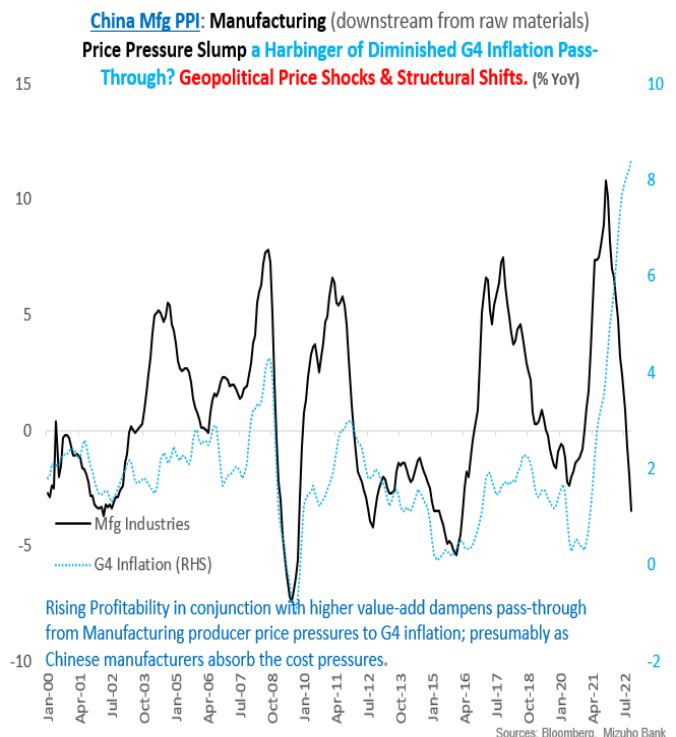
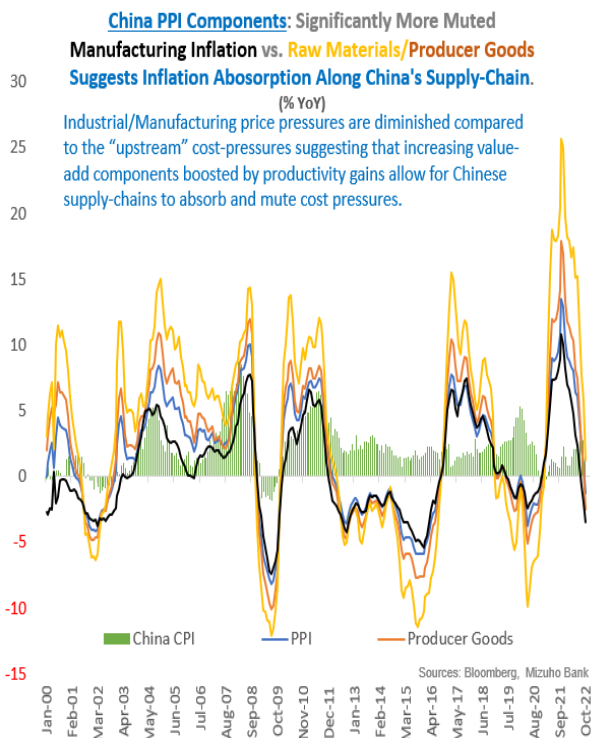
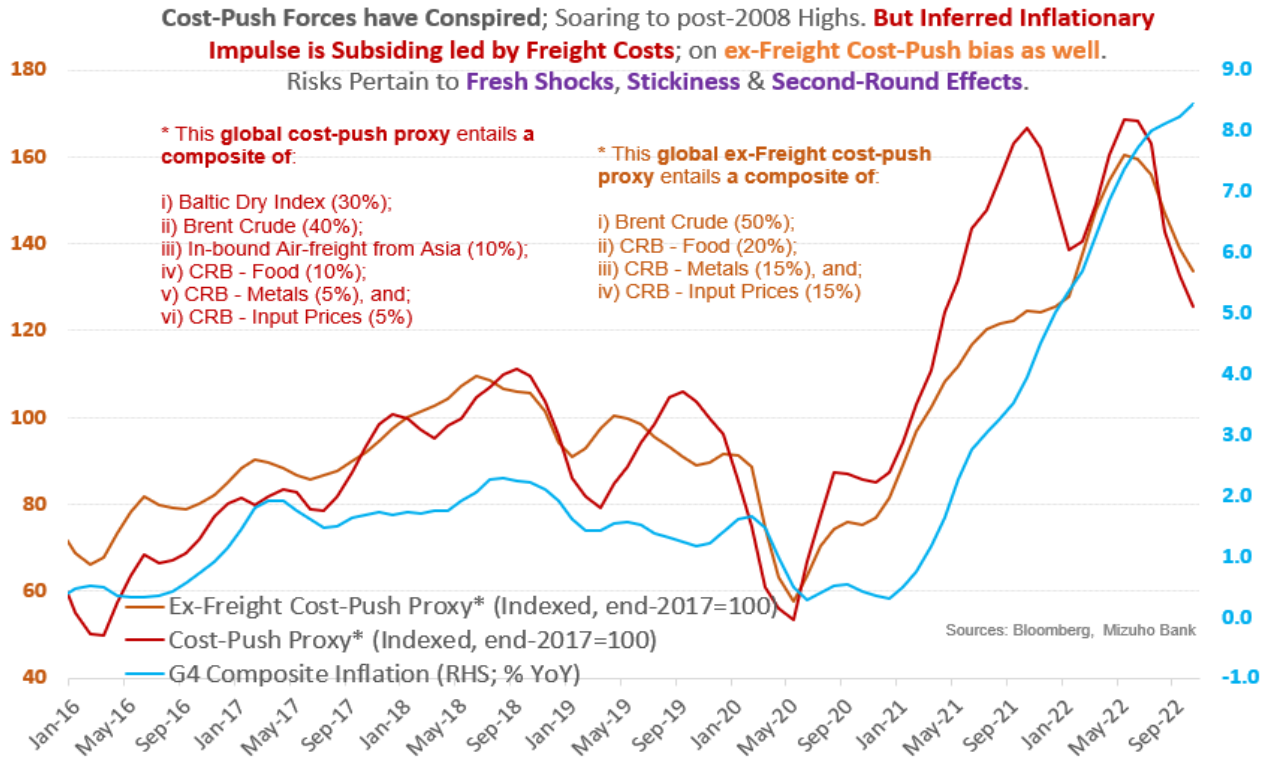


