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The Curious Strength of the US Economy: Can It Last?

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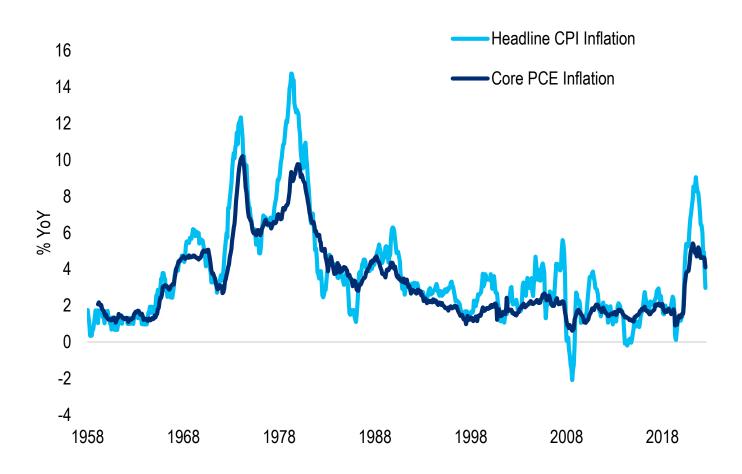
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1) Where are we coming from?



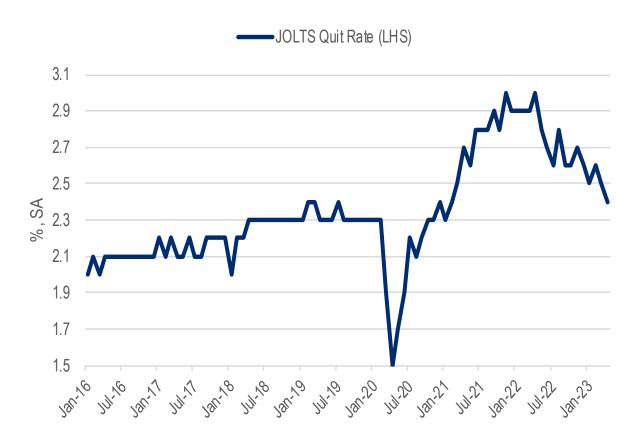
Inflation was very high coming out of the pandemic



