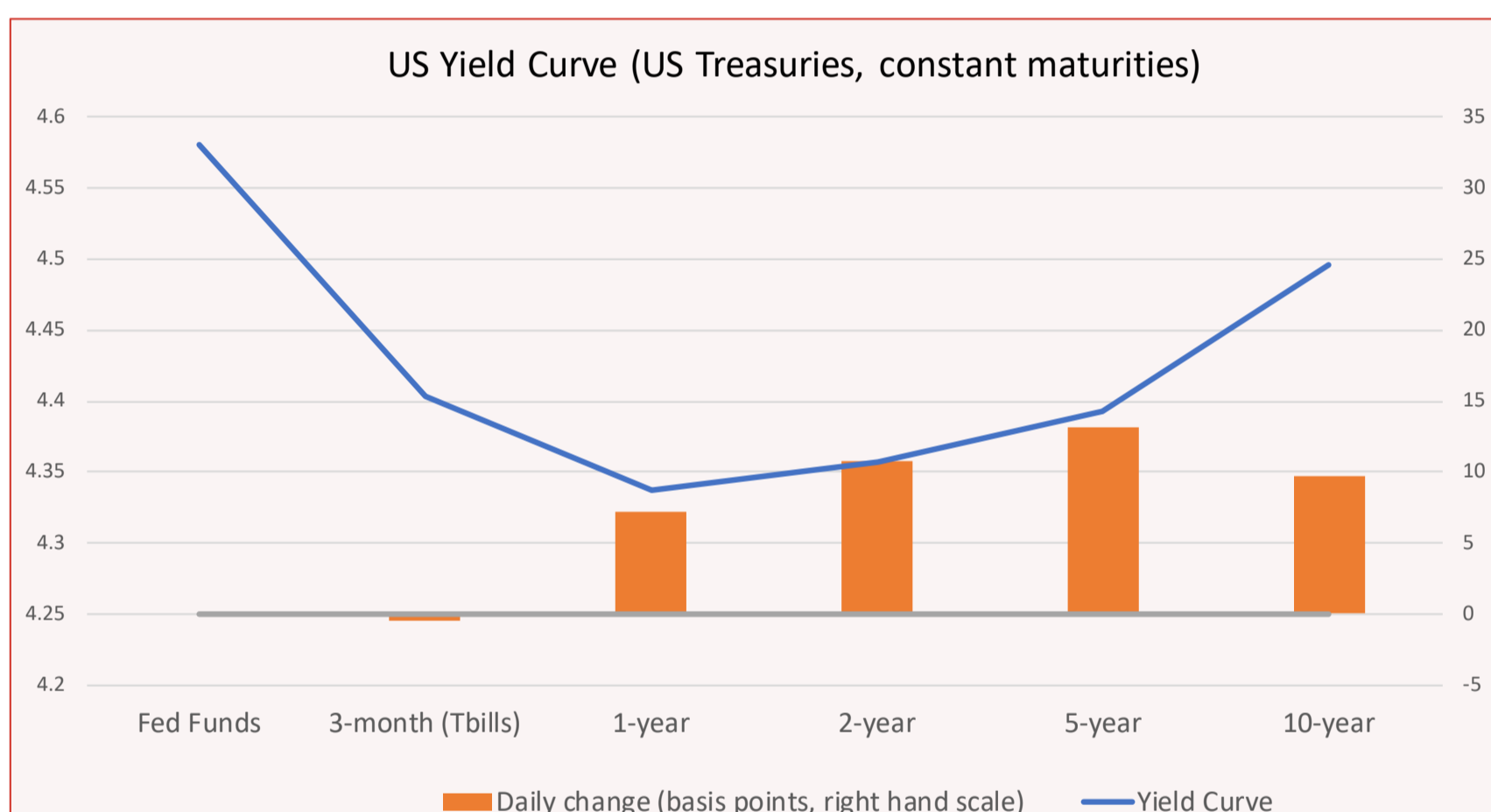


RISK PREMIUM INVEST

Daily analysis of the US Treasuries Market

18 December 2024

	Fed Funds	3-month (Tbills)	1-year	2-year	5-year	10-year
Rates	4.58	4.40	4.34	4.36	4.39	4.50
Daily changes (bp)	0	0	7	11	13	10



Source: Federal Reserve, H15. (with small tweaks to smooth out the impact of benchmarks changes).

Due to other priorities, in 2024 we temporarily stopped publishing a detailed daily commentary on the US Treasuries market. But this simplified note gives access to our estimates.

