



Equities In An Inflationary Environment

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PG. 1: Analyst Insight

PG. 2: Investment Playbook

PG. 3: Monitoring List

PG. 9: Unit Trust

PG. 10: Local Equity Market

PG. 11: International Developments

PG. 12: About Us

ANALYST INSIGHT

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Equities In An Inflationary Environment

Introduction

As economies pivot from a focus on dealing with the pandemic, an emerging theme that has remained constant has been that of the elevated inflationary environment. As businesses grappled with restrictions on movement and operation throughout the pandemic, the ensuing supply chain disruptions created an imbalance relative to consumer demand, driving an acceleration in inflation. The issue has been compounded by the emerging conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has resulted in increased commodity prices. To combat this inflation, Central Banks have been aggressively employing interest rate hikes with other tightening measures in the cards. As such the conundrum that exists for investors is where to position in the current investment climate? We are of the view that equities remain an attractive area that investors can position in for attractive returns.

Inflationary Implications

One of the challenges that presents itself in an inflationary environment is the impact on interest rates and the degree to which it can create an element of uncertainty for a company's cost structure and growth. As Central Banks move to fight inflation with higher rates, market participants tend to adjust their positioning across asset classes as riskier assets become incrementally less attractive. Consequently, investors will require a higher return for the risk taken in equities as yields adjust higher on bonds and other lower risk securities. Against this backdrop, an investor must carefully analyze various asset classes and develop a strategy that can yield returns adjusted for inflation. Outside of Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPs) and inflation-indexed bonds, investing in bonds may seem counterintuitive. Inflation coupled with rising interest rates generally presents a danger to fixed income securities. Real estate in its purest form, can be an attractive asset class, as it allows owners to pass on costs to tenants which can be adjusted for inflation. However, pure-play real estate investing is not an option that is readily available to most retail investors.

Why Equities?

Historically, equities have outpaced inflation in the long-run. In the period from 1914 to 2022, US inflation has averaged 3.25% annually, while the S&P 500 Index has provided an average annual return of 10.49% from 1926 to 2021. Equities have traditionally been viewed as an inflation hedge. The mechanism behind this thinking is grounded in the idea that generally, companies can pass on their rising costs to consumers over time, thereby maintaining their margins at higher price points. Notwithstanding, this is not the case across all companies or industries, as other factors come into play, such as the competitive dynamics of the market and the degree to which demand for a product is discretionary. As such, a key thought that should guide an investor when investing in equities within the current paradigm should be the pricing power of the Company and the nature of the product it sells and the market it targets.

Additionally, another area that requires attention when choosing where to allocate capital within your equity portfolio is the company's capital structure and general financial profile. As highlighted above, rising interest rates normally accompany a sustained increase in inflation. As such the cost of debt financing will increase for companies. Companies that are looking to fund strategic expansion or working capital needs with debt will be more limited in their options due to the elevated cash flow requirement to service interest cost. Furthermore, companies that have a higher debt exposure on their balance sheet already are at increased risk. This is due to the cost of interest on new debt facilities that can be used to replace existing debt being higher, which will impact earnings subject to the degree to which the company can reduce its liabilities as they come due. As such, in this paradigm, a rule of thumb to follow is to skew towards developed companies that have a strong balance sheet with modest debt, high liquidity and that are cashflow positive. Combined, these factors can enable companies to continue to grow profits within an inflationary environment, while reducing the potential volatility of earnings.

Conclusion

Despite the volatility in the markets and the current inflationary environment, there are areas within the equity market that will remain attractive. Investing is a long-term endeavor and may require the shifting of strategies within the portfolio. However, it is important to understand the market that a company operates in, its key driving factors, and how changes in the broader macro-economic environment will impact the line items that are most impactful to earnings.