Source: Citi Research, BEA, BLS



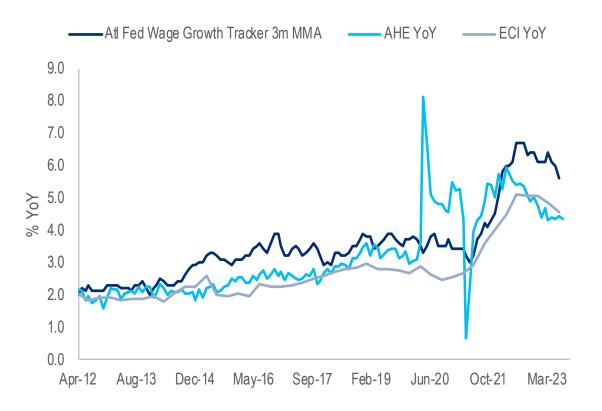
Labor market was very tight



Source: Citi Research, BLS



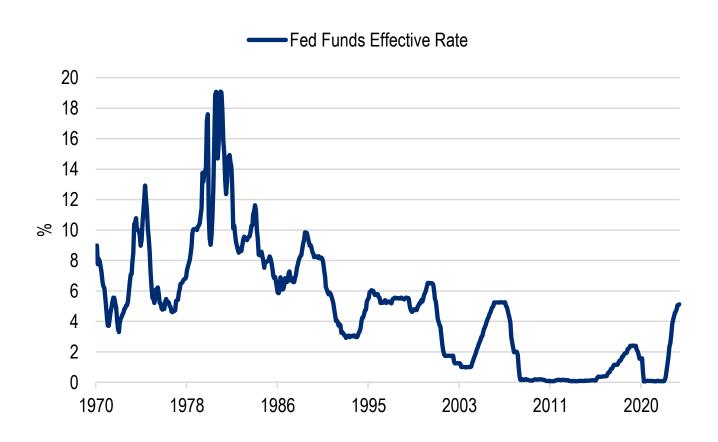
Wage growth strong



Source: Citi Research, Atlanta Fed, BLS



Federal Reserve raised interest rates very quickly



Source: Citi Research, Federal Reserve



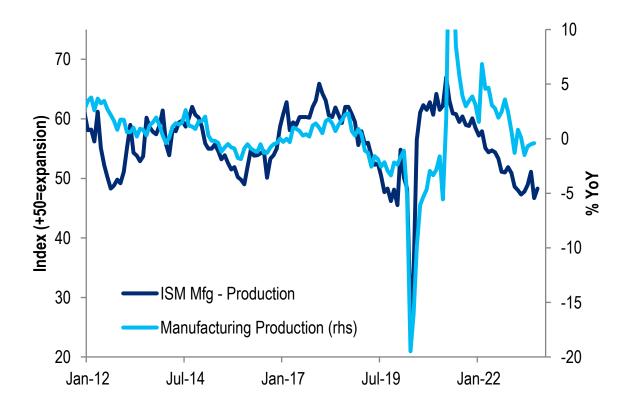
Housing sector contracted with higher rates



Source: Citi Research, NAR



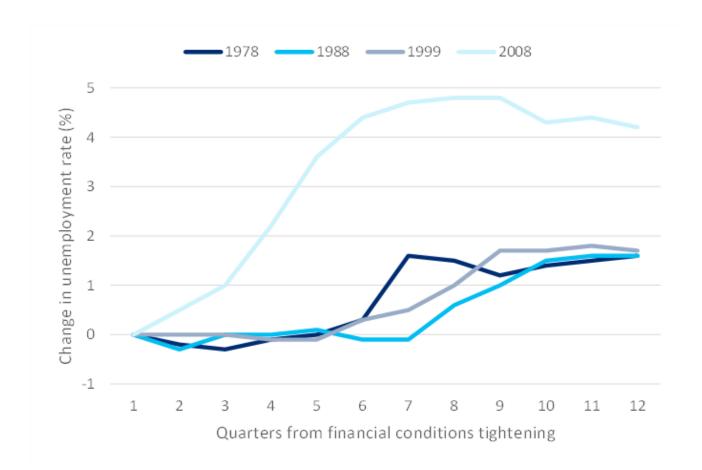
Manufacturing weakened with softer goods demand



Source: Citi Research, Federal Reserve, ISM



Usual "lag" of monetary policy on overall economic activity 4-6Q



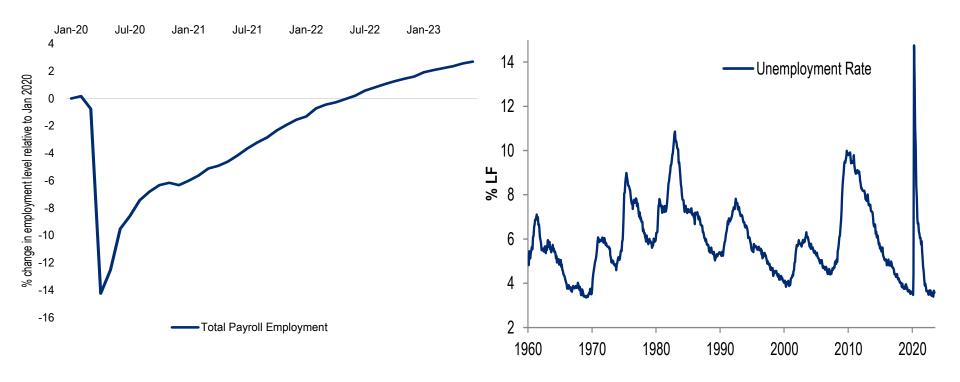
Source: Citi Research, BLS



2) Recent resilience has been surprising, but why?



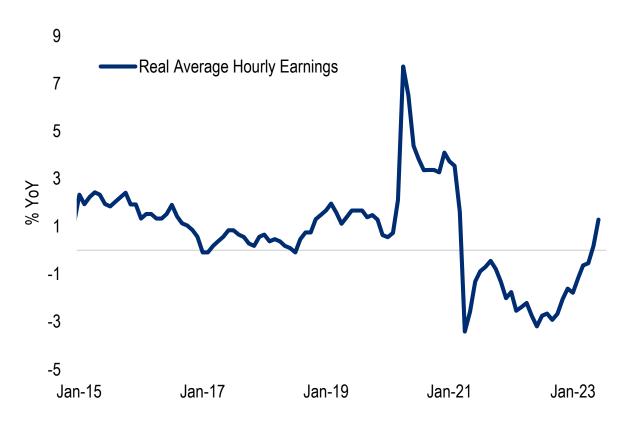
Job growth has been running consistently strong