PART I : Changes in expected Fed Funds Rates.

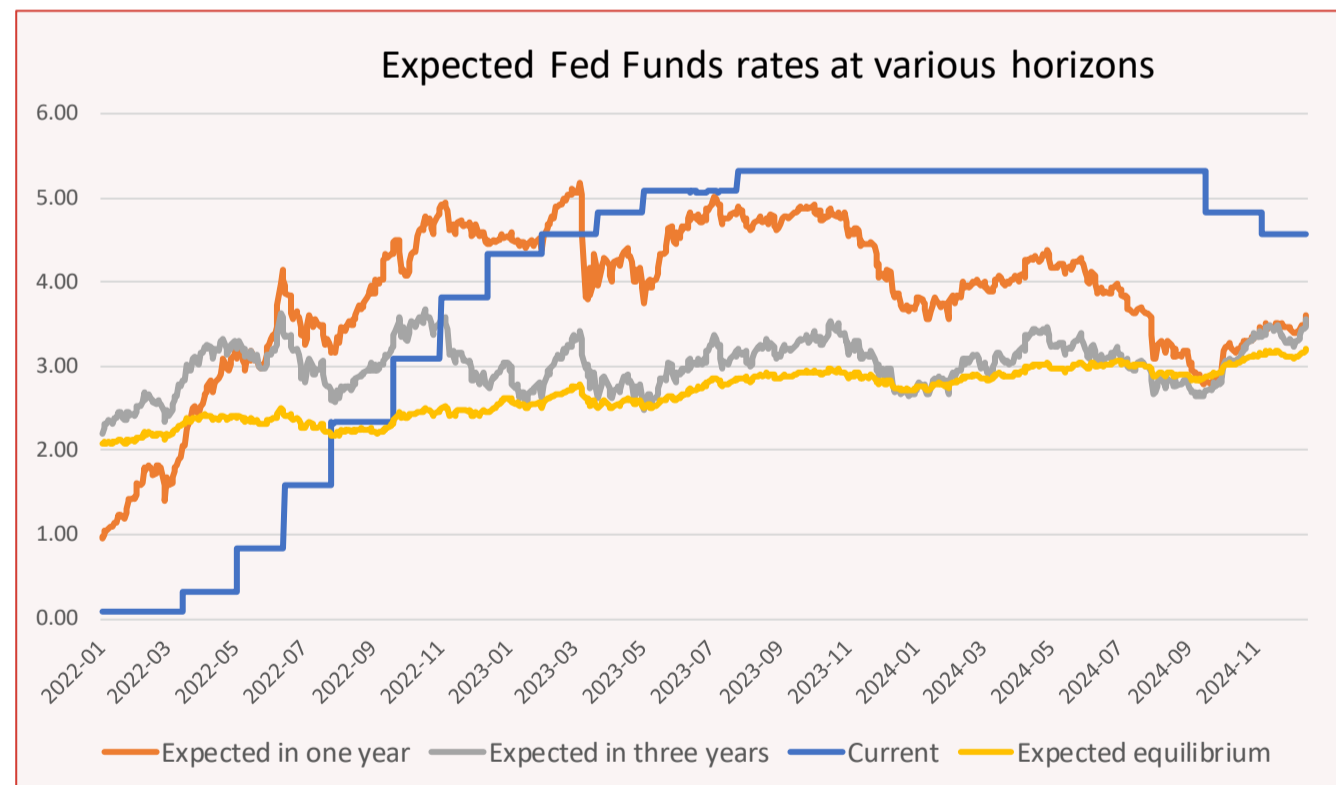
