



The Stall in rate Cut Talks

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The trend is broken.

The FOMC began to discuss cutting rates, but those talks may stall now. The CPI and PPI data suggest they are not likely to re-engage seriously, with any impetus, for quite some time.

What we know is this:

1. The FOMC rate cut talks are relatively new.
2. They have repeatedly said incoming data will matter.
3. Recent CPI and PPI data have deviated from the recent trend.
4. The trend in inflation prior to the recent data was towards 2%.
5. They considered the trend favorable.
6. As grounds for rate cut discussions.
7. That trend no longer exists.

We expect rate cut discussions to stall.

Essentially, the trend in inflation is no longer suggesting 2% anytime soon, and that is likely to curtail any impetus to start cutting rates anytime soon. We expect the sentiment about the progression towards 2% and the rate cutting talks to go hand in hand.

In addition, the economy appears able to handle these higher rates.

If the economy appears able to handle these higher rates, the impetus to cut rates is also diminished. That compounds the influence from CPI and PPI, and suggests that the FOMC may increase the baseline level of rates that they believe will be appropriate to sustain their objectives.

The higher inflation data recent, when coupled with economic data, will likely put off serious talks about cutting rates. We expect that to be true until the trend in inflation starts to improve.

Thomas H. Kee Jr.

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