Source: Citi Research, BLS



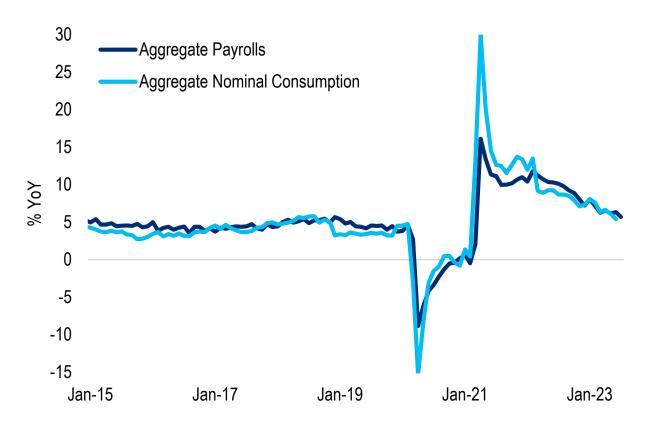
Wages still rising, and now rising even adjusted for inflation



Source: Citi Research, BLS



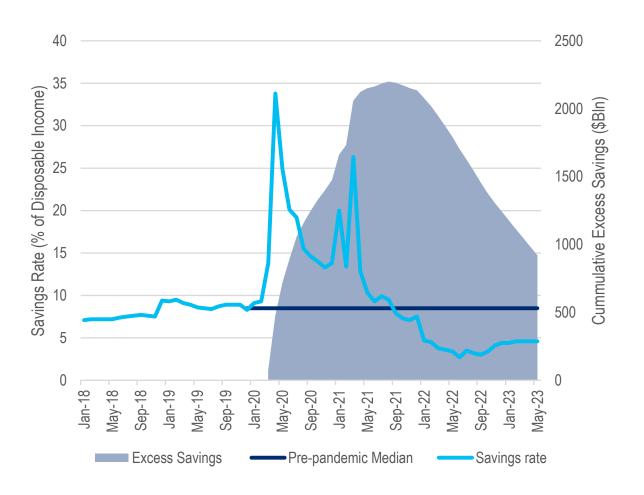
Aggregate incomes still rising



Source: Citi Research, BEA, BLS



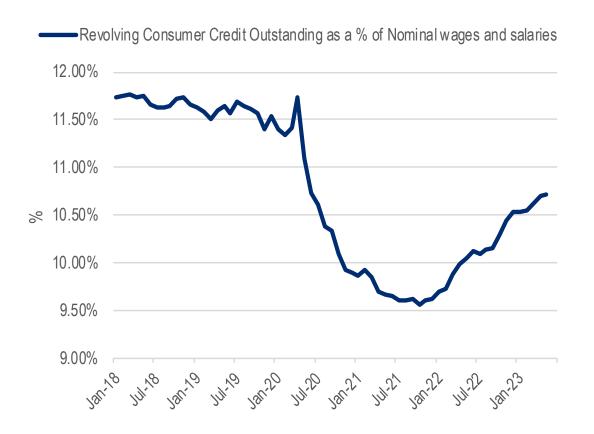
Consumers had substantial excess savings



Source: Citi Research, Federal Reserve, BEA



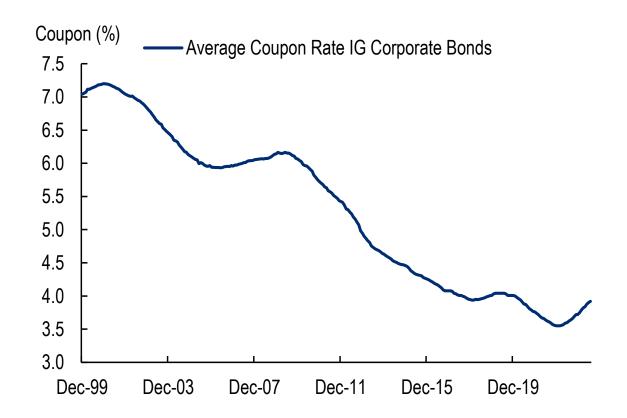
Borrowing still lower than pre-pandemic as share of income