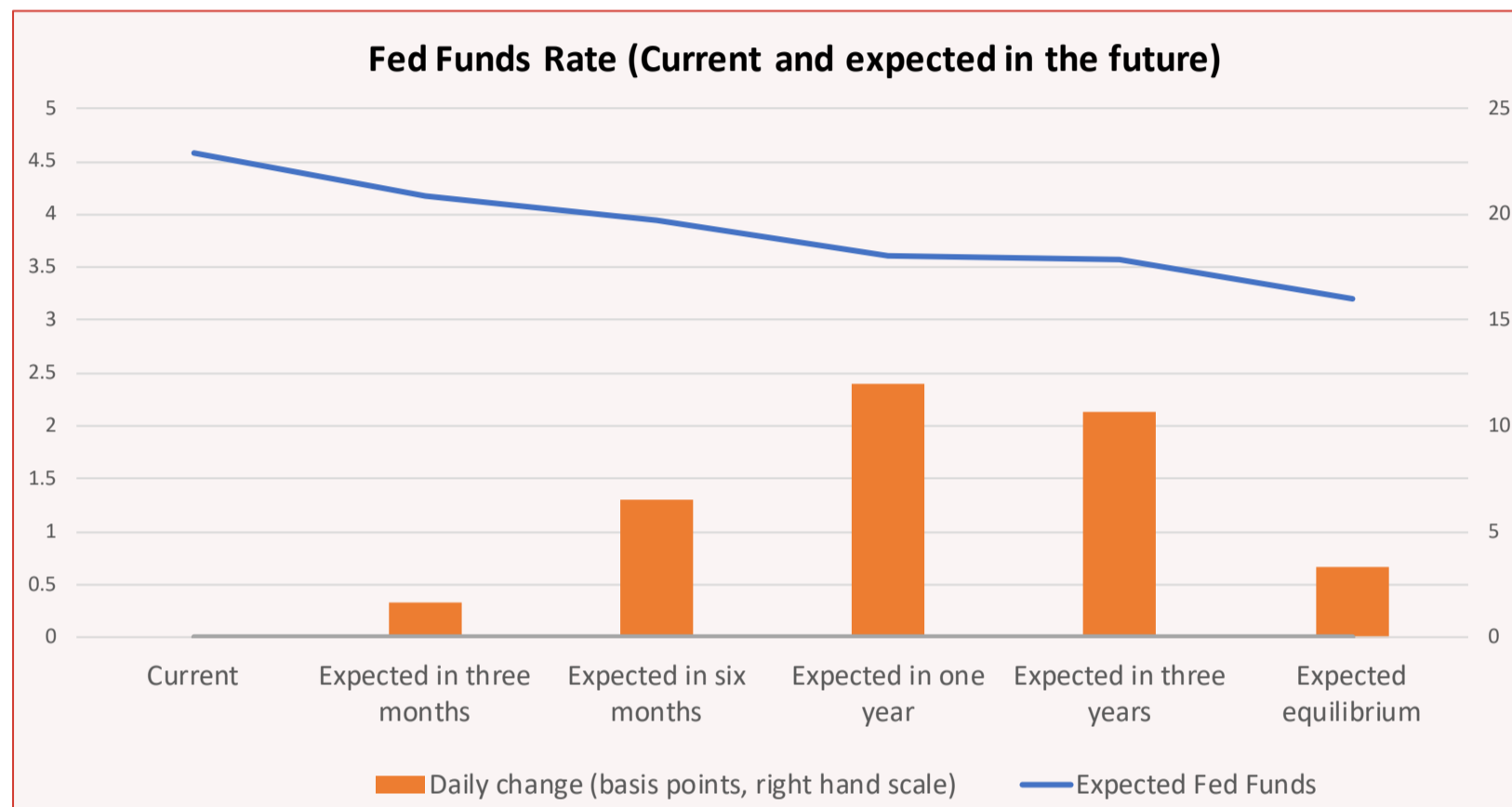
PART II : Risk premia contributions.

