication is considered a financial promotion and is approved by DB UK BankLimited on behalf of all entities trading as Deutsche Bank Wealth Management in the UK. Deutsche Bank Wealth Management is a trading name of DB UK Bank Limited. Registered in England & Wales (No. 00315841). Registered Office: 23 Great Winchester Street, London EC2P 2AX. DB UK Bank Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and its Financial Services Registration Number is 140848. Deutsche Bank reserves the right to distribute this publication through any of its UK subsidiaries, and in any such case, this publication is considered a financial promotion and is approved by such subsidiary where it is authorised by the appropriate UK regulator (if such subsidiary is not so authorised, then this publication is approved by another UK member of the Deutsche Bank Wealth Management group that has the requisite authorisation to provide such approval).

South Africa
In South Africa, this material is distributed by Deutsche Bank Suisse SA authorized as a financial services provider (FSP) for the provision of Advice and Intermediary Services by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority of South Africa (FSCA) under registration no. 52190. Deutsche Bank Suisse SA is approved to operate a Representative Office by the Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB).

Hong Kong
This document and its contents are provided for information only. Nothing in this document is intended to be an offer of any investment or a solicitation or recommendation to buy or to sell an investment and should not be interpreted or construed as an offer, solicitation or recommendation. To the extent that this document makes reference to any specific investment opportunity, its contents have not been reviewed. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to the investments contained herein. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice. This document has not been approved by the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong nor has a copy of this document been registered by the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong and, accordingly, (a) the investments (except for investments which are a “structured product”, as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (the “SFO”)) may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of this document or any other document other than to “professional investors” within the meaning of the SFO and any rules made thereunder, or in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a “prospectus” as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (“CO”) or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the CO and (b) no person shall issue or possess for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to the investments which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the investments which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to “professional investors” within the meaning of the SFO and any rules made thereunder.

Important information

Singapore

The contents of this document have not been reviewed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS"). The investments mentioned herein are not allowed to be made to the public or any members of the public in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 or 304 of the Securities and Futures Act (Cap 289) ("SFA"), as the case may be (as any such Section of the SFA may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced from time to time), (ii) to a relevant person (which includes an Accredited Investor) pursuant to Section 275 or 305 and in accordance with other conditions specified in Section 275 or 305 respectively of the SFA, as the case may be (as any such Section of the SFA may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced from time to time), (iii) to an institutional investor, an accredited investor, expert investor or overseas investor (each as defined under the Financial Advisers Regulations) ("FAR") (as any such definition may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced from time to time) or (iv) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA or the FAR (as the same may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced from time to time).

United States

In the United States, brokerage services are offered through Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., a broker-dealer and registered investment adviser, which conducts securities activities in the United States. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. is a member of FINRA, NYSE and SIPC. Banking and lending services are offered through Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, member FDIC, and other members of the Deutsche Bank Group. In respect of the United States, see earlier statements made in this document. Deutsche Bank makes no representations or warranties that the information contained herein is appropriate or available for use in countries outside of the United States, or that services discussed in this document are available or appropriate for sale or use in all jurisdictions, or by all counterparties. Unless registered, licensed as otherwise may be permissible in accordance with applicable law, none of Deutsche Bank or its affiliates is offering any services in the United States or that are designed to attract US persons (as such term is defined under Regulation S of the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended).This United States-specific disclaimer will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, without regard to any conflicts of law provisions that would mandate the application of the law of another jurisdiction.