Source: Citi Research, Federal Reserve, BEA



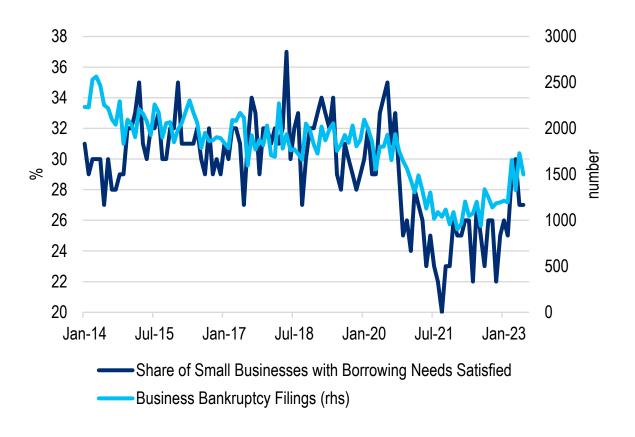
Businesses have also been less sensitive so far to higher rates



Source: Citi Research, Bloomberg



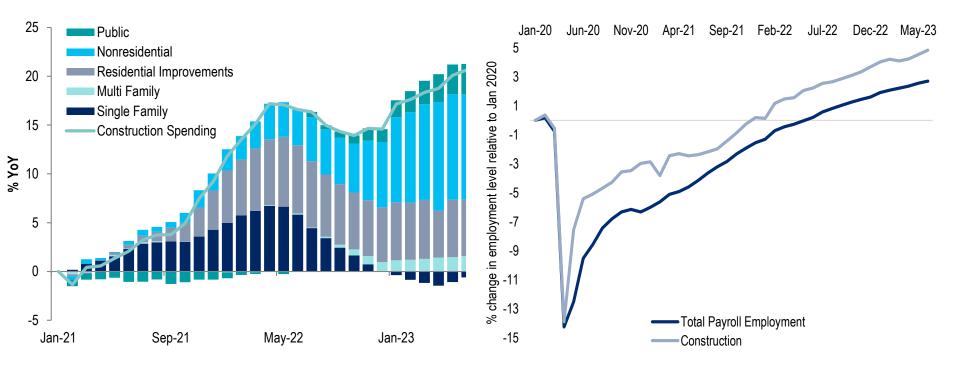
Business bankruptcies still historically low



Source: Citi Research, NFIB, US Courts



Some pandemic-induced shifts can be supporting activity



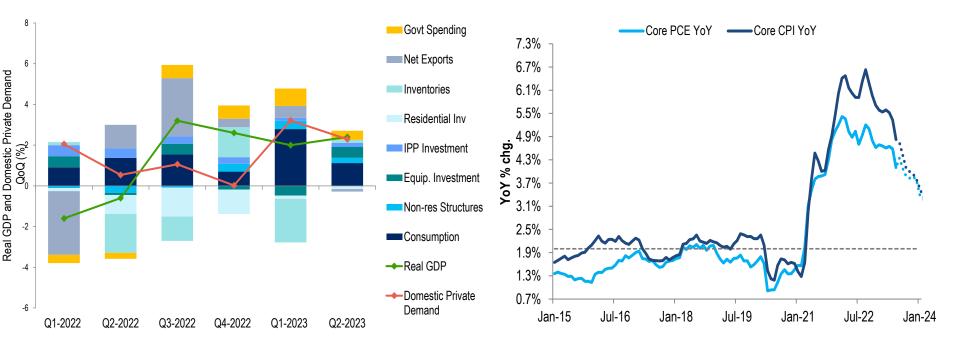
Source: Citi Research, Census Bureau, BLS



3) Can we have a true "soft landing"?



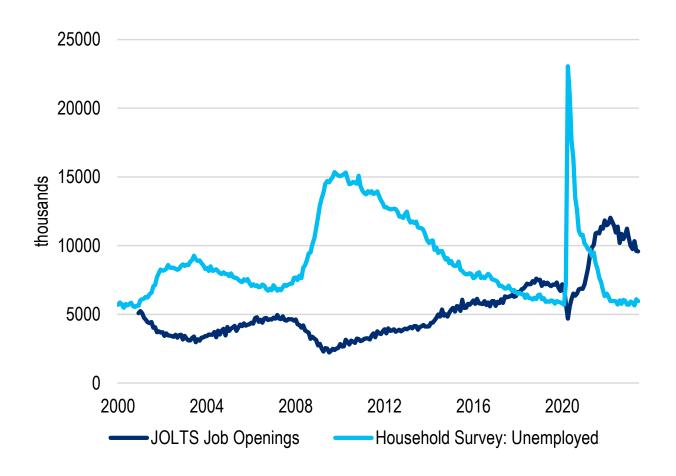
"Soft landing": Activity slows, but does not contract; inflation falls