PART III : Methodological annex.

PART I : CHANGES IN EXPECTED FED FUNDS RATES

Fed funds futures provide a biased estimate of investors' true expectations, as they are influenced by varying risk premia. The Fed Funds rates expected by investors are here estimated by our proprietary model using both different surveys (the monthly "Consensus Economics" survey and the quarterly "Survey of Professional Forecasters") and the rich information contained in the yield curve (see the methodological annex). Estimates are revised when more recent surveys become available (on December 12, the results of the December "Consensus Economics" survey were introduced).

	Current	Expected in three months	Expected in six months	Expected in one year	Expected in three years	Expected equilibrium
Fed Funds Rates	4.58	4.17	3.95	3.61	3.57	3.21
Daily changes (bp)	0	2	7	12	11	3

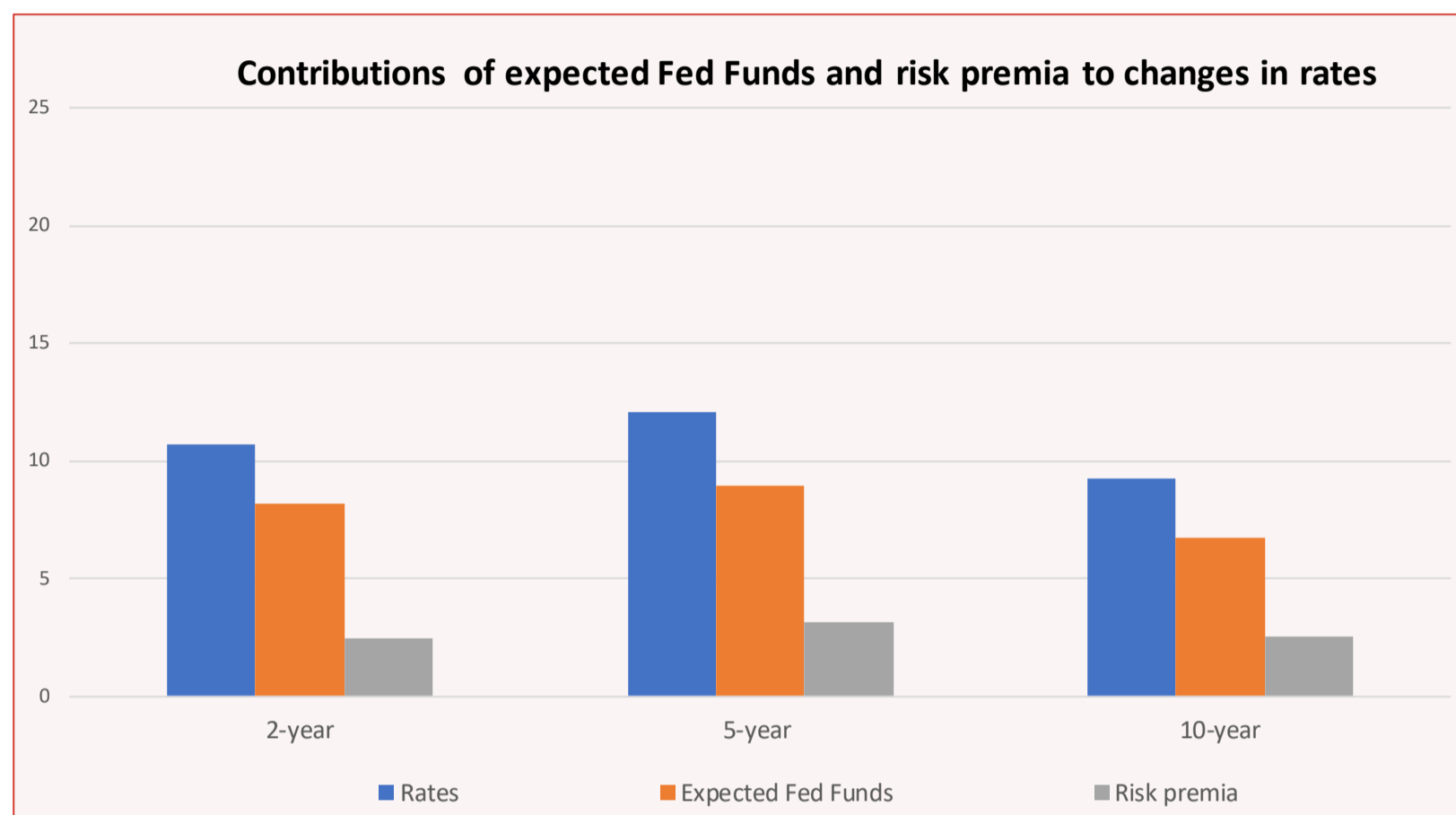


PART II : RISK PREMIA ANALYSIS

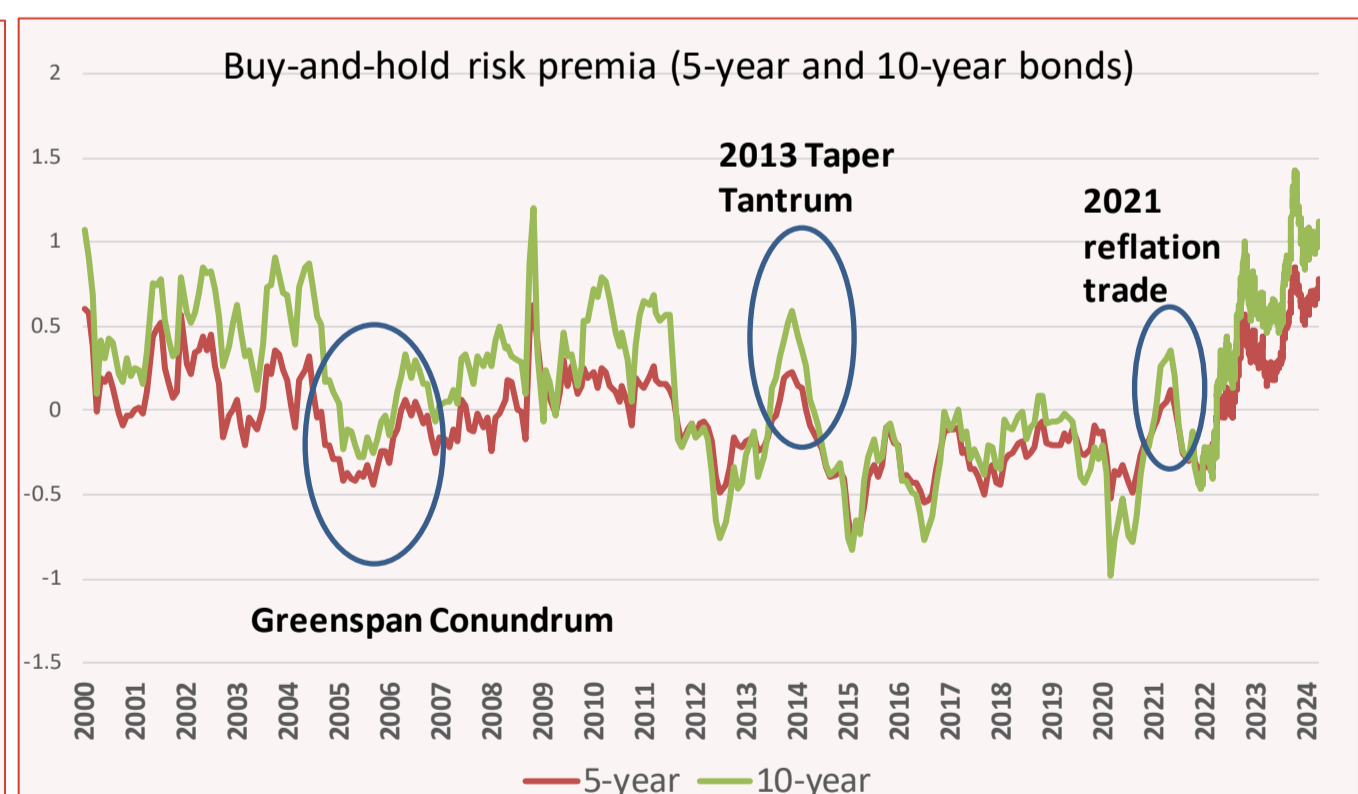
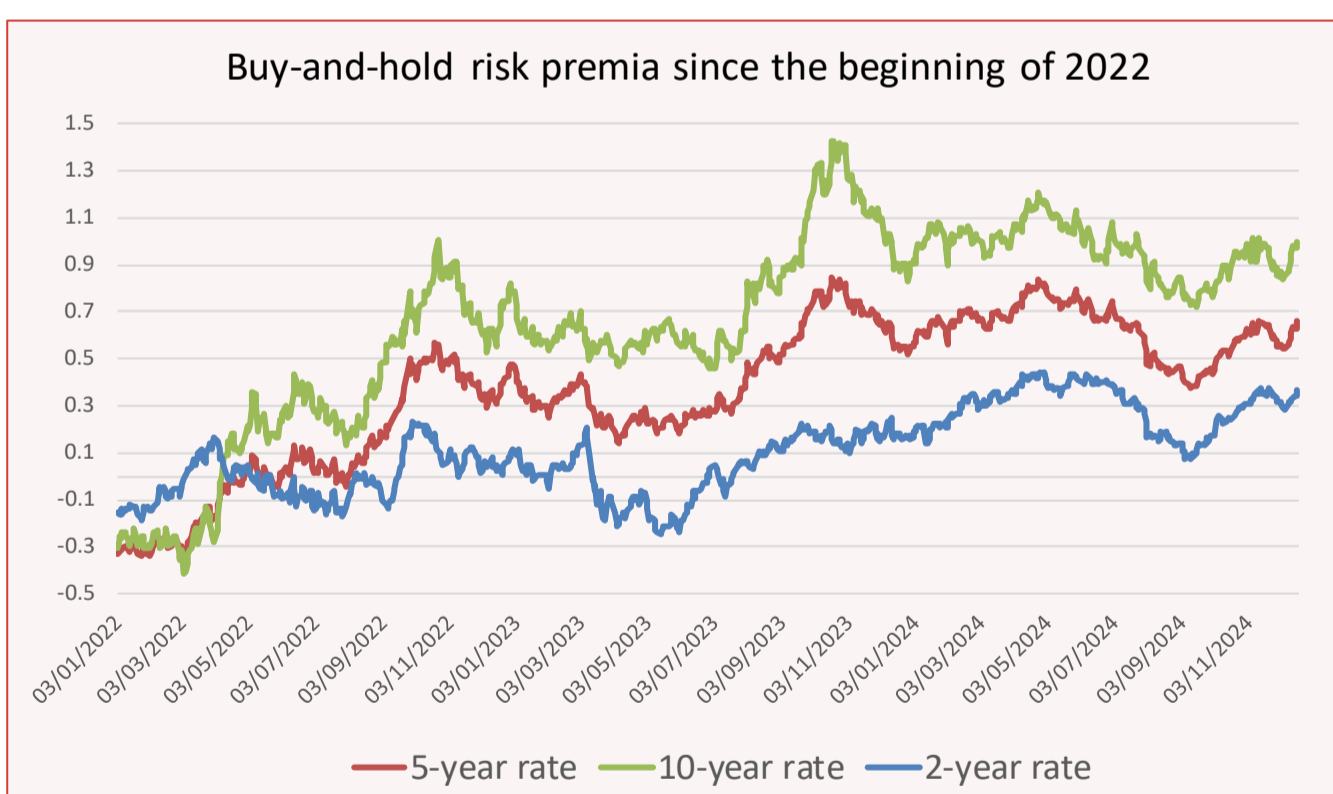
For US Treasuries, as for all financial assets, there are two key different types of risk premia:

- The short-term **tactical risk premia**: How much excess returns investors require to hold various risky assets at their tactical horizon (which depends on investors, but is often around 3 months)? The tactical positions taken by investors relative to their benchmarks (“neutral”, “short”, “long”) depend on these tactical risk premia.
- The **“buy-and-hold” risk premia**. They are also called “term premium” in the academic literature. How much excess return **long-term investors** expect if they hold risky assets over an extended horizon? In the case of US Treasuries, the buy-and-hold risk premia are the differences between the zero-coupon rates of various maturities and the (annualized) expected return on a fund invested in Fed Funds over the same period.

We estimate both types of risk premia (see the methodological annex and our excel file) but we present here only the buy-and-hold risk premia.



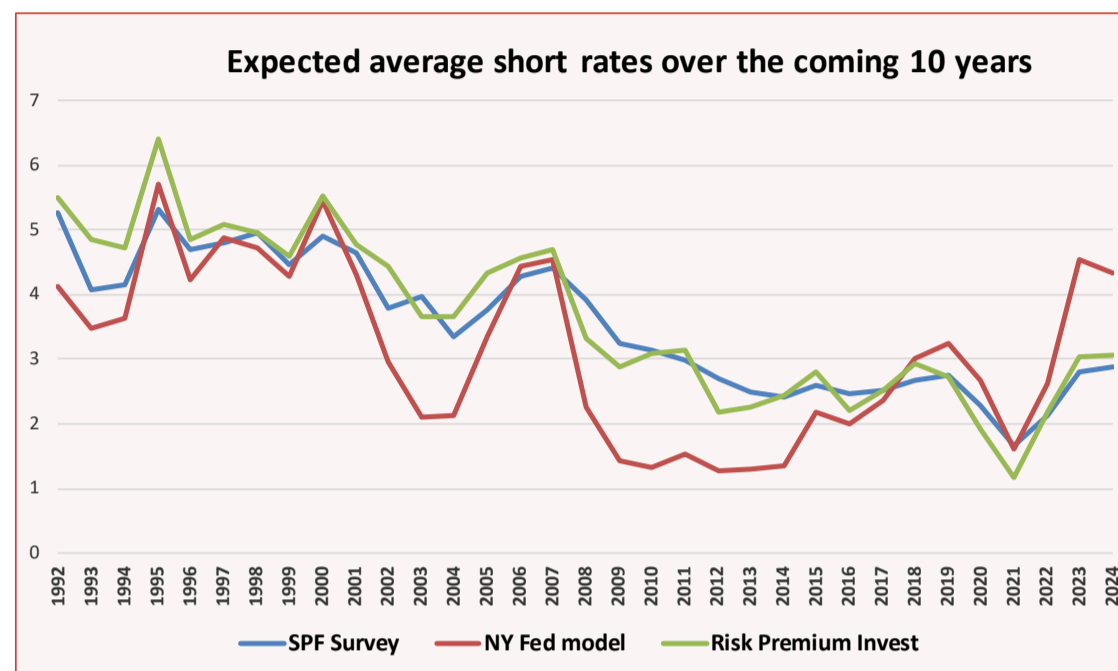
	2-year	5-year	10-year
Buy-and-hold risk premia	0.37	0.66	1.00
Daily changes (bp)	2	3	3



PART III : METHODOLOGICAL ANNEX

There is an abundant academic literature trying to extract from the yield curve the monetary policy path expected by investors and the risk premia embedded in the observed US Treasuries rates.