Inflation: Concessions, Not Conclusions



“Patience you must have, my young Padawan.” - Master Yoda, Star Wars

Wider signs of **abating cost-push forces** and **China’s producer price disinflation**, could under narrow circumstances justify exuberance from faster than expected deceleration in US inflation. But this is a hasty exaggeration of **encouraging inflation dynamics**. Our sense is **central banks, especially the Fed, will emphasize that more work (tightening) is needed**. Especially *given vulnerabilities to fresh price shocks, sticky inflation and second-round effects*. And they don’t need Master Yoda to remind them that *patience on restrictive policy* (to take effect) is required.

Encouraging Signs of Dis-inflation

Faster than expected deceleration in US inflation, which incited **exuberance about a Fed pivot**, appears to **validate earlier signs of diminishing cost-push forces**. For one thing, *global cost-push proxy* (Top Chart), **suggested a distinct inflection lower for inflation** (based on upstream commodity and freight cost) but *China’s producer price inflation details* (Lower Charts) also **square with China exporting disinflation in manufactured goods**. Apart from **corroborating the case for diminishing global cost push pressures**, the evidence also stacks in favour of **encouraging signs of dis-inflation in the pipeline**.

A Concession by Inflation (and Policy) Risks

Clearly, the **confluence of dissipating upstream cost push forces** (both commodities and freight/transport) along with **dis-inflation exported by the “factory of the world”** mark **a concession on the part of inflation risks** that currently dominating the global economic narrative. In fact, all else equal, the **evidence on dissipating global cost-push and dis-inflationary producer-to-manufacturer inflation** suggest a **distinct and sharper pullback in global inflation** down the road.

But Not a (Hasty) Conclusion of Risks

But it is far too hasty to declare a decisive conclusion to inflation risks. Fact is, **encouraging signs of inflation conceding ground is based on predominantly goods dis-inflation** along a smooth glide path along **favourable base effects**. Whereas, **dangers of fresh inflation shocks and/or persistence of price pressures** have **not been fully accounted for**.

Specifically; i) *vulnerabilities to further price shocks* (especially given precarious geo-political risks); ii) *inflation stickiness* from **“long-memory” transmission** of energy, food and wider inflationary cascade, and; iii) *second/(third/fourth)-round effects* **feeding back to entrench inflation** are **clear risks that central banks cannot afford to be dismissive about**. In fact, we **expect the Fed to emphasize that more tightening is required and restrictive policies may need to be sustained** regardless. In other words, a **higher peak, and persistence to the tightening**.