Source: Citi Research, BEA, BLS



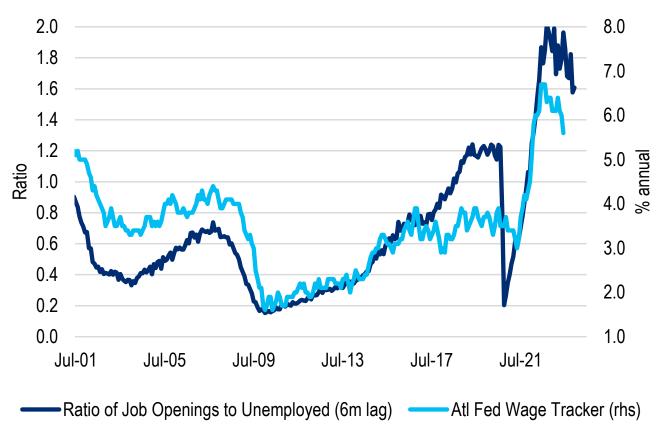
Bring excess demand for labor down, so demand meets supply



Source: Citi Research, BLS



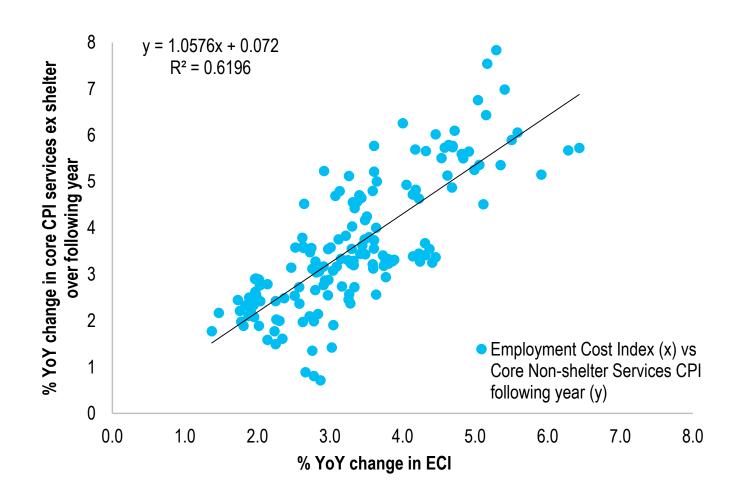
More balanced labor market can mean wages slow



Source: Citi Research, Atlanta Fed, BLS



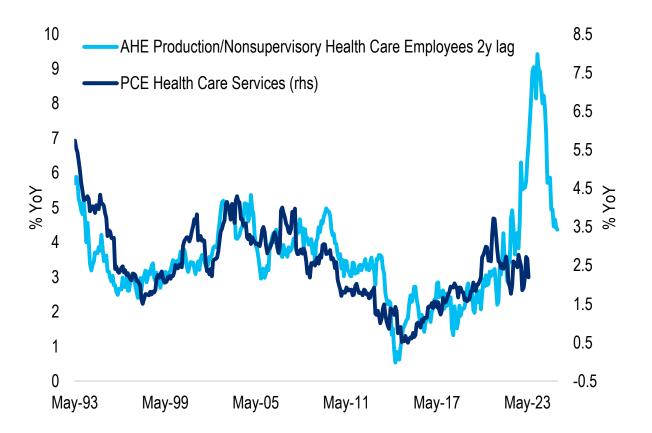
Wages will ultimately be the key determinant of inflation



