

# The Debt Ceiling Compromise agreement is in a good position to be passed by Congress, and Wall Street closed mixed.

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The U.S. & European stock markets began the week with mixed results, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq closing with slim gains as the markets are focused on the results of the U.S. Debt Ceiling. After the announcement made by President Biden that he and House Speaker McCarthy had reached a Debt Ceiling and Budget final agreement that represents a compromise, which means only some are happy with the results.

The debt ceiling compromise is in a good position to be passed by Congress by the end of this week or the weekend, even as those unhappy on both sides of the aisle will make lots of noise. Congress must pass the bill before June 5th, the revised date the U.S. runs out of money to meet obligations and would default on its debt.

Key provisions include limits on some federal spending for two years, energy infrastructure permitting reforms, expanded work requirements for able-bodied beneficiaries of the federal food stamp program, and reclaiming of unobligated Covid and IRS funding.

As expected, members of Congress on both the far right and the far left have objections to the agreement and, mostly, will vote against it. While these, like all disgruntled groups, will get media coverage, but any final bill has to be a bipartisan compromise involving each side.

Our focus is on the larger bipartisan group that is doing the right thing to support this bill. Notably, the bill extends the debt ceiling until January 1st of, 2025, allowing some peace of mind on this issue.

We must now wait for Congress to perform its job and pass the bill, the sooner, the better.

Included is a summary of The Fiscal Responsibility Act; to access the summary, click the link; TheFiscalResponsabilityAct.5.23.pdf (birlingcapital.com)

#### **Key Economic Data:**

- U.S. Retail Gas Price: fell to \$3.645, down from \$3.647 last week, decreasing 0.05%.
- Case-Shiller Home Price Index: National: rose to 298.17, up from 296.93 last month, increasing 0.42%.
- Case-Shiller Composite 20 Home Price Index YoY: fell -1.19%, compared to 0.36%.
- Eurozone Unemployment Rate: fell to 6.50%, compared to 6.60% last month.
- **Japan Unemployment Rate:** fell to 2.60%, compared to 2.80% last month.
- Japan Consumer Confidence Index: rose to 35.40, up from 33.90 last month, increasing 4.42%.
- Japan Industrial Production Index MoM: fell to 1.05%, compared to 4.63% last month.

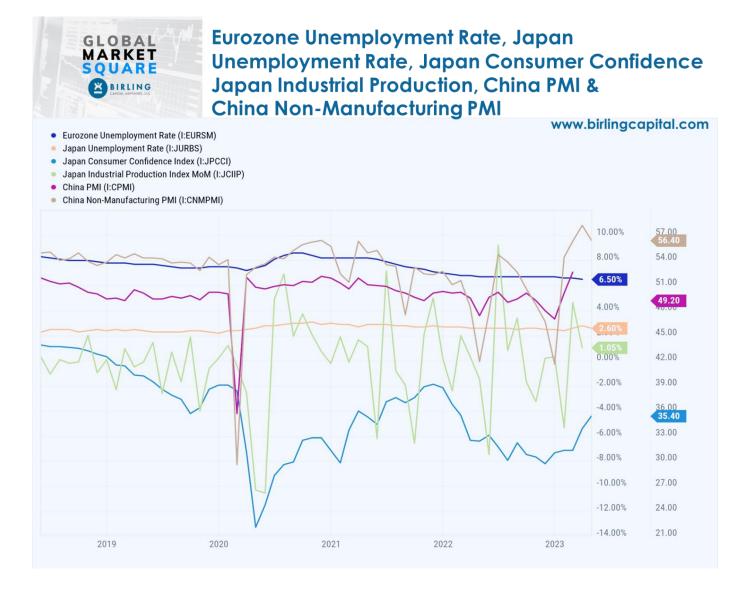
- China PMI: is at 49.20, from N/A from last month.
- China Non-Manufacturing PMI: fell to 56.40, down from 58.20 last month, decreasing -3.09%.

#### **Eurozone Summary:**

- **Stoxx 600** closed at 456.64, down 4.23 points or 0.92%.
- **FTSE 100** closed at 7,522.07, down 105.13 points or 1.38%.
- Dax Index closed at 15,908.91, down 43.82 points or 0.27%.

#### **Wall Street Summary:**

- **Dow Jones Industrial Average** closed at 33,042.78, down 50.56 or 0.15%.
- **S&P 500** closed at 4,205.52, up 0.07 points or 0.00%.
- Nasdaq Composite closed at 13,017.43, up 41.74 points or 0.32%.
- Birling Capital Puerto Rico Stock Index closed at 2,407.10, up 10.44 points or 0.44%.
- Birling Capital U.S. Bank Stock Index closed at 3,622.95, up 39.56 points or 1.10%.
- U.S. Treasury 10-year note closed at 3.69%.
- U.S. Treasury 2-year note closed at 4.46%.





## US Retail Gas Price, Case-Schiller Composite 20 Home Price Index & Case=Schiller Home Price Index

- US Retail Gas Price
- Case-Shiller Composite 20 Home Price Index YoY
- Case-Shiller Home Price Index: National

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Mar '23

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