

Investors are debating whether the surge in prices at both a producer and consumer level will prove transitory, as the US Federal Reserve believes, or become entrenched.

Much of the angst over medium term inflation pressure becoming hotter is fuelled by the backdrop of aggressive fiscal and monetary policy. This potentially combustible mix has a policy additive from a Fed prepared to tolerate a higher pace of inflation beyond its target of 2 per cent for an unspecified period.



Again there is an argument that higher wage growth will prove short lived, with expectations that more people will seek work after September once government assistance ends. But a cause for concern is that rising consumer prices may encourage workers to seek higher wages and in turn companies will pay up and then raise prices. A wage and price spiral typified economies during the 1970s.