

Liquid Insight

Turmoil markets in G10 FX

Key takeaways

- The US Dollar has been at elevated levels, amid tense markets worried about geopolitical risk and higher US yields.
- We keep our G10 FX forecasts unchanged as we go into November and continue to expect EUR-USD to end the year at 1.05.
- However, we also still see USD as broadly historically overvalued, and also continue to look for EUR-USD to end 2024 at 1.15.

By John Shin, Athanasios Vamvakidis and Alex Cohen

Chart of the day: looking for USD downside in 2024

USD has been elevated, but our medium-term expectation remains for softening next year



Source: Bloomberg, Federal Reserve Board and BofA Global Research

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Near-term USD strength, longer-term softening

Geopolitical risks in the Middle East, along with the recent runup in US interest rates, have led to broader concern for markets. Still, market response to these recent developments has been relatively contained so far (see FX Watch, “[USD: Consolidation continues; geopolitical risks underpriced?](#)”, 24 October 2023). While we continue to expect the USD to stay on the stronger side for the remainder of the year, we also still ultimately expect softening over the medium-term into 2024, led by our end-2023 EUR-USD forecast of 1.05 and end-2024 forecast of 1.15, and reflecting our view that the USD is moderately overvalued.

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USD: consolidating at the highs with resilient data, tightening conditions

The DXY reached its YTD highs in early October, before consolidating over recent weeks amid various cross-currents. On the data front, US growth and inflation indicators have pointed to a highly resilient economy, with no clear signs of a landing in sight.

Most notably, recent labor, inflation and retail sales data have exceeded market expectations, while various now-casts for Q3 GDP continue to track above 5%. In turn, this has kept upward pressure on US nominal and real rates, which continue to reach new multi-year highs across the curve, particularly in the long end.

Meanwhile, the broader offshoot has been an even more comprehensive tightening in financial conditions over the past few months, inclusive of a strong dollar, high treasury yields, widening credit spreads and lower equities (Exhibit 1). This tightening has been frequently referenced in several FOMC speeches over recent weeks, with the overall implication being that the Fed Funds rate might not need to be set as high as would otherwise be the case.

This guidance has served to notably reduce pricing for a hike at the November FOMC meeting, which has served to slow the pace of USD appreciation for now. Our US Economics team has recently revised their outlook and now expects the Federal Reserve to be on hold in November and hike in December (see [US Economic Weekly, "Not November, maybe later", 20 October 2023](#)).

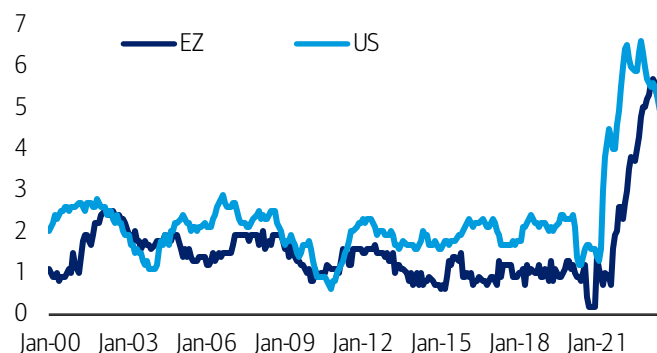
Exhibit 1: DXY and Financial Conditions

Dollar consolidates amid tightening financial conditions



Exhibit 2: Core inflation, Eurozone vs. the US

Eurozone core inflation finally dropping towards US level



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EUR: still downside risks, although OK beyond the USD

Beyond the USD, the EUR continues to perform well. It has only done worse than the USD and the CHF since the USD rally and the rates sell-off started at the end of July. EURUSD is almost flat so far in October. The economy seems to have bottomed out, with data still weak but recently improving. Both headline and, more recently, core inflation have also come down, approaching US levels.

Having said that, the labor market remains very stretched, with the unemployment rate stuck at an all-time low. The ECB is done hiking (Exhibit 2), unless the outlook changes significantly, but the same also applies for most other G10 central banks. A possible trigger for a change could be if the recent increase in oil prices continues, which could pose new risks for the economy and challenges for the ECB as a stagflation shock.

The US rates sell-off is also spilling over into EUR rates, tightening financial conditions. Italian yields and spreads have increased as a result, bringing periphery risks back to the fore.

