

January 9, 2023 – Economic Commentary

All eyes this week fall on the inflation numbers for December and how they will answer the many questions about the path forward for the Fed and the US economy. Globally, inflation appears to be decelerating, with the most notable declines being seen in Europe, although the numbers continue to be higher than US inflation. The week started with an important positive from the New York Fed, which reported a slight lowering to 5% of near-term inflation expectations among its consumer survey respondents; medium-term inflation expectations remain at 3%. Considerable circumstantial evidence continues to point to a US consumer altering and/or curtailing spending plans in reflection of the higher costs of goods and services, but with apparently little concern about job security and income growth. Corporate CEOs, on the other hand, appear to be intensely focused on the possibility (if not probability) of a recession in 2023 and are holding back on aggressive expansion and capital spending plans, at least for the moment. Consumer spending is a much larger force in establishing the pace of economic activity, but business decisions on hiring and firing may ultimately move the consumer to a more cautious posture.

Data to Watch:

1. US Wholesale Inventories for December, released Wednesday, Jan. 11
2. US CPI for December, released Thursday, Jan. 12
3. Fed President Harker Speech, Friday, Jan. 13

Suggested Reading:

[Beer Sales Drop as Consumers Balk at Higher Prices](#)

[China's Opaque Decision-Making Confounds Business, Governments](#)

[Getting Rid of Remote Work Will Take More than a Downturn](#)

[Consumer Confidence in housing finally rises, thanks to falling prices](#)

Disclosures

Investment advisory services offered through Robertson Stephens Wealth Management, LLC ("Robertson Stephens"), an SEC-registered investment advisor. Registration does not imply any specific level of skill or training and does not constitute an endorsement of the firm by the Commission. This material is for general informational purposes only and should not be construed as investment, tax or legal advice. It does not constitute a recommendation or offer to buy or sell any security, has not been tailored to the needs of any specific investor, and should not provide the basis for any investment decision. Please consult with your Advisor prior to making any Investment decisions. The information contained herein was carefully compiled from sources believed to be reliable, but Robertson Stephens cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. Information, views and opinions are current as of the date of this presentation, are based on the information available at the time, and are subject to change based on market and other conditions. Robertson Stephens assumes no duty to update this information. Unless otherwise noted, any individual opinions presented are those of the author and not necessarily those of Robertson Stephens. Indices are unmanaged and reflect the reinvestment of all income or dividends but do not reflect the deduction of any fees or expenses which would reduce returns. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Forward-looking performance targets or estimates are not guaranteed and may not be achieved. Investing entails risks, including possible loss of principal. Alternative investments are only available to qualified investors and are not suitable for all investors. Alternative investments include risks such as illiquidity, long time horizons, reduced transparency, and significant loss of principal. This material is an investment advisory publication intended for investment advisory clients and prospective clients only. Robertson Stephens only transacts business in states in which it is properly registered or is excluded or exempted from registration. A copy of Robertson Stephens' current written disclosure brochure filed with the SEC which discusses, among other things, Robertson Stephens' business practices, services and fees, is available through the SEC's website at: www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. © 2022 Robertson Stephens Wealth Management, LLC. All rights reserved. Robertson Stephens is a registered trademark of Robertson Stephens Wealth Management, LLC in the United States and elsewhere.