Source: Citi Research, BEA, BLS



Wages will ultimately be the key determinant of inflation



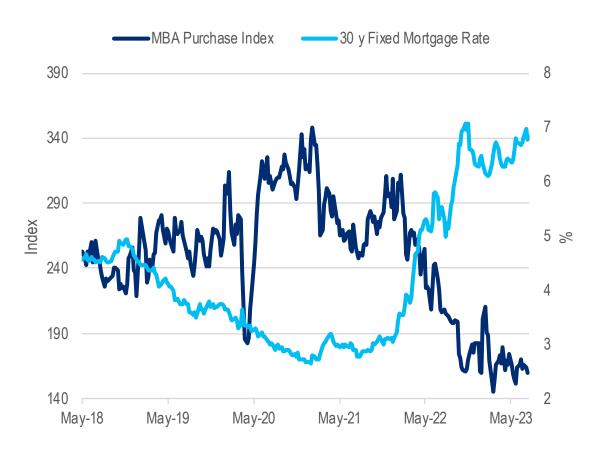
Source: Citi Research, BEA, BLS



3) US recession still a distinct possibility



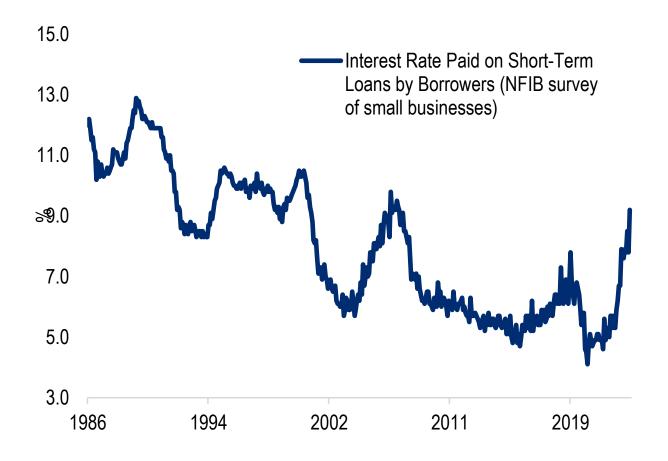
Activity can still slow due to higher rates



Source: Citi Research, Bloomberg, MBA



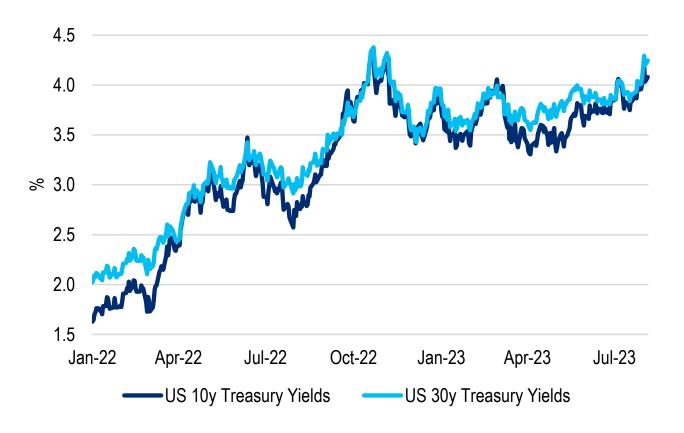
Activity can still slow due to higher rates



Source: Citi Research, NFIB



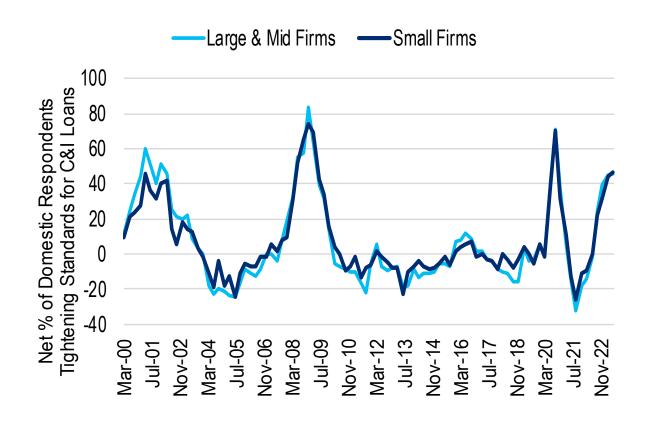
Activity can still slow due to higher rates



Source: Citi Research, Bloomberg



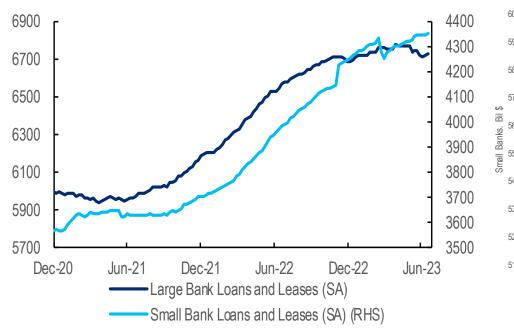
Credit conditions have tightened substantially

