



ECONOMIC SUMMARY

UNITED STATES

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Third quarter real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 3.5% following a 4.2% growth in the second quarter. This was the advance estimate released by the Bureau of Economic.

The upward movement in real GDP for the third quarter reflected positive contributions from PCE, non-residential fixed investment, federal government spending, state and local government spending, and private inventory investment which were partly offset by negative contributions from exports and residential fixed investment. In addition, imports increased.

Real GDP growth deceleration in the third quarter reflected a downturn in exports, and a decline in non-residential fixed investment. Imports went up in the third quarter subsequent to a decline in the second. These movements were partly tempered by an upturn in private inventory investment.

“Current dollar GDP went up 5% or \$248.4 billion for the third quarter to \$20.66 trillion relative to the second quarter which increased 7.6%, or \$370.9 billion,” as stated by the BEA.

In the third quarter, the gross domestic purchases price index went up 1.7% when compared to an uptick of 2.4% the previous quarter. In addition, the PCE price index rose 1.5% relative to an increase of 2.0%. With the exception of the food and energy prices, the PCE price index climbed 1.5% versus an increase of 2.1%.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Total nonfarm payroll employment climbed by 155,000 in November, with the rate of unemployment remaining at 3.7% for the third consecutive month, as stated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment rose in the various areas of health care, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing. In October, the number of unemployed persons went down slightly to 6.0 million. During the last twelve months, the unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point and the number of unemployed by 641,000.

Long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) declined to 1.3 million in November by 120,000 and accounted for 20.8% of the unemployed.

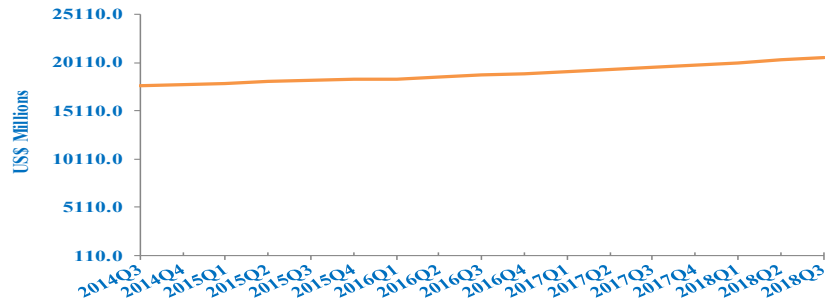
Labour force participation rate was 62.9%, a marginal increase while the employment-population ratio at 60.6% for November, basically no change when compared to that of October.

Involuntary part-time workers or the number of persons employed part time for economic reasons experienced a slight change at 4.8 million in November. These persons who would have wanted full time employment, worked part time due to a reduction of hours or the inability to find a full-time job.

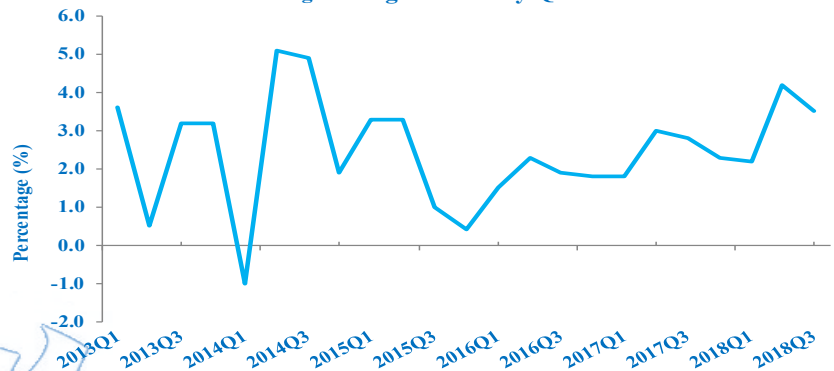
There were 1.7 million individuals marginally attached to the labour force, 197,000 more than relative to last year. These persons were not in the labour force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job in the last year. They would not have been counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks before the survey was conducted.

Of the marginally attached, 453,000 persons were classified as discouraged workers in November. These persons are not currently seeking for work as they believe no jobs are available for them. There are still 1.2 million persons marginally attached to the labour force in September who had not sought employment for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities.

