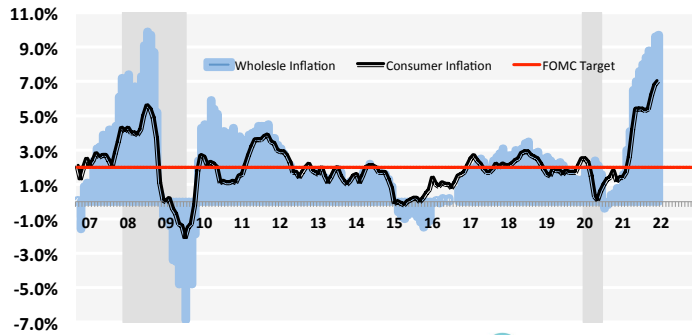




## INFLATION ENVIRONMENT

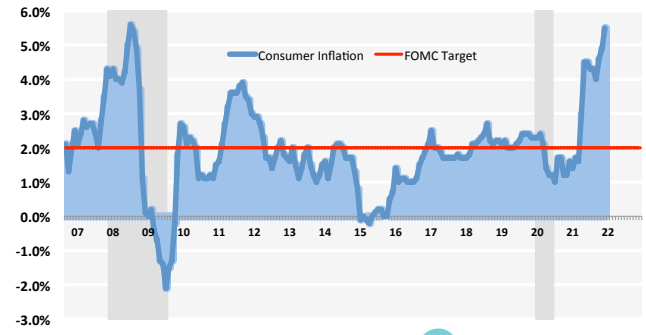
### INFLATION PROFILE

WHOLESALE versus CONSUMER INFLATION, Monthly Year-over-Year



### CORE CONSUMER INFLATION PROFILE

EXCLUDING FOOD & ENERGY COMMODITIES, Monthly Year-over-Year



	Annual Rates					Monthly Year-over-Year						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Wholesale Inflation</b>												
Overall Wholesale Inflation	1.7%	2.6%	2.2%	2.2%	0.8%	7.6%	8.0%	8.4%	8.8%	8.8%	9.6%	9.7%
Core Wholesale Inflation	1.8%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%	1.1%	5.6%	6.0%	6.2%	6.0%	6.3%	6.9%	6.9%
<b>Consumer Inflation</b>												
Overall Consumer Inflation	2.1%	2.1%	1.9%	1.9%	1.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.3%	5.4%	6.2%	6.8%	7.0%
Food	-0.2%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	3.9%	2.4%	3.4%	3.7%	4.6%	5.3%	6.1%	6.3%
- Food at Home	-2.0%	0.9%	0.6%	0.6%	3.9%	0.9%	2.6%	3.0%	4.5%	5.4%	6.4%	6.5%
- Food Away from Home	2.3%	2.5%	2.8%	2.8%	3.9%	4.2%	4.6%	4.7%	4.7%	5.3%	5.8%	6.0%
Energy	5.4%	6.9%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-7.0%	24.5%	23.8%	25.0%	24.8%	30.0%	33.3%	29.3%
- Gasoline	9.1%	10.7%	-2.1%	-2.1%	-15.2%	45.1%	41.8%	42.7%	42.1%	49.6%	58.1%	49.6%
Core Consumer Inflation	2.2%	1.8%	2.2%	2.2%	1.6%	4.5%	4.3%	4.0%	4.0%	4.6%	4.9%	5.5%
- New Vehicles	0.3%	-0.5%	-0.3%	-0.3%	2.0%	5.3%	6.4%	7.6%	8.7%	9.8%	11.1%	11.8%
- Used Vehicles	-3.5%	-1.0%	1.4%	1.4%	10.0%	45.2%	41.7%	31.9%	24.4%	26.4%	31.4%	37.3%
- Apparel	-0.1%	-1.6%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-3.9%	4.9%	4.2%	4.2%	3.4%	4.3%	5.0%	5.8%
- Medical care	4.7%	2.3%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-2.5%	-2.2%	-2.1%	-2.5%	-1.6%	-0.4%	0.2%	0.4%

**(January 2022)** ... U.S. consumer prices are increasing at a 7.0% annualized pace - while core consumer inflation, which excludes commodity-driven food and energy prices, is increasing 5.5%. Overall inflation has been impacted by a 6.3% increase in food costs, fueled by increases in both grocery prices and prices for food eaten away from home. Also impacting consumer inflation is a 29.3% increase in energy prices, including a 49.6% spike in gasoline prices.

Wholesale inflation increased at a 9.6% pace. This demonstrates producers' inability to pass on their higher costs to the consumer in fear of slashing already volatile consumer demand. It also adversely impacts producers' earnings and future hiring and advances in manufacturing. This endangers future growth potential.

**Strategically...** A certain level of inflation is needed in a growing economy to increase the value of goods and services produced - contributing to the nation's GDP growth profile. However, the nation's GDP is being significantly diluted by the prevailing inflation rate thus resulting in a net growth rate that is insufficient to create a sustained pace of recovery needed to put the country on a strong path.

We continue to note that, at this pace of inflation, the FOMC will be forced to increase their overnight benchmark rate. This would positively increase yields on cash but most likely will not impact consumer loan rates.

INFLATION REPORT AND CU STRATEGY

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