

U.S. Data Review

- Job openings: exiting the stratosphere
- Factory orders: durables dip; petroleum orders restrain nondurables

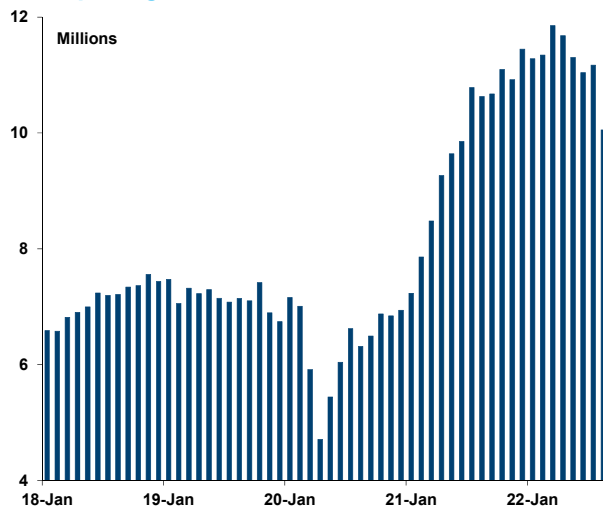
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Job Openings and Labor Turnover

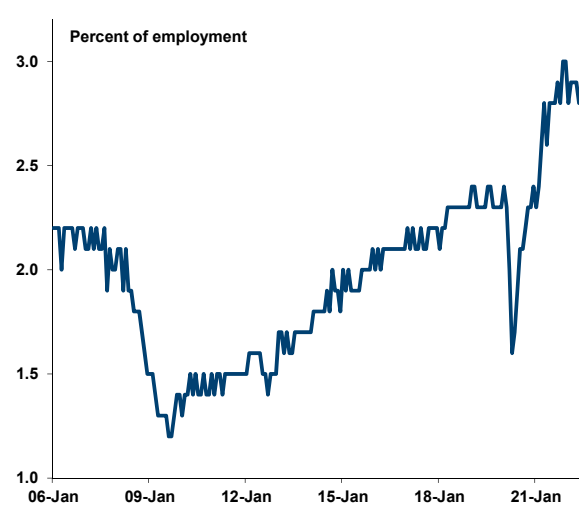
- The number of job openings tumbled 1.117 million in August (-10.0 percent), softer than the expected decline of 151K (-1.3 percent). In addition, results in the prior month were revised lower by 69,000.
- Openings remain elevated relative to historical standards, but the magnitude of the shift suggests that employers are beginning to rethink appropriate staffing levels (chart, left). A slight pickup in the rate of layoffs and a dip in the hire rate also signaled a subtle change in business behavior.
- Naturally, the drop in openings led to a similar movement in the ratio of openings to the number of unemployed individuals. In August, 1.672 opportunities were available for each unemployed person, down from 1.970 in July and the record high of 1.992 in March.
- Although openings were down in August, the shift did not seem to alter the willingness of individuals to leave their current job, as the number of quits inched higher and the quit rate was unchanged at 2.7 percent. The rate remained below the record high of 3.0 percent in November and December of last year, but it was comfortably above the pre-pandemic record of 2.4 percent (chart, right).

Job Openings



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics

Quit Rate



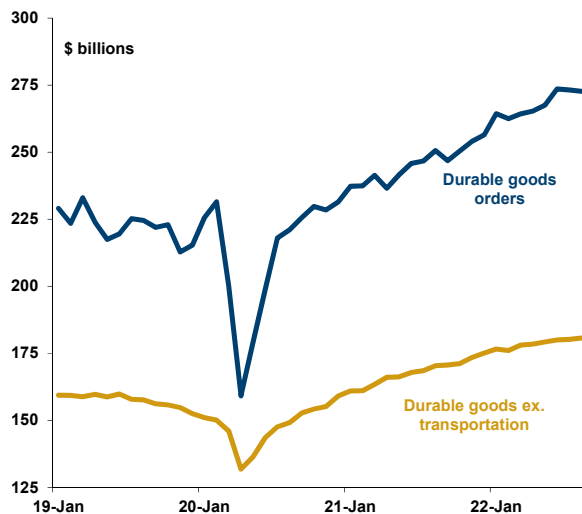
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics

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Factory Orders

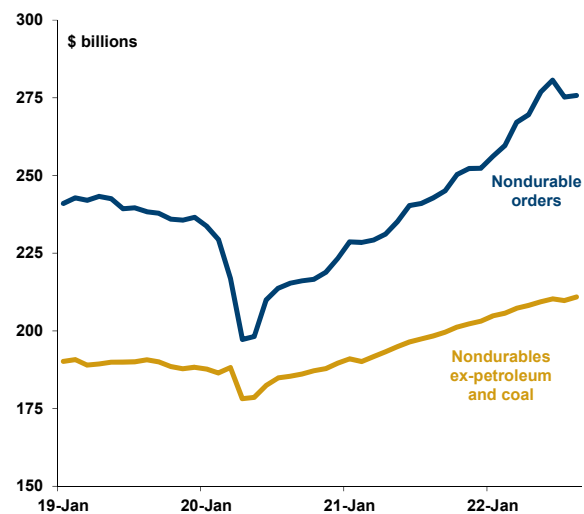
- Total factory orders were flat in August, matching the consensus estimate and suggesting moderating order flows as tight financial conditions and slowing economic growth weigh on activity.
- Durable bookings dipped 0.2 percent (unrevised from the preliminary tally), with downside volatility in civilian aircraft bookings (-18.5 percent) accounting for much of the drag (chart, left).
- Durable bookings excluding transportation rose 0.3 percent (versus 0.2 percent preliminary estimate), adding to the upward drift of the past few months (chart, left).
- Total nondurable bookings rose 0.2 percent, offsetting only a portion of the drop of 1.9 percent in July (chart, right).
- Lower prices restrained the petroleum and coal category, which eased 1.1 percent after a drop of 6.9 percent in July.
- Nondurable bookings excluding petroleum and coal rose for the 26th time in the past 28 months (+0.6 percent; chart, right). The pickup offset a dip in the prior month and reestablished an upward trend, although the rate of advance is slowing. In addition, at least a portion of recent advances can be attributed to higher prices rather than gains in real activity.

Orders for Durable Goods



Source: U.S. Census Bureau via Haver Analytics

Orders for Nondurable Goods



Source: U.S. Census Bureau via Haver Analytics