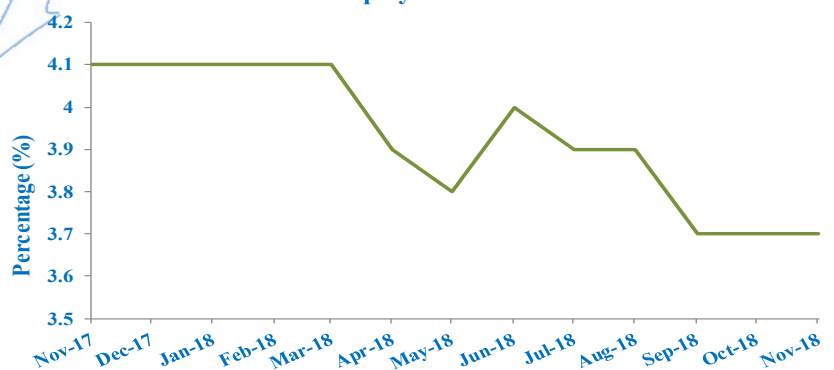
Total GDP



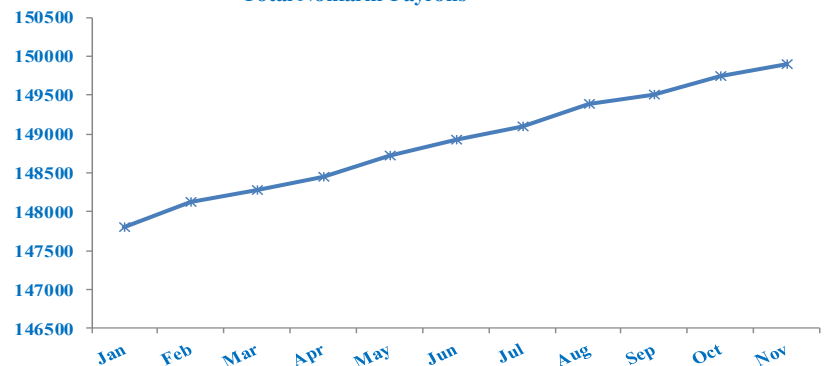
Percentage Change in GDP by Quarter



Unemployment Rate



Total Nonfarm Payrolls





CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

“The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) was unchanged in October subsequent to rising 0.3% in October on a seasonally adjusted basis,” the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated. The all items index increased 2.2% before seasonal adjustment over the last year.

The all items less food and energy index increased 0.2% in November, rise unchanged when compared to last month. The index for shelter and used cars and trucks, the indexes for medical care, recreation, and water and sewer and trash collection rose. The index for wireless telephone services, airline fares, and motor vehicle insurance all fell in November.

The all items index rose to 2.2% on a point to point basis, a lesser amount than the 2.5% increase for the months ending October. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.2% for year ending November. The energy index increased 3.1% for the year ending November while the food index advanced 1.4%, over the last year.

The gasoline index rose 4.2% in November tempering with increases in an array of indexes including shelter and used cars and trucks. The index for fuel fell but that of natural gas and electricity rose. The food (0.2%) index rose in November, with the indexes for food at home (0.2%) and food away from home (0.3%) both went up.

The index for non-alcoholic beverages was the only major grocery store food group to increase in October, rising 0.2%. The index for food away from home increased a little by 0.1% while the index for food away from home rose 2.5% over the last twelve months.

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

“The Producer Price Index for final demand prices went up by 0.1% in November, seasonally adjusted. Final demand prices climbed in October by 0.6% and went down in September by 0.2%. On an unadjusted basis, the final demand index increased 2.5% for the 12 months ended in November.”

“In November, the rise in the final demand index can be traced to a 0.3% increase in prices for final demand services. In contrast, the index for final demand goods decreased 0.4%.”

“The index for final demand less foods, energy, and trade services inched up 0.3% in November, the third consecutive month. For the 12 months ended in November, index for final demand less foods, energy, and trade services increased 2.8%.”