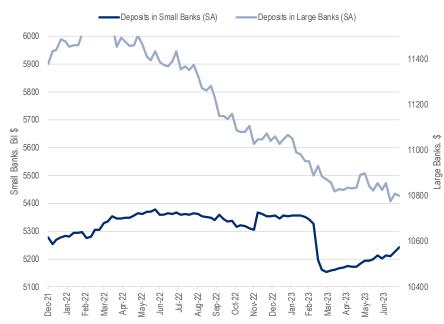


Source: Citi Research, Federal Reserve



Loan growth can slow further as banks are cautious, deposits fall

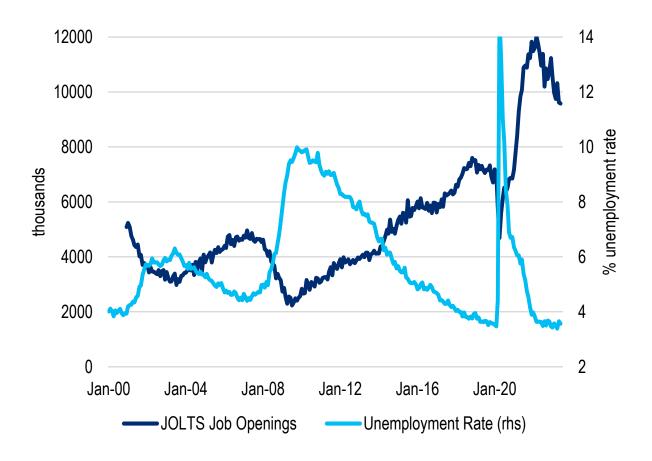




Source: Citi Research, Federal Reserve



Bringing labor demand down further could be more painful



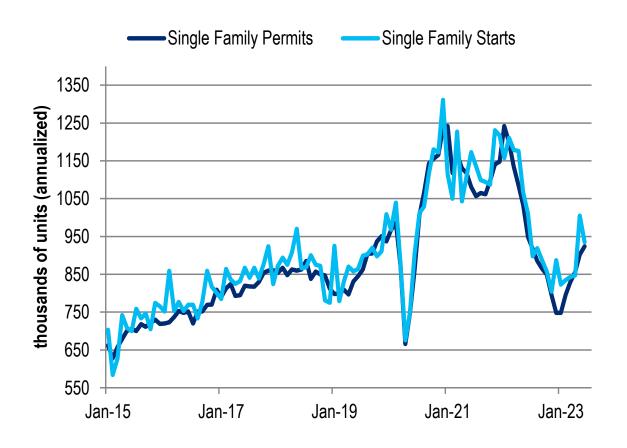
Source: Citi Research, BLS



3) No landing at all, but still high inflation



Housing sector is most rate sensitive, but has bottomed



Source: Citi Research, Census Bureau



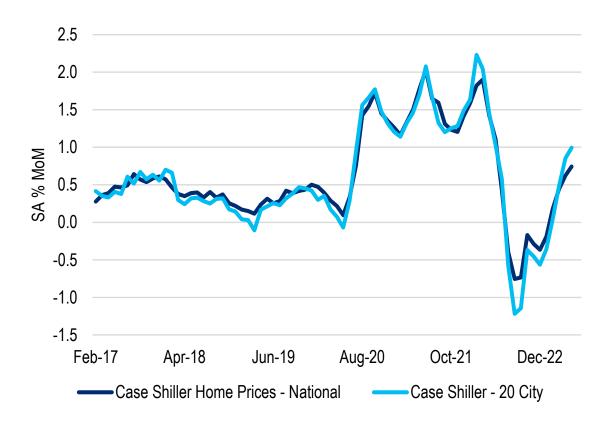
Housing supply is constrained



Source: Citi Research, NAR



Home prices are rising again



Source: Citi Research, S&P



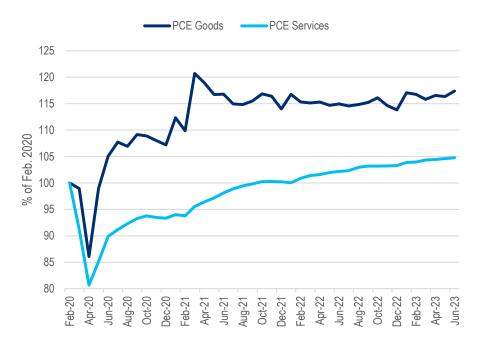
Rising home prices suggest upside to shelter prices in CPI later

