Economics Group



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Wholesale Prices Continue to Rise in April

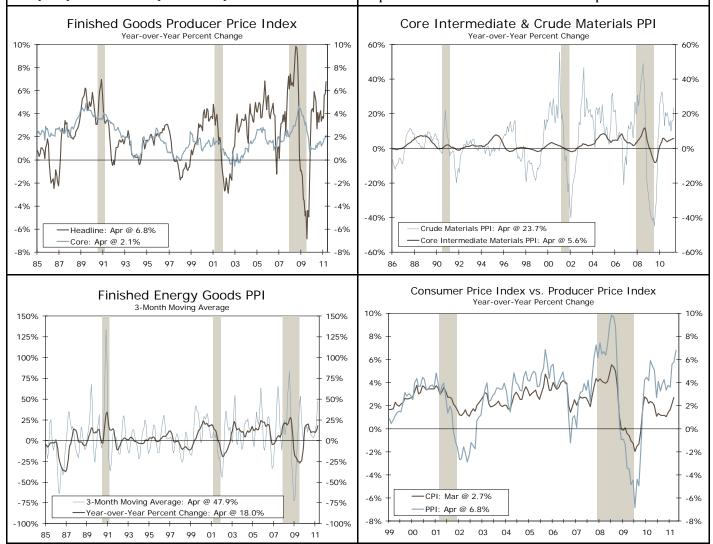
Once again led by sharply higher prices for wholesale energy goods, headline finished goods prices rose by a stronger-than-expected 0.8 percent in April. The increase in core wholesale prices was more restrained.

Energy Prices Continue to Push PPI Higher

• Increasing for the tenth consecutive month, headline PPI rose 0.8 percent in April. Roughly three-quarters of the increase was tied to a 2.5 percent jump in the prices for finished energy goods. Following a modest decline in March, food prices increased 0.3 percent and are up at an annualized 17.0 percent pace over the past three months. Year over year, headline PPI is up 6.8 percent, its fasted pace since September 2008.

Pressures Still Building in Pipeline

- Inflationary pressures further back in the production pipeline continue to build. The intermediate and crude indices posted solid increases, up 1.8 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively.
- While commodities continue to lift early-stage price indices, the
 pass-through from crude to intermediate through to finished
 goods has not been that strong recently and has yet to become
 problematic for consumer inflation in our opinion.



Source: U.S Department of Labor and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

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