Investment Playbook



Equities

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (As of June 03 2022)	Analyst Outlook
WISYNCO Wisynco Group Limited	P/E: 19.54x	OVERWEIGHT Throughout the pandemic, Wisynco has managed to improve its operational efficiency but given the effects of COVID-19 on industries such as tourism and education, the Company was unable to deliver significant revenue growth. Now, with tourism rebounding and schools operating at a greater level, Wisynco has married its improved operational efficiency with stronger revenue growth, allowing for significant net profit growth. As tourism is expected to continue growing towards its pre-pandemic level of output, we expect Wisynco to continue to perform well. Wisynco Equity Report
	P/B: 4.29x	
	Price: \$19.93	
	Div Yield: 1.51%	
JMMBGL JMMB Group Limited	P/E: 7.07x	OVERWEIGHT Given its relatively low P/E ratio and considering the Group's consistently strong performance throughout the pandemic, the market has been underpricing JMMBGL significantly, relative to its local counterparts. In recognition of this, the JMMBGL Directors approved a share buyback program which should begin in FY2022/23 which begins on April 1, 2022. Share buyback programs reduce the number of shares outstanding. As the supply of shares in the market reduces from the share buyback, share price increase is likely to follow as demand for the stock outweighs supply. JMMB Equity Report
	P/B: 1.28x	
	Price: \$43.12	
	Div Yield: 1.97%	
MASSY Massy Holdings Limited	P/E: 10.03x	OVERWEIGHT Massy Holdings Limited. (MHL, Massy), through its portfolio companies, engages in trading, manufacturing, distribution, and service industry businesses throughout the Caribbean region. The company operates through three portfolios: Integrated Retail, Gas Products, Motors, and Machine and two business lines: Financial Services, and Strategic and Other Investments. In financial year 2020, Massy transitioned from a Conglomerate to an Investment Holding Company. By so doing, Massy's strategy has changed, with the Group focusing mainly on its core portfolios. These core areas of the business represent Massy's competitive advantages, are well-positioned to scale, and are therefore expected to drive strategic growth going forward. Massy Equity Report
	P/B: 1.20x	
	Price: J\$ 95.28	
	Div Yield: 2.80%	

Ratings Definitions

OVERWEIGHT/BUY

Exposure to this asset should be between 5% and 10% of your total portfolio

MARKETWEIGHT/HOLD

Exposure to the asset should be equal to 5% of your total portfolio

UNDERWEIGHT

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to less than 5% for this particular asset

SELL

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to zero

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Investment Playbook



Equities

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (As of June 03, 2022)	Analyst Outlook
LASD Lasco Distributors	P/E: 11.88x	OVERWEIGHT Our expectation is for the Company to continue on its growth trajectory, supported by the improving economic backdrop of the global economy, which should manifest through continued domestic demand for goods and services. With increased stopover arrivals and the reopening of key industries such as entertainment and education (face-to-face teaching), there are sufficient catalysts to spur further growth in 2022. However, this isn't without challenges as the global supply bottleneck has affected LASD's margins. In response, management has prudently managed operational costs such that higher imported inflationary has not completely eroded the bottom line, resulting in continued growth. Lasco Distributors Equity Report
	P/B: 1.61x	
	Price: J\$ 3.44	
	Div Yield: 1.89%	
SCIJMD / SCIUSD Sygnus Credit Investments	P/E: 9.17x / 10.78x	OVERWEIGHT Sygnus' business model is built on providing capital and direction to the underbanked, targeting the middle market. To accomplish this, the Company has executed several equity raises, the most recent of which was its APO launch in December 2020. Given the increase in its weighted average number of shares, EPS growth has not mirrored the double digit growth in net profit attributable to shareholders. However, we must indicate that continued growth at this level will drive higher EPS growth, once further dilution does not occur. Moreover, the stock trades at significant discount relative to peers both from a P/E perspective and a P/B perspective. At present, the market is pricing Sygnus at a steep discount to its book value per share which we believe is very wrong.
	P/B: 0.58x / 0.68x	
	Price: J\$14.64/ US\$0.13	
	Div Yield: 2.45% / 2.24%	
TROPICAL Tropical Battery Limited	P/E: 30.68x	OVERWEIGHT Tropical Battery has been aggressively pursuing revenue diversification strategies, to reduce its dependence on auto battery and accessory sales. This is evident by the company's recent launch of three new subsidiaries aimed at providing renewable energy solutions for commercial customers. In addition, the company recently implemented a new inventory management system that has yielded improved operational efficiencies in addition to targeted sales initiatives that have improved revenue growth. We believe that the Company will continue to grow as they build out new revenue lines, improve operational efficiencies and drive targeted sales initiatives. Tropical Battery Equity Report
	P/B: 3.98x	
	Price: J\$ 2.70	
	Div Yield: 0.37%	
PROVEN JMD/PROVEN USD Proven Investment Limited	P/E: 11.45x/11.38x	OVERWEIGHT Proven has shown strong revenue and profit growth throughout the current financial year, a performance-driven by the Group's accretive acquisitions. Most notable among these include JMMBGL and Roberts Manufacturing Company Limited. The company continues to demonstrate its appetite for growth through acquisitions as evidenced by the recent 100% acquisition of Fidelity Bank(Cayman). Given the company's history of acquiring companies with accretive value, we expect Fidelity will be similar. Coupled with this, we believe Proven is trading at favorable PE and PB multiples relative to the market.
	P/B: 1.13x/1.12x	
	Price: J\$37.81/ US\$0.26	
	Div Yield: 3.09% / 2.99%	