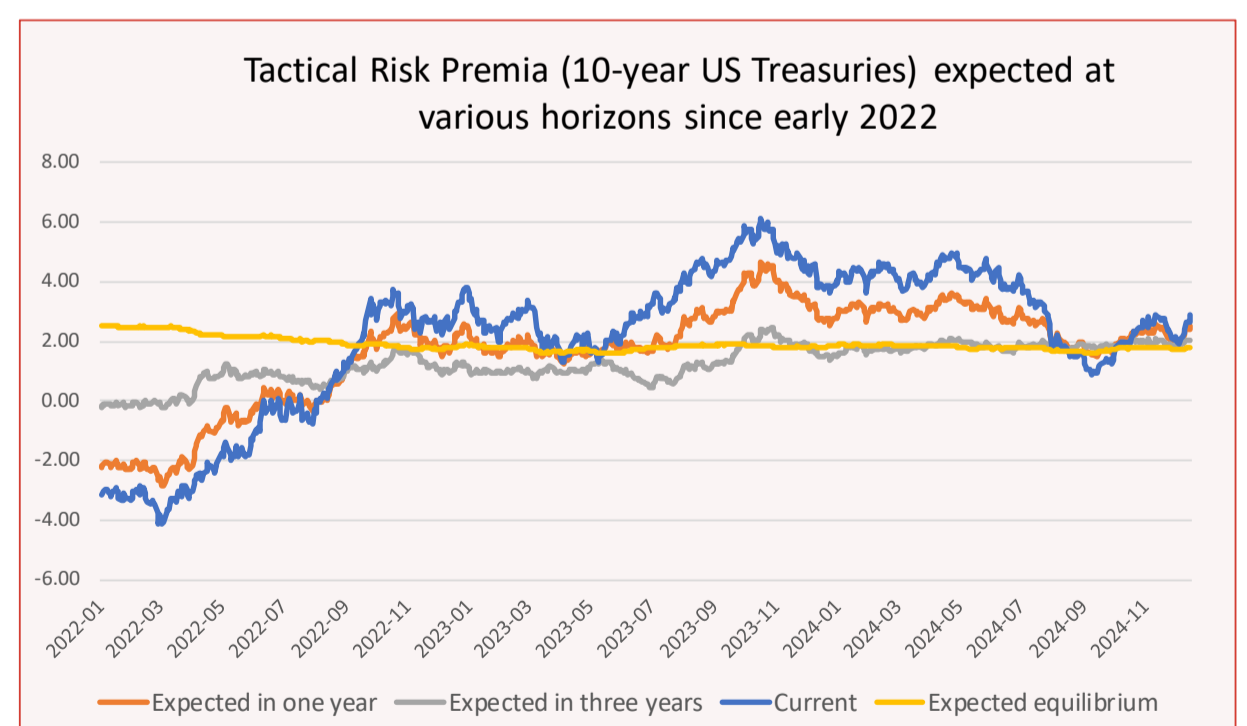
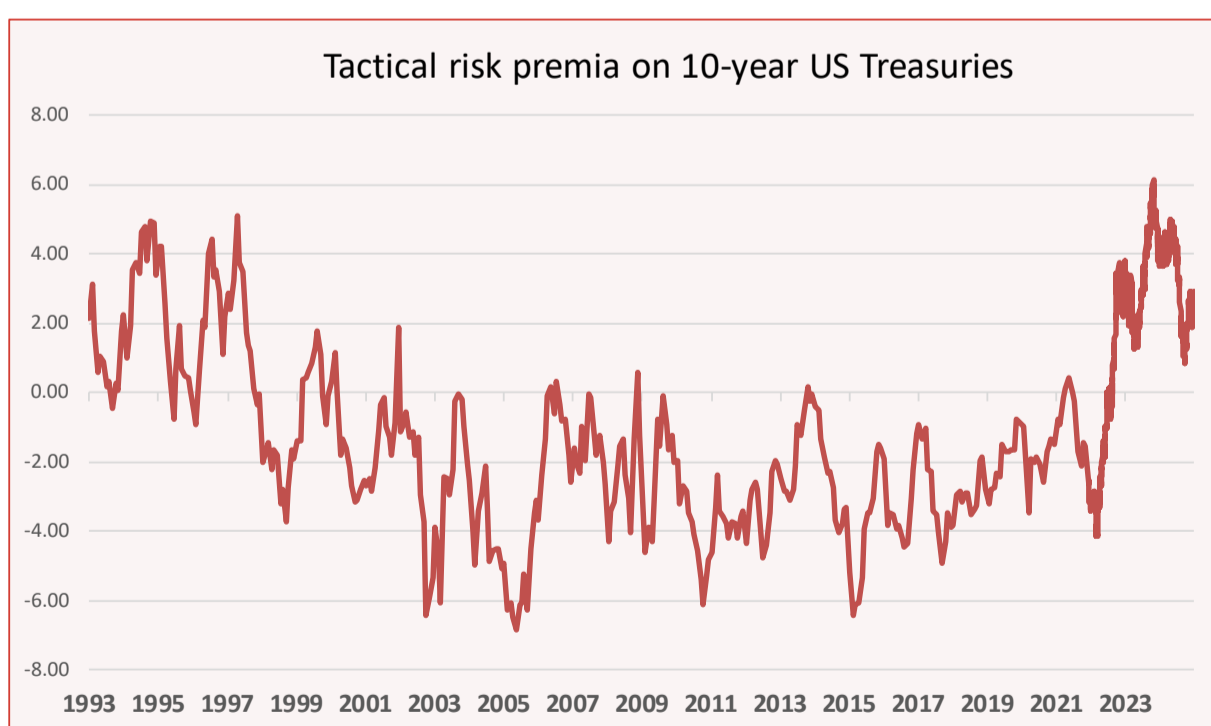
One of the best-known statistical models is the model developed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New-York. Their estimates are published daily on the NY Fed website (see www.newyorkfed.org/research/data_indicators/term-premia-tabs#/overview) and often discussed in newspapers. However, strangely enough, these estimates don't seem to be used by many markets practitioners when they discuss the shape of the yield curve and how it can be explained by short-rates expectations and risk premia. One of the reasons is that the results of the model are often quite unrealistic. To illustrate that observation, we can compare the average short rates expected by investors over the next 10 years according to this model with what professional forecasters expect (answers, once a year in February, to the well-regarded survey managed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. See www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/real-time-data-research/survey-of-professional-forecasters).