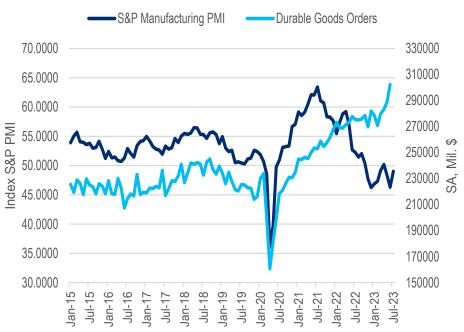


Source: Citi Research, NAR, S&P, BLS



Some signs goods demand picking up again

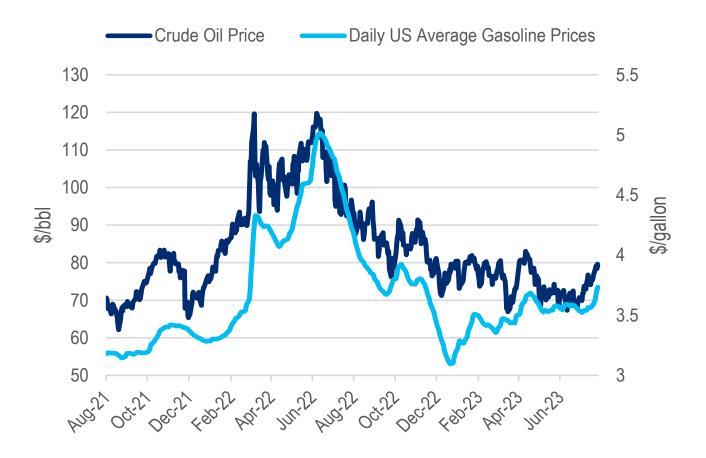




Source: Citi Research, BEA, Census Bureau, S&P



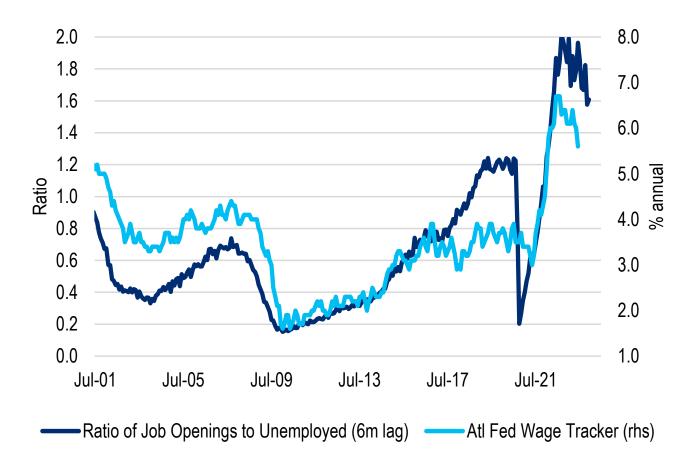
Upward risks to goods prices with commodities rebounding



Source: Citi Research, Bloomberg, BLS



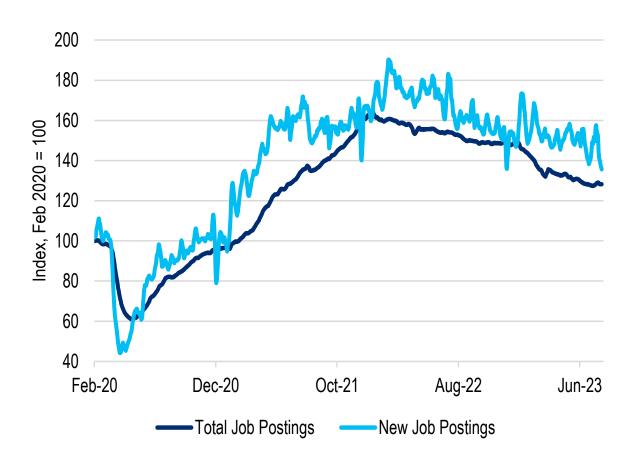
Labor market might not be loosening enough



Source: Citi Research, BLS, Atlanta Fed



Labor market might not be loosening enough



Source: Citi Research, Indeed.com



High inflation for too long risks becoming embedded



Source: Citi Research, University of Michigan





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