

INSURANCE INDUSTRY NEWS

Home Insurance Premiums May Hit Record

A new analysis by Insurify suggests that U.S. home insurance rates are expected to reach a record high this year. Average premium increases may be \$2,522 by the end of the year, which follows on to an approximate 20% increase already in the past two years. The key drivers of the increase are increasing natural disasters, and rising home repair and reinsurance costs, along with outsized costs of insurance fraud and legal disputes in some states. Only one state, South Dakota, is expected to see lower insurance costs, and six states are expected to remain flat. The remaining 43 states will likely see significant increases.

The additional effects of the increases include the potential for homeowners to become uninsurable in certain states and the volatility in housing costs lessening the attractiveness of homeownership.

Source: Insurance Journal

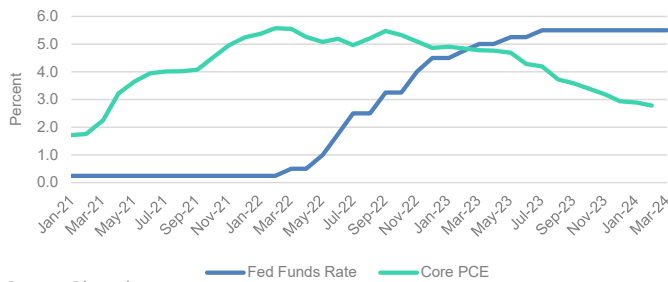
FEATURED MARKET DATA

Core Inflation Moderating

Though the path to lower inflation has been somewhat bumpy, the trend in Core PCE (Personal Consumption Expenditures), the Fed's preferred measure of inflation, continues downward. Year-over-year growth in Core PCE declined to 2.8% in February. The reading was aligned with economists' expectations following the CPI report earlier in March which exceeded expectations. Core services excluding energy & shelter decelerated significantly to 0.18% for the month. The reading was down from 0.66% for January and more in line with disinflationary trends that prevailed from May 2023 to Dec 2023. Core PCE is now significantly below the 5.50% upper range of the Fed Funds target rate.

Source: Bloomberg

Fed Funds Rate Exceeds Core Inflation



Source: Bloomberg

Market and Economic Highlights

- ▶ The S&P 500 rose for the fifth straight month
- ▶ The market experienced greater breadth in March as tech stocks remained strong
- ▶ Bonds performed well for the month with longer term indices outperforming
- ▶ Fed Chair Powell's commentary leaned dovish following the March 20-21 Fed meeting
- ▶ Headline and Core CPI exceeded economists' forecasts though PCE was in line
- ▶ Personal spending remained strong in February

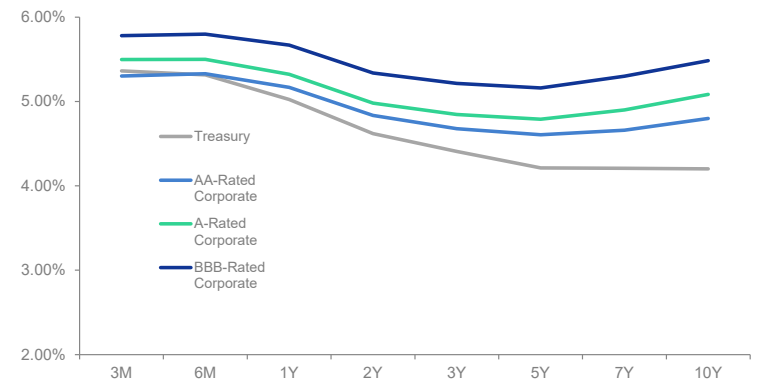
Source: FactSet

Market Returns

Market Index	MTD	QTD	YTD	1-Year
Bloomberg 9-12 Month T-Bill	0.41%	0.92%	0.92%	4.78%
Bloomberg 1-5 Year Government	0.40%	-0.04%	-0.04%	2.44%
Bloomberg Intermediate U.S. Gov/ Credit A or Better	0.57%	-0.24%	-0.24%	2.17%
S&P 500	3.22%	10.56%	10.56%	29.88%
Russell 2000	3.58%	5.18%	5.18%	19.71%

Source: Bloomberg

Market Yields



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. 3/29/24

U.S. Economic Indicators

Event	Event Date	Period	Survey	Actual	Prior / Revised (R)
Core CPI (MoM)	03/12/24	FEB	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Consumer Price Index (YoY)	03/12/24	FEB	3.1%	3.2%	3.1%
Building Permits	03/19/24	FEB	1,496K	1,518K	1,489K (R)
S&P Case Shiller 20-City Home Price Index (YoY)	03/26/24	JAN	6.12%	6.03%	5.57% (R)
Consumer Confidence	03/26/24	MAR	107.0	104.7	104.8 (R)
Personal Income	03/29/24	FEB	0.4%	0.3%	1.0%
Personal Spending	03/29/24	FEB	0.5%	0.8%	0.2%
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	04/05/24	MAR	205K	--	275K
Unemployment Rate	04/05/24	MAR	3.8%	--	3.9%

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. 3/29/24. Glossary terms on following page.

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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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