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Investment Playbook



Equities

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Lumber Lumber Depot Limited	P/E: 11.70x	OVERWEIGHT Lumber represents an option to gain exposure to the construction sector which has been a relatively resilient and fast-growing sector. With this sector tailwind, lumber has shown strong revenue growth since its 2019 listing and the current Trailing Twelve Months(TTM) profits is 28.6% higher than financial year 2021 earnings. While there were however hiccups in the last 6 months earnings which was impacted by a combination of lock down restrictions and rising input costs respectively for Q1 and Q2, we are still monitoring how the company progresses given the loosening of restrictions and continued growth in the construction sector. We also note that despite the growth it has shown over the last 2 years, the stock still trades at an attractive PE compared to Junior market peers. Lumber Equity Report
	P/B: 5.10x	
	Price: J\$ 3.16	
	Div Yield: 1.90%	
LAB The Limners and Bards Limited	P/E: 17.69	OVERWEIGHT The LAB is the only listed Creative Agency on the JSE. Throughout the pandemic, the demand for the services provided by the Company has been strong. In FY2021 alone, revenue grew by 35%, an indication of the demand for the Company's services while net profit grew by 22%. With consistently positive cash flows and a cash balance that is 1.36x larger than the Company's current liabilities, we believe the Lab is poised to invest its capital efficiently towards further growth. The first step towards this is the Lab's brainchild, "SCOPE Caribbean". To date, SCOPE has not been profitable which has negatively impacted the Lab's net profit growth. This is not abnormal for a new business, and we expect this should turnaround as the business scales. The LAB Equity Report
	P/B: 5.16x	
	Price: J\$ 2.91	
	Div Yield: 3.78%	
GK GraceKennedy Limited	P/E: 13.04x	MARKETWEIGHT For their financial year ended December 2021, the company reported growth in both their top and bottom line. Revenues increased by 12% and profit increased by 32%. Now, the company has indicated several transactions in their pipeline, including a few in insurance, one in fintech and others outside of Jamaica. These acquisitions stand to add more diversity and growth to the company's earnings. Grace Kennedy Equity Report
	P/B: 1.50x	
	Price: J\$ 108.88	
	Div Yield: 1.77%	
LASM Lasco Manufacturing	P/E: 13.14x	MARKETWEIGHT Our expectation is for the Company, like others, to continue benefiting from an improving economic backdrop. However, there has been a clear revenue growth slowdown in the most recent quarterly result, coupled with reduce gross profit margins throughout FY2022, owing to global supply chain issues and a higher effective tax rate as Lasco no longer benefits from the Junior Market tax incentive. Lasco Manufacturing Equity Report
	P/B: 2.59x	
	Price: J\$ 5.43	
	Div Yield: 1.34%	