Forecasts: unchanged in G10 FX, with near-term USD strength

All USD forecasts vs G10 remain unchanged (for more, see the [World at a Glance, "Turmoil Markets", 25 October 2023](#)). We maintain our core view that the USD should be supported into year-end, driven by U.S. growth resilience and the prospect for sticky inflation, which should keep the Fed's policy stance highly restrictive.

With EURUSD at our year-end forecast of 1.05, our profile remains the same for now. We also still expect EUR-USD to weaken very gradually to 1.15 by the end of next year, which is above the consensus of 1.12, but this assumes a relatively soft-landing scenario that brings inflation down. We see substantial risks for alternative landing scenarios and paths that can have very different FX implications.

More broadly, ultimately, the dollar remains overvalued, and should trend back towards equilibrium starting later in 2024. Our G10 FX forecasts generally follow along with EUR, including our expectations for USD-JPY to rise into the 155 area in Q1 before ending 2024 at 142, and our expectations for Dollar Bloc currencies to rise over the longer-term as well.

Risks: geopolitics, the US outlook, Italy

Uncertainty is rising on many fronts. Geopolitical risks have increased meaningfully, though currency markets more broadly have yet to reflect the full impact of these concerns, outside of a few areas. Beyond high uncertainty about the landing scenario, geopolitical risks from the Middle East and their implications for oil prices are of immediate concern.

A substantial increase in energy prices and deterioration of the Eurozone's terms of trade could bring back the price action of last year when the war in Ukraine started. On the European front in particular, we note Italy is also a risk (see [Euro Area Watch, "Italy: Unstable Equilibrium", 19 October 2023](#)), with yields reaching levels too close to what could trigger non-linear market reaction.

In the US in particular, lingering impacts of the United Auto Workers (UAW) strike, restarting student loan repayments, and another potential looming Federal Government shutdown in the near-term, alongside tightening financial conditions, present growth headwinds as we move further into Q4, and may present the Federal Reserve with a menu of difficult policy choices from which to choose.

Exhibit 3: G10 FX Forecasts

Our end-2023 EUR-USD forecast remains 1.05, and remains 1.15 for end-2024

	Spot	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
G3										
EUR-USD	1.06	1.05	1.07	1.10	1.15	1.15	1.16	1.17	1.18	1.20
USD-JPY	150	153	155	150	146	142	140	138	136	136
EUR-JPY	159	161	166	165	168	163	162	161	160	163
Dollar Bloc										
USD-CAD	1.38	1.32	1.32	1.30	1.28	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26
AUD-USD	0.63	0.64	0.66	0.68	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71
NZD-USD	0.58	0.59	0.60	0.62	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64
Europe										
EUR-GBP	0.87	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85
GBP-USD	1.21	1.24	1.26	1.29	1.35	1.35	1.36	1.38	1.39	1.41
EUR-CHF	0.95	0.98	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.02	1.02	1.05	1.05
USD-CHF	0.90	0.93	0.93	0.90	0.87	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.89	0.88
EUR-SEK	11.78	11.70	11.40	11.20	11.00	10.70	10.60	10.50	10.30	10.20
USD-SEK	11.15	11.14	10.65	10.18	9.57	9.30	9.14	8.97	8.73	8.50
EUR-NOK	11.83	11.00	10.80	10.70	10.50	10.30	10.20	10.10	10.00	9.90
USD-NOK	11.20	10.48	10.09	9.73	9.13	8.96	8.79	8.63	8.47	8.25

Forecast as of Oct-25-2023. Spot exchange rate as of Oct-25-2023. The left of the currency pair is the denominator of the exchange rate. **Source:** BofA Global Research

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Notable Rates and FX Research

- **Global Rates, FX & EM Year Ahead 2023** – [Year Ahead 2023: Pivot ≠ Peak](#), 20 Nov 2022
- [Positioning matters until it doesn't](#), **Global FX Weekly**, 20 Oct 2023
- [Hi 5s 20](#), **Global Rates Weekly**, 20 Oct 2023
- [Waiting for the next catalyst](#), **Liquid Cross Border Flows**, 16 Oct 2023

Rates, FX & EM trades for 2023

For a complete list of our open trade recommendations, as well as our trade recommendations closed over the past 12 months, see the reports below:

[Global FX weekly: Positioning matters until it doesn't 20 October 2023](#)

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