Germany

This document has been created by Deutsche Bank Wealth Management, acting through Deutsche Bank AG and has neither been presented to nor approved by the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht). For certain of the investments referred to in this document, prospectuses have been approved by competent authorities and published. Investors are required to base their investment decision on such approved prospectuses including possible supplements. Further, this document does not constitute financial analysis within the meaning of the German Securities Trading Act (Wertpapierhandelsgesetz) and, thus, does not have to comply with the statutory requirements for financial analysis. Deutsche Bank AG is a stock corporation ("Aktiengesellschaft") incorporated under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany with principal office in Frankfurt am Main. It is registered with the district court ("Amtsgericht") in Frankfurt am Main under No HRB 30 000 and licensed to carry on banking business and to provide financial services. Supervisory authorities: The European Central Bank ("ECB"), Sonnemannstrasse 22, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany and the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority ("Bundesanstalt fürFinanzdienstleistungsaufsicht" or "BaFin"), Graurheindorfer Strasse 108, 53117 Bonn and Marie-Curie-Strasse 24-28, 60439 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

India

The investments mentioned in this document are not being offered to the Indian public for sale or subscription. This document is not re gistered and/or approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Reserve Bank of India or any other governmental/ regulatory authority in India. This document is not and should not be deemed to be a "prospectus" as defined under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) and the same shall not be filed with any regulatory authority in India. Pursuant to the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 and the regulations issued there under, any investor resident in India may be required to obtain prior special permission of the Reserve Bank of India before making investments outside of India including any investments mentioned in this document.

Italy

This report is distributed in Italy by Deutsche Bank S.p.A., a bank incorporated and registered under Italian law subject to the supervision and control of Banca d'Italia and CONSOB.

Luxembourg

This report is distributed in Luxembourg by Deutsche Bank Luxembourg S.A., a bank incorporated and registered under Luxembourg law subject to the supervision and control of the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier.

Spain

Deutsche Bank, Sociedad Anónima Española is a credit institution regulated by the Bank of Spain and the CNMV, and registered in their respective Official Registries under the Code 019. Deutsche Bank, Sociedad Anónima Española may only undertake the financial services and banking activities that fall within the scope of its existing license. The principal place of business in Spain is located in Paseo de la Castellana number 18, 28046 - Madrid. This information has been distributed by Deutsche Bank, Sociedad Anónima Española.

Portugal

Deutsche Bank AG, Portugal Branch is a credit institution regulated by the Bank of Portugal and the Portuguese Securities Commission ("CMVM"), registered with numbers 43 and 349, respectively and with commercial registry number 980459079. Deutsche Bank AG, Portugal Branch may only undertake the financial services and banking activities that fall within the scope of its existing license. The registered address is Rua Castilho, 20, 1250-069 Lisbon, Portugal. This information has been distributed by Deutsche Bank AG, Portugal Branch.

Important information

Austria
This document is distributed by Deutsche Bank AG Vienna Branch, registered in the commercial register of the Vienna Commercial Court under number FN 140266z. Deutsche Bank AG is a public company incorporated under German law and authorized to conduct banking business and provide financial services. It is supervised by the European Central Bank (ECB), Sonnemannstraße 22, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany and by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin), Graurheindorfer Straße 108, 53117 Bonn, Germany and Marie-Curie-Strasse 24-28, 60439 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The Vienna branch is also supervised by the Austrian Financial Market Authority (FMA), Otto-Wagner Platz 5, 1090 Vienna. This document has neither been submitted to nor approved by the aforementioned supervisory authorities. Prospectuses may have been published for certain of the investments mentioned in this document. In such a case, investment decisions should be made solely on the basis of the published prospectuses, including any annexes. Only these documents are binding. This document constitutes marketing material for informational and promotional purposes only and is not the result of any financial analysis or research.

The Netherlands
This document is distributed by Deutsche Bank AG, Amsterdam Branch, with registered address at De entree 195 (1101 HE) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and registered in the Netherlands trade register under number 33304583 and in the register within the meaning of Section 1:107 of the Netherlands Financial Supervision Act (Wet op het financieel toezicht). This register can be consulted through www.dnb.nl.

France
Deutsche Bank AG is an authorized credit institution, subject to the overall supervision of the European Central Bank and BaFin, the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority. Its various branches are locally supervised, for certain activities, by the competent banking authorities, such as the Prudential Control and Resolution Authority (The ACPR) and the Financial Markets Authority (The AMF) in France.

053572 072623