# WEEK 26/2023 IN REVIEW

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## **Central Banks**

### BOJ Summary of Opinions (26.06.23)<sup>2</sup>

There were **two key paragraphs in the SOP:** 

- One that says **core CPI probably won't** fall below 2%, and
- One that says a revision to YCC should be discussed "at an early stage".
- Corporate behavior has seen clear changes, and price and wage hikes have been incorporated into corporate strategy. In addition, various measures of underlying inflation have mostly shown a rate exceeding 2 percent. It is highly likely that the year-on-year rate of increase in the CPI (all items less fresh food) will decelerate toward the middle of fiscal 2023 but will not fall below 2 percent.
- Although there is a growing possibility of achieving 2 percent inflation in a sustainable and stable manner, the Bank should maintain the overall framework of monetary easing for the time being, since the cost of waiting for such achievement is not high. That said, as for yield curve control -- a policy tool for monetary easing -- the cost is high, taking into account such

factors as (1) preventing sharp fluctuations in interest rates in the future phase of an exit from the current monetary policy, (2) improvement in market functioning, and (3) enabling smoother dialogue with market participants. Given all of this, a revision to the treatment of yield curve control should be discussed at an early stage.

### Here are several more relevant bullet points:

- Factors behind significant improvement since April in households' sentiment indicators include the achievement of wage increases at high levels.
- It is necessary to assess whether there is a higher possibility of achieving wage increases that can keep up with inflation.
- The y/y increase in CPI is likely to decelerate toward the middle of fiscal 2023. Meanwhile, there are still high uncertainties over whether it will accelerate again thereafter.
- While price rises in Japan are still largely attributable to overseas factors, the contribution of domestic factors has increased.
- Inflationary pressure is likely to remain strong for the time being.
- The y/y increase in CPI is expected to fall below 2% in the second half of fiscal 2023.
- Corporate behavior has seen clear changes, and price and wage hikes have been incorporated into corporate strategy. In addition, various measures of underlying inflation have mostly shown a rate exceeding 2%. It is highly likely that the y/y increase in the CPI (all items less fresh food) will decelerate toward the middle of fiscal 2023 but will not fall below 2 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Clickable to navigate within the document

<sup>2</sup> https://www.boj.or.jp/en/mopo/mpmsche\_minu/opinion\_2023/opi230616.pdf

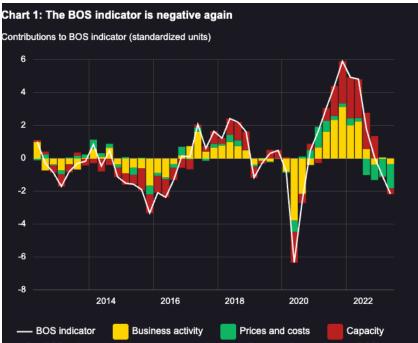
- Given the outlook for prices and other factors, it is appropriate that the Bank continue with the current monetary easing.
- The wage growth rate agreed in this year's annual spring labor-management wage negotiations thus far has been the highest in around 30 years. It would be premature to revise monetary policy if it would hinder such developments.
- There is no need to revise the conduct of yield curve control.
- The functioning of the bond market has improved compared with a while ago, but its level has remained low.
- A revision to the treatment of yield curve control should be discussed at an early stage.

### BOC Business Outlook Survey (30.06.23)<sup>3</sup>

"The decrease in the BOS indicator mainly reflects:

- more businesses expecting slower
  price growth
- weaker hiring and investment intentions
- broader tightening in credit conditions
- eased capacity pressures, particularly related to supply chain bottlenecks

The continued fall in the BOS indicator signals less inflationary pressure than in recent quarters."



lote: The BOS indicator is a summary measure of the main Business Outlook Survey (BOS) juestions. Business activity indicators are those related to past sales declines, future sales growth, ndicators of future sales, employment and investment. Price and cost indicators are those related to nput and output price growth as well as credit conditions. Capacity indicators are those related to abour shortages, labour shortage intensity and the ability to meet demand. The calculation of the BOS ndicator has changed, effective in the first quarter of 2023. A backgrounder outlining the motivation or and implications of the change was published on the Bank's website on May 8, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2023/06/business-outlook-survey-second-quarter-of-2023/

**"Slowing demand** has become a more important and widespread concern in recent quarters. Despite this, fewer firms expect an outright recession: one-third of firms participating in this quarter's BOS are planning for a recession, compared with one-half in the first quarter."