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Investment Playbook



Equities

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (As of June 03, 2022)	Analyst Outlook
SEP Seprod Limited	P/E: 25.61x	MARKETWEIGHT Seprod has been considerably affected by global supply chain issues that have increased the Company's cost of sales. While this has occurred, instead of raising prices to consumers equivalently, Seprod has absorbed some of these costs which has affected profitability. To help mitigate this, the Group has improved its operational cost management which has had positive implications on the performance. Notwithstanding, the cost of sales remains elevated, and has only trended upwards throughout FY2021, with no clear methods to manage or reduce the current pace of the increase. Therefore, while we expect current operational cost controls to help, the uncertainty regarding cost of goods remains an ever-present threat to Group profit growth, especially given the current inflationary environment. Seprod Equity Report
	P/B: 2.18x	
	Price: J\$ 71.44	
	Div Yield: 1.82%	
MAILPAC Mailpac Group Limited	P/E: 20.00x	MARKETWEIGHT During the peak periods of the pandemic, MAILPAC benefited immensely as online shopping became a larger share of shoppers' wallets. In large part, this period of heavy COVID-19 fear has reduced and while we anticipate online shopping will remain integral for the everyday consumer, the outsized growth we witnessed in FY2020 will likely soften further. Admittedly, the Company has a robust balance sheet with more cash than total liabilities which we believe places MAILPAC in a position to make growth-inducing investments. The current slowdown in demand and consequently revenue and profit growth, matched with the Company's strong balance sheet underscores our MARKETWEIGHT recommendation MailPac Equity Report
	P/B: 9.32x	
	Price: J\$ 2.80	
	Div Yield: 3.93%	
SGJ Scotia Group Jamaica Limited	P/E: 13.53x	MARKETWEIGHT The greatest driver of profitability in FY2021 was the reduction of Expected Credit Losses (ECL) relative to the previous year as the economic backdrop improved. Scotia is not likely to have this benefit recur to the magnitude it did in FY2021. This, coupled with no clearly communicated path to growing its main revenue lines in an industry that is highly competitive presents obvious challenges for the Group. However, Scotia has two major positives. The first is that the current rising interest rate environment supports the Group's bank model, more so than other listed financial institutions. The second is that SGJ is a consistent source of relatively attractive dividends which makes the Company a good asset for investors with a clear preference for income. Scotia Group Equity Report
	P/B: 0.99x	
	Price: J\$ 36.67	
	Div Yield: 4.23%	

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Investment Playbook

Equities



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FTNA Fontana Limited	P/E: 21.69x	MARKETWEIGHT Fontana has been growing and expanding since listing on the junior exchange in 2019. The Company has plans to expand, which includes a new outlet to bring their stores to a total of seven locations. In its most recent quarter, Net Profit saw a marginal increase of 0.1% due largely to the impact of FX losses. Further, cost of sales has been impacted given the current inflationary environment and is likely to continue being affected in the near to medium term. However, the company continues to grow organically and is financially positioned to do so. Due to the current environment and exposure to FX liabilities, profitability could dampen in the near term but in the long term, the addition of its new outlet could support growth. On balance, the Company has both significant risks and the potential for upside, which underscores our recommendation. Fontana Equity Report
	P/B: 1.68	
	Price: J\$ 9.76	
	Div Yield: 1.84%	
SVL Supreme Ventures Limited	P/E: 28.42x	MARKETWEIGHT Supreme Ventures is the market leader in the lottery and gaming industry. The company has also in recent years embarked on an aggressive growth strategy through several acquisitions (Champion Gaming and Post To Post Betting). The company would have been impacted by the pandemic as the lockdown measures impacted its operations at Caymanas Park. With the easing of restrictions, the Company should benefit from an easing of lock down restrictions and a normalization of business. Despite this, in the medium term we note that the company now has competition in the lottery segment of the market which may negatively impact margins. The degree to which this might impede the pace of revenue growth will however depend on the take up of new games such as Scratchaz which, at present, seems popular amongst younger consumers as it is a new addition to the Company's product offerings. Supreme Ventures Equity Report
	P/B: 17.38x	
	Price: J\$ 29.98	
	Div Yield: 2.67%	
ECL Express Catering Limited	P/E: 13.90x	UNDERWEIGHT With the ongoing recovery of the tourism industry, we believe ECL's revenues will increase year over year. However, the Company is not currently operating at pre-covid efficiency levels, as price increases due to the current global supply chain challenges have driven higher costs across all product categories. Consequently, there has been a clear deterioration of the Company's profit margins. Higher cost of goods has had implications for the Company's profitability and while we expect continued growth in the tourism industry will drive higher revenue, we also expect the inflationary environment to present challenges for the Group's profitability. ECL Equity Report
	P/B: 24.28x	
	Price: J\$ 5.99	
	Div Yield: N/A	

