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Reasonably Resilient Rates Waiting to See Wednesday's Inflation Data

Data dependent... That's a phrase that is all too prevalent in financial markets and among members of the Federal Reserve. It refers to the fact that economic data will guide the future path of interest rate decisions.

While rates always depend on data, the data outlook isn't always as uncertain as it has been in the past few years. At times, we've been waiting for inflation and job growth to stop surging. At other times, we've been waiting for them to confirm a move in the other direction. Either way, there are a few reports that financial markets watch more closely than others and this week's jobs report is one of the best examples.

When job growth is higher than expected, the default reaction is for rates to move higher. The bigger the "beat" (which refers to the actual job count versus the median forecast among multiple economists), the bigger the rate jump tends to be, on average.

With that in mind, Friday's payroll count of 303k versus a median forecast of 200k was a big beat! Moreover, it continues a recent trend of labor market resilience that rates should find troubling. Specifically, rather than return to pre-covid averages, monthly job counts have leveled-off and bounced early.

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30YR Fixed	7.22%	-0.08	0.00
15YR Fixed	6.85%	-0.06	0.00
30YR FHA	6.89%	-0.06	0.00
30YR Jumbo	7.40%	-0.05	0.00
7/6 SOFR	6.73%	+0.02	0.00
30YR VA	6.90%	-0.07	0.00

Rates as of: 11/4

MBS and Treasury

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	100.16	-0.04
10 YR Treasury	4.8900	+0.0046
30 YR Treasury	5.2687	-0.0112

Pricing as of: 11/5 7:13AM EST

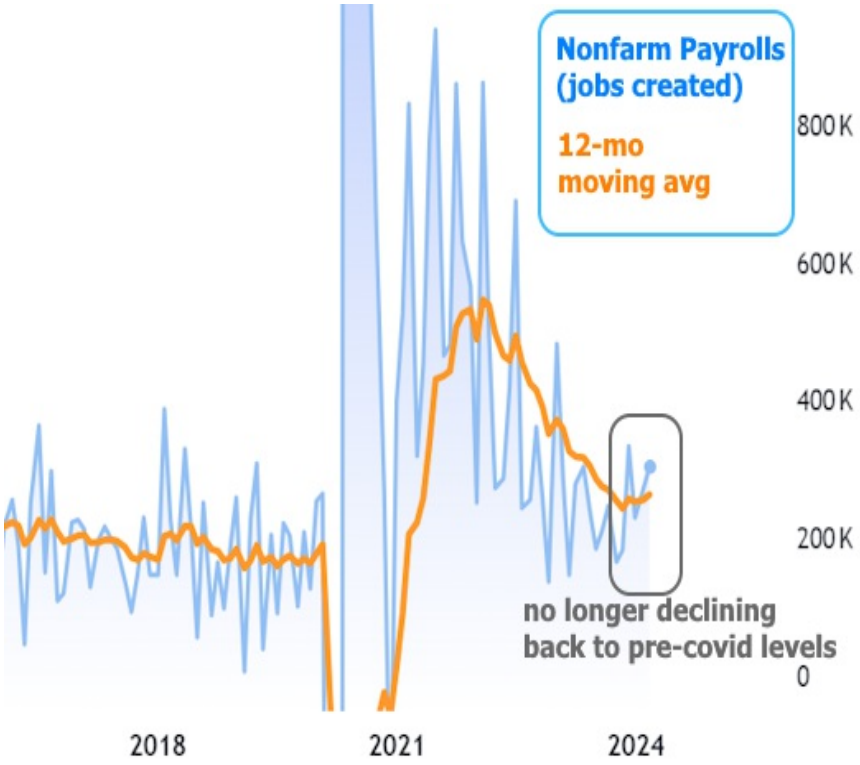
Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Oct 21	195	+3.39%
Building Permits	Sep	1.4M	+0.43%
Housing Starts	Sep	1.22M	-4.24%
New Home Sales	Sep	676K	-1.17%
Pending Home Sales	Aug	71.2	0%
Existing Home Sales	Oct	3.99M	+0.25%
Builder Confidence	Oct	29	-9.38%

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It was no surprise to see bonds lose ground and rates move higher, but the size of rate increase is much more curious. In terms of 10yr Treasury yields, the most widely followed benchmark for longer-term rates, it wasn't remotely close to being the biggest move of the week.