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In the current quarter, which items have been the most pressing concerns for your company? Select up to three. (Share of firms)



Note: This question in the Business Leaders' Pulse is typically asked only one month in each quarter. The question was not asked in any month during the third quarter of 2022. Source: Business Leaders' Pulse

Last observation: May 2023

#### Chart 10: Firms expect inflation in the short term to remain elevated

xpectations for inflation at different horizons



Note: BLP is the Business Leaders' Pulse, and BOS is the Business Outlook Survey. The BOS 2-year estimate is based on firms' responses to the BOS question, "Over the next two years, what do you expect the annual rate of inflation to be, based on the consumer price index?" Firms can select from predetermined ranges and provide a point estimate. In cases where a firm selects a range only, if the range is closed, a midpoint is used, and if the range is open-ended, the average expectation of other firms in that range is used. The BLP survey asks businesses, "What do you expect the rate of annual inflation to be in about one, two and five years from now?" BLP estimates use the midpoints of multiple-choice buckets, with values assigned to open-ended buckets (-1% for the "deflation" bucket and 9% for the "8% or higher" bucket). This question was not asked in the BLP in January or March 2022. June 2023 results are preliminary and range from June 1 to 22, 2023. Last observations: Business Leaders' Pulse, June 22, 2023; Business Outlook Survey, 2023Q2

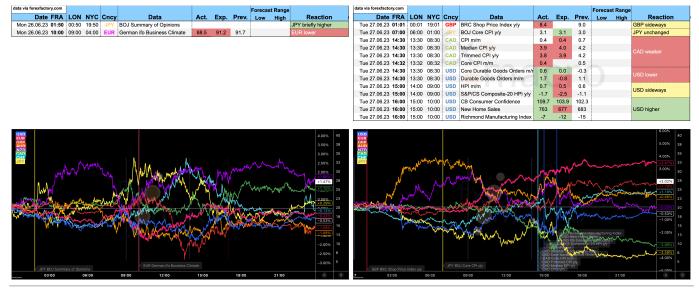
"Firms' expectations for inflation in the short term have edged down again but continue to be elevated. Businesses most commonly attribute short-term inflationary pressures to high labour costs, robust government spending and a strong domestic economy. In contrast, 3 in 10 firms anticipate that inflation will soften to between 2% and 3% on average over the next two years. These businesses attributed their expectations of weaker inflation to monetary policy actions that the Bank has taken throughout the past 15 months.

Overall, firms still expect inflation in the long term to be within the Bank's inflation-control target range. However, several businesses—more than in recent surveys—think it will take five years or longer for inflation to return to the Bank's 2% target."

### **Economic Data**

#### Monday, 26.06.23

#### Tuesday, 27.06.23



00%

18 15

Wednesday, 28.06.23

data via forexfactory.com								Forecas	t Range	
Date FRA	LON	NYC	Cncy	Data	Act.	Exp.	Prev.	Low	High	Reaction
Wed 28.06.23 03:30	02:30	21:30	AUD	CPI y/y	5.6	6.1	6.8			
Wed 28.06.23 08:00	07:00	02:00	EUR	German GfK Consumer Climate	-25.4	-22.9	-24.2			EUR unchanged
Wed 28.06.23 14:30	13:30	08:30	USD	Goods Trade Balance	-91.1	-93.3	-96.8			USD stronger
Wed 28.06.23 15:00	14:00	09:00	CHF	SNB Quarterly Bulletin						CHF stronger
Wed 28.06.23 22:30	21:30	16:30	USD	Bank Stress Test Results						USD unchanged

Thursday, 29.06.23