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Monitoring List



Equities

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (As of June 03, 2022)	Analyst Outlook
MDS Medical Disposable Supplies	P/E: 19.14x	Medical Disposables and Supplies have quietly been diversifying its revenue streams over the last 2 years. This is inclusive of its purchase of 60% of Cornwall Medical and Dental Supplies (CMDL) which has been consolidated into the company's financials as of their second quarter 2021. This increases the company's exposure to the dental supplies space and expands their reach into the western end of the island. The company has also shifted to providing more confectionary products and we believe its expansion and diversification efforts are worth watching.
	P/B: 1.71x	
	Price: J\$ 7.18	
	Div Yield: 0.97%	
JBG Jamaica Broilers Group	P/E: 10.45x	The Jamaica Broiler's group has effectively decreased the size of its Haiti operations which has been weighing on performance for the last few quarters. This when coupled with the Group's expansion efforts into the United States may provide tailwinds for increased profitability going forward.
	P/B: 1.56x	
	Price: J\$ 26.86	
	Div Yield: 1.60%	
SOS Stationery & Office Supplies	P/E: 19.52x	Stationery and Office Supplies presents investors with another option to benefit from the reopening of the domestic economy. A core segment of their business would have suffered from the lockdown measures and work from home, namely the sale of furniture and its SEEK line of books. However, during that period stationary sales have done well to fill that revenue gap. With the resumption of economic activity, the return to office and the expansion in the BPO sector, SOS might be a large beneficiary in 2022.
	P/B: 3.94x	
	Price: J\$ 12.30	
	Div Yield: 1.30%	
SJ Sagikor Group Jamaica Limited	P/E: 11.69x	Sagikor Group Jamaica Limited would have been adversely impacted by the pandemic even more so than the typical financial sector company due to their exposure to the tourism sector. This would have therefore led to sizeable impairment losses on their investment in associated companies (I.e., Playa Hotel and Resorts). For 2022 we therefore expect to see some amount of recovery as the group has disposed of their investments in Playa which will stem impairment losses while simultaneously still having direct exposure to travel through their US resort (The Hilton DoubleTree) while their banking services should benefit from a pickup in economic activity.
	P/B: 1.63x	
	Price: J\$ 54.82	
	Div Yield: 2.02%	

The "Monitoring List" includes stocks that are on our radar as our initial expectation for these companies is positive. However, no official recommendation is presented as these stocks are still being evaluated.

Unit Trust

Unit Trust Fund	01/06/2022	25/05/2022	Week/Week Return	1 Year Return	Year-to-Date Return	Yield
Capital Growth	98.1395	95.6264	2.63%	6.78%	6.73%	-
Money Market	15.3707	15.2900	0.53%	2.30%	0.96%	2.40%
Income Portfolio	100.0000	100.0000	0.00%	-	-	3.32%
FX Bond Portfolio (US\$)	1.3427	1.3434	-0.05%	-1.33%	-2.58%	2.70%
Real Estate Portfolio	5454.6168	5425.4112	0.54%	-5.99%	2.90%	-
FX Growth Portfolio	0.9264	0.9013	2.78%	-10.06%	-14.38%	-

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

Warren Buffett

LOCAL EQUITY MARKET

For the week ended June 3, 2022, the local stock market as measured by the Combined Index grew week over week by 0.73%. The Main Market Index decreased by 0.45%, the JSE Junior Market Index declined by 3.47%, and the JSE USD Equities Index improved by 2.54%. During the week, Fosrich Limited was the biggest common equity gainer, rising 22.77% to close at \$29.55. The biggest common equity decliner was K.L.E. GROUP LIMITED, which fell by 14.17% to close at \$2.06.

Year-to-date, with the ongoing rebound in the local economy, small-cap stocks, reflecting those listed on the Junior Market Index have continued the strong performance seen in 2021, growing by 24.35% YTD, outpacing its Main Market counterpart which is down 1.67% YTD.

This week, Overall Market activity resulted from trading in 61 stocks of which 37 advanced, 20 declined and 4 traded firm. The following companies represent the overall volume leaders:

1. JMMB GROUP LIMITED 7.50% with 13,383,445 units (19.32%);
2. TRANSJAMAICAN HIGHWAY LIMITED with 10,795,303 units (15.58%);
3. WIGTON WINDFARM LIMITED ORDINARY SHARES with 8,795,435 units (12.69%).

Revisiting relevant news during the week:

Local cigarette distributor Carreras Limited not only surpassed its 2020 financial year (FY) record revenue of \$14.13 billion, but grew its top line by 13 per cent to \$15.75 billion for its 2022 FY ending March 31, 2022.

[Carreras surpasses \\$15 billion revenue mark](#)

JFP Ltd (formerly Jamaica Fibreglass Products Ltd) which recently listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) has announced its first confirmed order in the USA for furniture production and outfitting.

[JFP secures first US account](#)

Despite the continued supply chain disruptions and rising commodity prices, Lasco Manufacturing Limited (LASM) grew revenue by 15 per cent to \$9.48 billion and achieved its highest net profit to date of \$1.71 billion, which did not include any tax remissions.