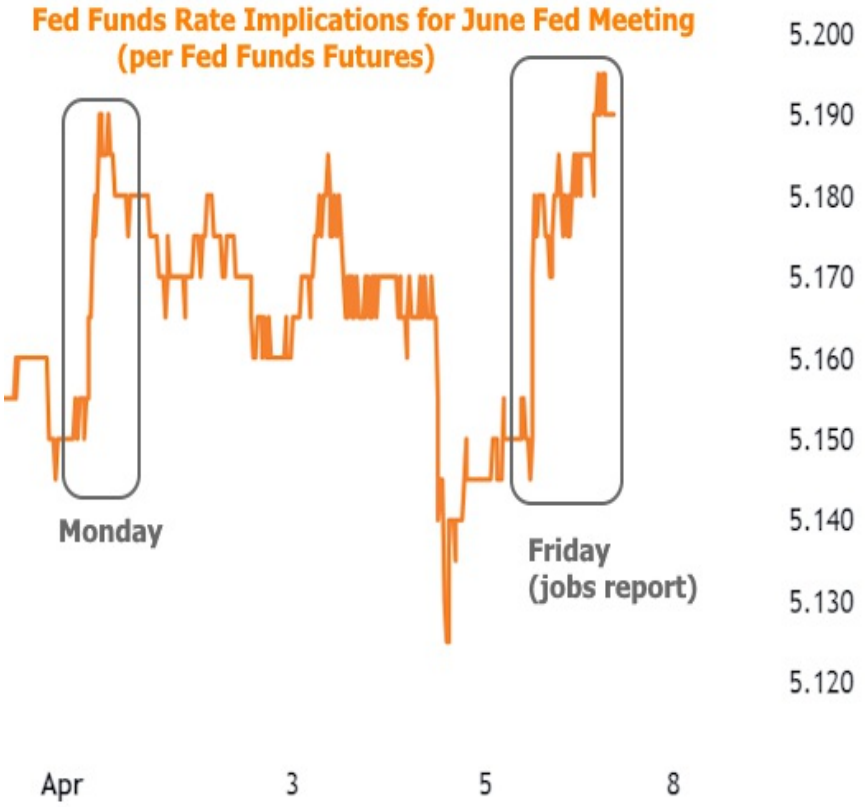
The big move on Monday was complicated, but it was only partially driven by economic data. That begs the question: if rates are data dependent, why didn't the jobs report do more damage?

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One thing to consider is that the reaction to the jobs data did, in fact, leave the bond market at the worst levels of the week, even if it didn't cause the biggest spike. Moreover, 10yr Treasuries are only one benchmark to consider. There was much more relative movement in Fed Rate Cut expectations which decreased at the fastest pace of the week.



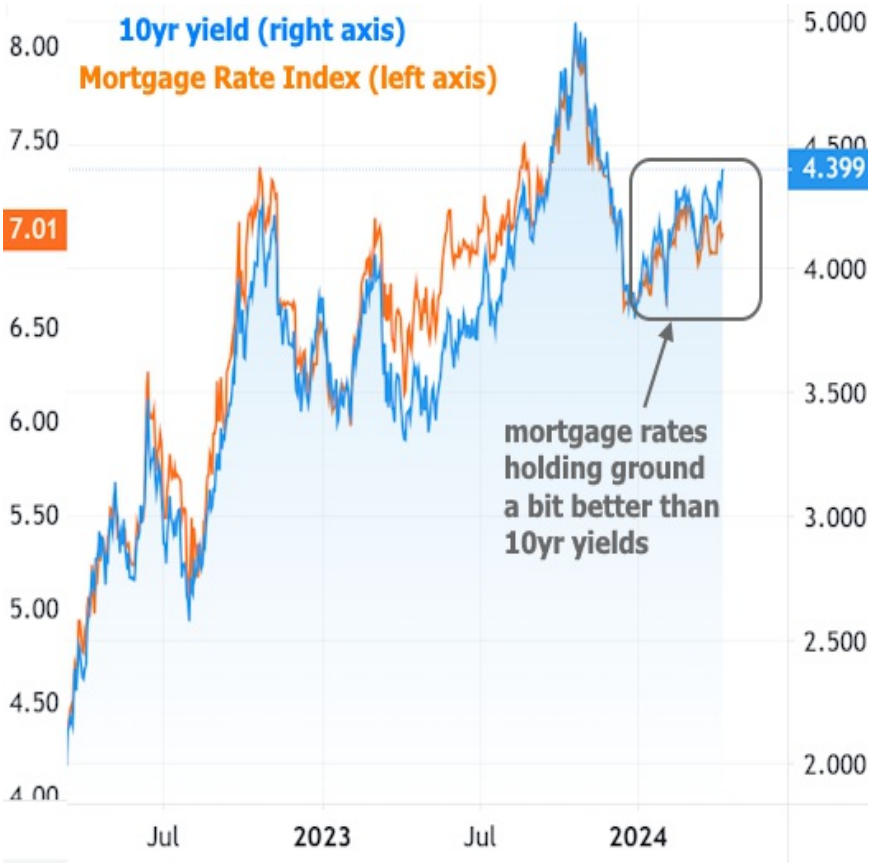
The other major counterpoint is that while the jobs report is certainly big, next week's Consumer Price Index (CPI) is bigger. It's not unreasonable to consider that markets are waiting to trade the full reaction to this week's data until they see how CPI comes in next week.