High(er) Bar to Establish Sufficiently Low Inflation

And so, our suspicion is that there is a **higher bar for central banks to derive comfort that underlying inflation is sufficiently low**. Simply put, recent inflation peak/decline is a **welcome concession to calibrate policy tightening, not a conclusion of inflation risks that make way for a sharp pivot**. At least **not until the decline in inflation is sustained and significantly closer to longer-term inflation target**. Whereas, initial dis-inflation is not just *welcome, but arguably expected even as base effects turn favourable*.

Important Information

This publication has been prepared by Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (“Mizuho”) and represents the views of the author. It has not been prepared by an independent research department and it has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements in any country or jurisdiction designed to promote the independence of investment research and is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research.

Disclaimer

Unless otherwise stated, all views or opinions herein are solely those of the author(s) as of the date of this publication and are not to be relied upon as authoritative or taken in substitution for the exercise of judgement by any recipient, and are subject to change without notice. This publication has been prepared by Mizuho solely from publicly available information. Information contained herein and the data underlying it have been obtained from, or based upon, sources believed by us to be reliable, but no assurance can be given that the information, data or any computations based thereon are accurate or complete. This publication provides general background information only. It is information in summary form and does not purport to be complete. This publication has been prepared for information purposes only and is not intended by Mizuho or its affiliates to constitute investment, legal, accounting, tax or other advice of any kind and all recipients of this publication are advised to contact independent advisors in order to evaluate the publication, including, without limitation, the suitability of any security, commodity, futures contract or instrument or related derivative (hereinafter, a “financial instrument”), product or strategy herein described. This publication is not intended to be relied upon as advice to investors or potential investors and does not take into account investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any particular investor. It is not intended for persons who are Retail Clients within the meaning of the United Kingdom’s Financial Conduct Authority rules nor for persons who are restricted in accordance with US, Japanese, Singapore or any other applicable securities laws.

This publication has been prepared for information purposes only and is not intended by Mizuho to market any financial instrument, product or service or serve as a recommendation to take or refrain from taking any particular course of action or participate in any trading or other strategy. This publication is not an offer to buy or sell or a solicitation of any offer to buy or sell any security or any of the assets, businesses or undertakings described herein, or any other financial instrument, nor is it an offer to participate in any trading or other strategy, nor a disclosure document under applicable laws, rules, regulations or guidelines. Nothing contained herein is in any way intended by Mizuho or its affiliates to offer, solicit and/or market any financial instrument, product or service, or to act as any inducement to enter into any contract or commitment whatsoever. Neither the author, Mizuho nor any affiliate accepts any liability whatsoever with respect to the use of this publication or its contents or for any errors or omissions herein.

Mizuho and its affiliates, connected companies, employees or clients may take the other side of any order by you, enter into transactions contrary to any recommendations contained herein or have positions or make markets or act as principal or agent in transactions in any securities mentioned herein or derivative transactions relating thereto or perform or seek financial or advisory services for the issuers of those securities or financial instruments.

All of the information contained in this publication is subject to further modification without prior notice and any and all opinions, forecasts, projections or forward-looking statements contained herein shall not be relied upon as facts nor relied upon as any indication of future results. Opinions stated in this publication are subject to change without notice. Future results may materially vary from such opinions, forecasts, projections or forward-looking statements. The information contained in this publication may not be current due to, among other things, changes in the financial markets or economic environment. Mizuho has no obligation to update any information contained in this publication. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

This is a strictly privileged and confidential publication. This publication contains information addressed only to a specific individual and is not intended for distribution to, or use by, any person other than the named addressee or any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution or use would be contrary to law or regulation. Save with Mizuho’s prior written consent, you may not disclose, divulge, reproduce or furnish any information contained herein to any other party. Please notify the sender immediately if you have mistakenly received this publication.

Singapore: Mizuho is licensed as a bank under the Banking Act (Chapter 19) of Singapore, and is regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Japan: Mizuho is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Agency of Japan.

United Kingdom / European Economic Area: In the UK, Mizuho is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Details about the extent of MHBK’s regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority are available upon request. This publication may also be distributed by Mizuho International plc (“MHI”). MHI is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

United States: This publication is not a “research report” as defined in Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) Regulations 1.71 and 23.605. The content of publications distributed by Mizuho Securities USA Inc. (“MSUSA”) is the responsibility of MSUSA. The content of publications distributed directly to US customers by Mizuho is the responsibility of Mizuho. US investors must effect any order for a security that is the subject of this report through MSUSA.

© 2014 Mizuho Bank Ltd