[Lasco Manufacturing achieves new heights](#)

The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) indicates in its latest Quarterly Monetary Policy Report that both savings and loans growth slowed in the first quarter of 2022.

[Loans slow down](#)

VM Investments has taken an undisclosed stake in the Portmore, St Catherine-based manufacturer, Home Choice Enterprise as part of its push into the private equity market. The value of the stake was also undisclosed.

[VM takes stake in Home Choice](#)

DOLLA Financial Services Limited broke several records last week as its initial public offering (IPO) brought in more than \$5 billion, 10 times the offer size of \$500 million.

[Dolla Financials Services breaks records](#)

Index	03/06/2022	27/05/2022	31/12/2021	Week/Week	Year-to-Date
JSE Main Market	389,557.86	387,816.69	396,155.61	0.45%	-1.67%
JSE Junior Market	4,263.14	4,120.05	3,428.30	3.47%	24.35%
JSE Combined Market	402,566.90	399,666.18	401,130.23	0.73%	0.36%
JSE USD Equities Market	215.1	209.77	195.51	2.54%	10.02%
JSE Financial Index	91.98	92.77	98.05	-0.85%	-6.19%
JSE Man & Dis Index	110.48	107.9	100.38	2.39%	10.06%

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



US - Stocks pull back from previous week's rally

Stocks surrendered a portion of the previous week's strong gains as investors continued to question whether the Federal Reserve will be able to rein in inflation without causing a recession. Industrials shares outperformed, helped by a rise in Boeing. Consumer discretionary shares also proved resilient, boosted by gains in Amazon.com.

Volatility continued to moderate since its recent peak in mid-May, although T. Rowe Price traders noted that warnings from JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon that an economic "hurricane" was coming because of rising interest rates and elevated commodity prices seemed to unnerve some investors on Wednesday. A report Friday that Elon Musk had emailed fellow executives that Tesla might have to lay off 10% of its workforce—and that he had a "super bad feeling" about the global economy—also seemed to unsettle investors somewhat. Markets were closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day.

Europe

European shares fell in thin volume as the UK market closed early to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 70th year on the throne. Investors continued to struggle with concerns about elevated inflation, slowing economic growth, the pace of central bank policy tightening, and the invasion of Ukraine. The pan-European STOXX Europe 600 Index ended the week 0.87% lower. Major indexes were generally weaker. Germany's Xetra DAX Index was little changed, France's CAC 40 fell 0.47%, and Italy's FTSE MIB lost 1.91%. The UK's FTSE 100 Index declined 0.69% through Wednesday.

[Troweprice global market update](#)

Things to watch in the week ahead:

- 1. US CPI Report:** Friday's U.S. CPI report for May comes a few days before the next Federal Reserve meeting, and will act as a final input before the Fed decides how much to hike rates. Inflation is expected to come in at 8.3% year over year, while core inflation (ex energy and fuel prices) is expected to come in at 5.9% year over year. The latter number would mark a third month of consecutive declines and make the case that core inflation may have peaked, which would echo the slower wage growth in last week's jobs report.
- 2. European Central Bank meeting:** While central banks around the world have begun their rate hike cycle, the ECB is seen as a step or two away from it. Eurozone inflation hitting record highs, though, has added more urgency to the discussion, and analysts expect this meeting to make clear that rate hikes will be coming in Q3.
- 3. Oil's next direction:** OPEC+'s announced 50% production increase did little to slow the rise of crude, with both WTI Futures and Brent finishing the week just shy of \$120/barrel. Despite rumblings of slowdowns, economic expansion (PMIs) and consumer demand suggest that demand for oil will remain high, and there are doubts that OPEC's production increase will be enough or even be fully realized.
- 4. Q1 Earnings season hits the homestretch:** While we are through most of the Q1 earnings season, a few big names report numbers this week that will give read-throughs to various investing themes.

[Thing to watch in the week ahead](#)

Index	03/06/2022	27/05/2022	31/12/2021	Week/Week	Year-to-Date
Dow Jones	32,899.70	33,212.96	36,338.30	-0.94%	-9.46%
S&P 500	4,108.54	4,158.24	4,766.18	-1.20%	-13.80%
NASDAQ 100	12,548.02	12,131.13	16,320.08	3.44%	-23.11%
FTSE 100	7,532.95	7,575.50	7,384.54	-0.56%	2.01%
Euro Stoxx 50	3,783.66	3,808.86	4,298.41	-0.66%	-11.98%

ABOUT US

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