One silver lining is that mortgage rates had a slightly better week than Treasury yields and have generally been outperforming since February. The average 30yr fixed rate has moved up by less than 0.40% from Feb 1, 2024 while 10yr yields have moved up more than 0.50% over the same time.

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Recent Economic Data

Date	Event	Actual	Forecast	Prior
Monday, Apr 01				
9:45AM	Mar S&P Global Manuf. PMI	51.9		52.2
10:00AM	Mar ISM Mfg Prices Paid	55.8	52.7	52.5
10:00AM	Mar ISM Manufacturing PMI	50.3	48.4	47.8
Tuesday, Apr 02				
10:00AM	Feb USA JOLTS Job Openings	8.756M	8.75M	8.863M
Wednesday, Apr 03				
7:00AM	Mar/29 MBA Purchase Index	145.6		145.7
7:00AM	Mar/29 MBA Refi Index	453.5		460.9
8:15AM	Mar ADP jobs (k)	184K	148K	140K
9:45AM	Mar S&P Global Services PMI	51.7		52.3
10:00AM	Mar ISM N-Mfg PMI	51.4	52.7	52.6
10:00AM	Mar ISM Services Prices	53.4		58.6
Thursday, Apr 04				
8:30AM	Mar/30 Jobless Claims (k)	221K	214K	210K

Event Importance:

No Stars = Insignificant
☆ Low
★ Moderate
★★ Important
★★ Very Important

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Date	Event	Actual	Forecast	Prior
Friday, Apr 05				
8:30AM	Mar Non Farm Payrolls	303K	200K	275K
8:30AM	Mar Unemployment rate mm (%)	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%
Wednesday, Apr 10				
8:30AM	Mar y/y CORE CPI (%)	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%
8:30AM	Mar m/m CORE CPI (%)	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
2:00PM	FOMC Minutes			
Thursday, Apr 11				
8:30AM	Mar Core Producer Prices MM (%)	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
8:30AM	Mar Core Producer Prices YY (%)	2.4%	2.3%	2%
8:30AM	Apr/06 Jobless Claims (k)	211K	215K	221K
Friday, Apr 12				
8:30AM	Mar Import prices mm (%)	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
8:30AM	Mar Export prices mm (%)	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%
10:00AM	Apr Consumer Sentiment (ip)	77.9	79	79.4

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About Me

I'm the Founder & CEO of World Home Loans, a mission-driven mortgage brokerage built with one purpose: to give consumers, especially Veterans, the respect, speed, and savings they deserve when financing a home.

Over the past 2 years, I've personally closed over 600 VA purchase loans and personally funded more than $375M in the past 12 months. Along the way, I learned that America's Veterans are too often underserved by big-box lenders—facing higher rates, slower closings, and a lack of genuine care. That's why I built World Home Loans.

Our Mission:
• To serve our Veterans by offering ultra-low mortgage rates and closing costs.
• To empower Veterans with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed home financing decisions.
• To stand against and eliminate the widespread overcharging of Veterans that has persisted in the mortgage industry for decades.

At World Home Loans, we back this mission with execution:
Faster closings (our average is 18 days)
Better pricing (consistently beating national averages)
White-glove experience that earns 5-star reviews at scale
A platform where top producers can 2–3X their volume through efficiency, brand power, and unmatched VA expertise.

With "Victory on the Home Front" as our rallying cry, World Home Loans is on course to become the dominant VA-focused lender in the country.

Alongside building WHL, I'm writing my book The Efficient Closer: Building a Mortgage Empire with Precision and Purpose—a playbook for originators who want to scale with speed, systems, and execution.

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