

2023 Currency outlook

Inflation dominated the FX markets in 2022, as any stabilization of supply chain disruptions from COVID was swiftly overwhelmed by the Russia-Ukraine crisis, causing energy resource bottlenecks across the world. Building upon its strong legs from 2021, US dollar outperformed all of its G10 counterparts as the hawkish Fed led central bank policy globally. With policy divergence amid rising interest rates, FX volatility rebounded higher through Q3, at which point both US dollar and FX volatility reversed as the market's appetite for risk re-emerged in Q4.

Inflation contagion

The inflation debate, structural vs. transitory, was emphatically answered, as persistently high CPI numbers spread globally. The lingering effects of the pandemic – disrupted supply chains around the world leading to shortages, backlogs, and delays – ushered in 2022, as the world grappled with the Omicron variant. Any possible lull in rising inflation was unceremoniously dashed when Russia invaded Ukraine, kickstarting a surge in energy prices, as the region's dependency on the Russian gas supply was exposed. Developed market inflation reached multi-decade highs (chart 1) as soaring prices became a global phenomenon.

CHART 1: DEVELOPED MARKET INFLATION (2000 – 2022)



Source: Bloomberg, OECD. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. Actual results may materially differ.

2023 Currency outlook

Inflation dominated the FX markets in 2022 as any stabilization of supply chain disruptions from COVID was mostly overwhelmed by the Russian Ukraine crisis, causing energy prices to skyrocket. Across the world, Russia opened its energy taps from 2021, U.S. dollar stabilization at all its G20 counterparts as the Russian Fed led central bank policy globally. With policy divergence and rising interest rates, FX volatility increased higher through Q3 at which point both U.S. dollar and FX volatility returned as the market's appetite for risk is engaged in Q4.



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Inflation challenges

The inflation picture continued to deteriorate as geopolitical tensions in particular high oil markets drove globally. The lagging effects of the pandemic – the global supply chain – pushed the world heading to energy shortages and inflation in 2022 as the world grappled with the Russian Ukraine crisis. The arrival of a long inflation war, unfortunately, pushed other major market drivers, including a range of emerging risks, in the region. Dependence on the Russian gas supply was exposed. Continued market inflation pushed both dollar and short-term rates into a global environment.

Source: FRED, DEVELOPED MARKET INFLATION 2000 – 2022



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Other dollar techniques
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