

INSURANCE INDUSTRY NEWS

Russian Cyberattacks and War Exclusions

The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the increase in geopolitical tensions have increased cyberattacks and the potential for claims on companies that offer cyber coverage. Recent challenges of this coverage have upheld that the “war exclusion” on many policies is not applicable, but with recent cyberattacks linked to Russian hackers amid the ongoing military conflict, this exclusion may be retested. Increased ransomware attacks have already resulted in increased policy pricing; however, cyber premiums represent less than 5% of most business’ policy mix. Going forward, insurers offering this coverage may need to retool policy language to clarify exclusions of coverage and keep pace with potential losses.

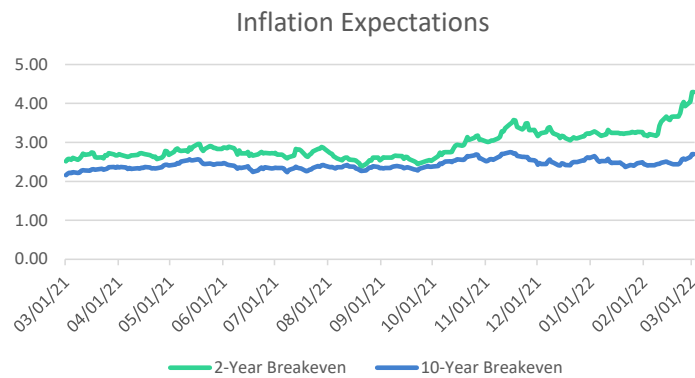
Source: Insurance Journal

FEATURED MARKET DATA

War, Inflation and the Fed

Consumer Price Inflation reached a 40-year high in January of 7.5%. Inflationary pressures increased in February as commodity prices rose on rising geopolitical risks, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We see higher inflation expectations in the TIPS market as the 2-year breakeven rate increased in February. However, the 10-year breakeven rose much less, indicating markets continue to see inflation as a relatively near-term issue. Confidence in the Federal Reserve is largely credited for these tame expectations as markets are pricing in at least four rate hikes in 2022, likely beginning in March.

Source: Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

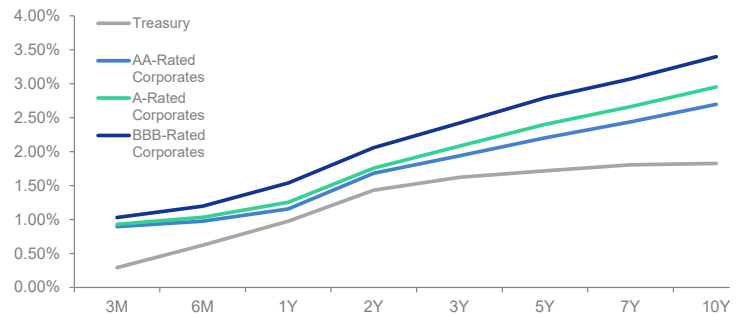
RECENT NEWS

Stocks Down in February

The S&P 500 declined 3.14% in February after a January selloff. Growth once again underperformed value reflecting concerns about higher interest rates as well as geopolitical tensions. There were positive signs during the month including improvement in Covid trends, which aided some sectors. In addition, with 95% of S&P 500 companies having reported fourth quarter earnings as of February 25, 76% reported earnings per share above estimates. Company earnings reflected continued solid demand and strong pricing power. We expect the U.S. consumer to continue to support strong demand in 2022.

Source: FactSet

Market Yields



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. 02/28/22

U.S. Economic Indicators

Event	Event Date	Period	Survey	Actual	Prior / Revised (R)
Consumer Price Index (MoM)	02/10/22	JAN	0.4%	0.6%	0.6% (R)
Core CPI (MoM)	02/10/22	JAN	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Consumer Price Index (YoY)	02/10/22	JAN	7.3%	7.5%	7.0%
Chicago Fed National Activity Index	02/24/22	JAN	0.16	0.69	0.07 (R)
Personal Income	02/25/22	JAN	-0.3%	0.0%	0.4% (R)
Personal Spending	02/25/22	JAN	1.6%	2.1%	-0.8% (R)
Core PCE (YoY)	02/25/22	JAN	5.2%	5.2%	4.9%
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	03/04/22	FEB	403K	-	467K
Unemployment Rate	03/04/22	FEB	3.9%	-	4.0%

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. 02/28/22. Glossary terms on following page.

Contact Information

COURTNEY CLARKE

Vice President, Institutional Portfolio Manager

515-224-2722 | cclarke@pmanetwork.com

Glossary of Terms

Term	What is it:
Building Permits	Records the number of permits for future housing construction.
Capacity Utilization	Tracks the extent to which capacity is being used in the production of goods and services.
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	This indicator measures the change in the number of employees on business and government payrolls.
Chicago Fed National Activity Index	A nationwide measure of economic activity and inflation pressures. An index value of zero indicates that the national economy is expanding at its historical trend rate of growth.
Consumer Confidence	Index examines how consumers feel about jobs, the economy and spending.
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	Measures the average change in retail prices over time for a basket consisting of more than 200 categories of assorted goods and services paid directly by consumers.
Core Consumer Price Index (Core CPI)	This measure of CPI excludes food and energy costs.
Durable Goods Orders	A measure of new orders placed with domestic manufacturers for durable goods, which are items that last three years or more.
Existing Home Sales	Measures monthly sales of previously owned single-family homes.
GDP Annualized QoQ	Measures the annualized quarterly growth of the final market value of all goods and services produced within a country. GDP is the foremost report on how fast or slow the economy is growing.
Housing Starts	Records the number of new housing units started during a period.
Index of Leading Economic Indicators (LEI)	An index designed to predict the direction of the economy.
Initial Jobless Claims	Tracks new filings for unemployment insurance benefits.
ISM Manufacturing	Measures manufacturing activity based on a monthly survey of purchasing managers.
MBA Mortgage Applications	The Mortgage Bankers Association's weekly mortgage application survey includes home loan application activity for conventional and government loans for home purchases and refinances.
Mortgage Delinquencies	A measure of the percent of total conventional and government loans which are at least one payment past due, but not in the process of foreclosure.
Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE)	The Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation tracks overall price changes for goods and services. Core PCE excludes food and energy.
Personal Income and Spending	Index records the income Americans receive, how much they spend, and what they save.
Retail Sales	Tracks the sale of new and used goods for personal or household consumption.
Retail Sales Ex. Auto	Retail sales excluding motor vehicles and parts.
S&P Case-Shiller Home Price Index	Tracks the value of single-family housing within the U.S. There are multiple indexes including the 20-City Composite.
Unemployment Rate	The U-3 unemployment rates tracks the percentage of the civilian workforce that is unemployed.

Source: Bloomberg, The Secrets of Economic Indicators by Bernard Baumohl; PMA Asset Management, LLC

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