There are many reasons why the average investor's view priced into the market may differ somewhat from the answer given by professional forecasters, but the difference is often much too large to be realistic (particularly in 2023-2024).

The truth is that the estimates published on the NY Fed website are rather imprecise. There is indeed a large academic literature stressing that the yield curve alone does not contain enough information to extract the investors' underlying views and that the results of surveys should be incorporated in the extraction process (see Kim, Don H., and Athanasios Orphanides, 2012, Term structure estimation with survey data on interest rate forecasts, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis 47).

Our model belongs to this class of models that combine information coming from well-regarded surveys with the observed yield curve. But its key originality is elsewhere. Our model does not extract only the buy-and-hold risk premia, but it also extracts the important short-term tactical risk premia – current and expected in the future - required by investors on bonds of various maturities. These tactical risk premia are very important to understand the shape of the yield curve (see the references at the end of this page). One very important result of our work is that until the recent inflationary fears and the sharp increase in short-term rates these tactical risk premia have been on average negative since the end 90s (the graph on the left represents the annualized excess return expected by investors on 10-year Treasuries over the 3-month horizon).



That means that a long time before the Fed introduced QE there was already an insufficient supply of risk-free Treasuries: tactical positions were on average structurally short in this key market. These tactical risk premia have increased massively since fall 2022, and their future is very uncertain. To keep it simple, this rich information about tactical risk premia – current and expected in the future - is not discussed in this daily comment, but an excel file with the full information is available on our website.

To know more about our modelling of the yield curve, and the key insights it provides on how markets price risks:

For a description of our modelling, see <https://riskpremium.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/USTreasuries-Model-Guide.pdf>

For a published article on “A Historical Perspective on US Treasuries Risk Premia”, see <https://journalska.com/index.php/bmi/article/view/9550>