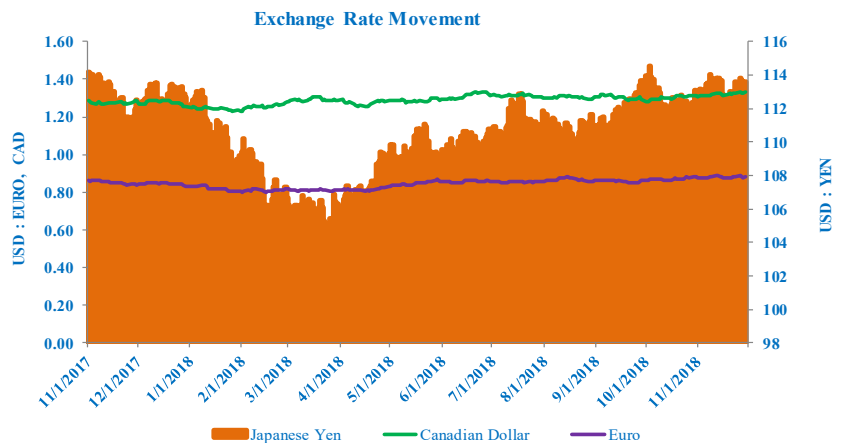
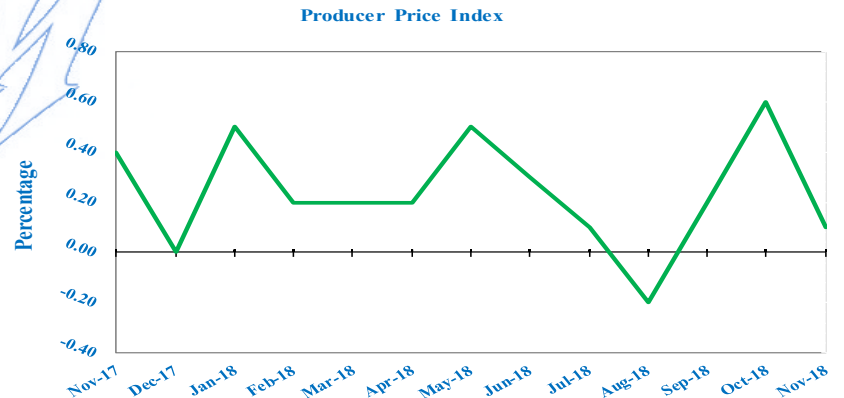
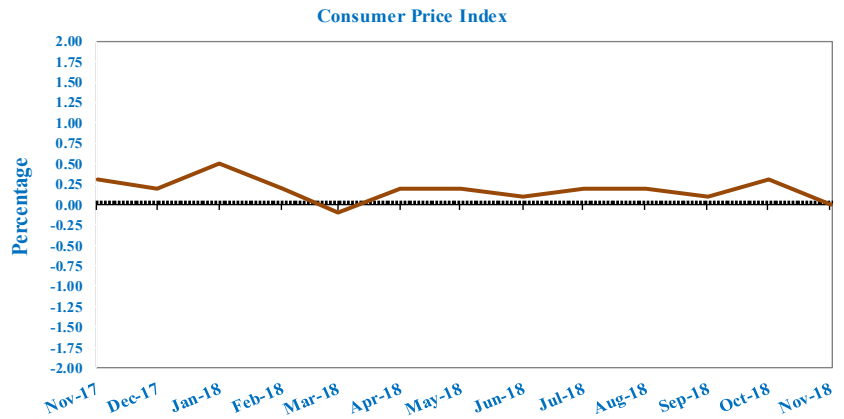
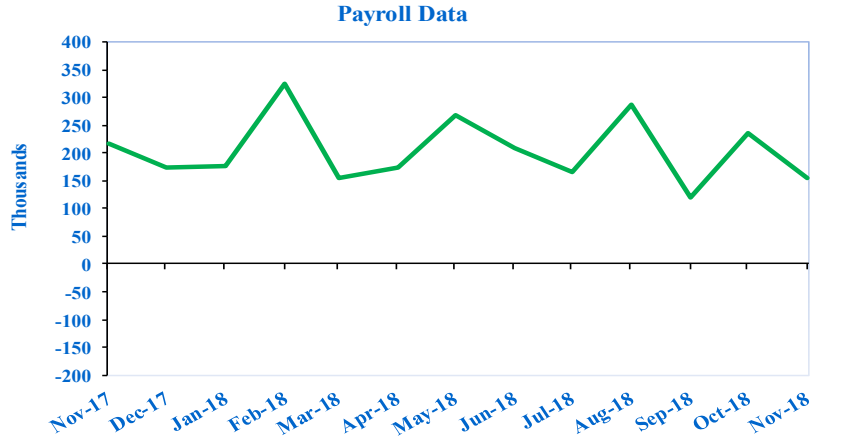
The index for final demand services went up 0.3% in November, rising for the third time. The large increase in November was as a result of a 0.3% climb in the final demand index margins for trade services. Prices for final demand services less transportation, trade and warehousing rose 0.1%, and the index for final demand trade transportation and warehousing services went up 1.2%.

The index for final demand goods went down 0.4% in November, the largest increase since moving up in May 2017’s 0.5%. This was driven by the prices for final demand energy dipping by 5.0%. The index for demand foods climbed to 1.3% while final demand goods less foods and energy remained increased 0.3%.

U.S. Dollar

According to FX Empire, “The EURUSD pair has been trading locked inside a wider price band since last week of October with price pattern in weekly chart forming a zig zag pattern as new and event driven momentum saw both sides of pair play tug of war for control. On the upside the pair faces two levels of resistance at 1.1499 & 1.1423 while the downside sees strong support at 1.1295 & 1.1210 respectively. The month opened positive for Euro well above 1.14 handle but by the end of first week the pair lost all its early gains and was back to neutral level.”

“Moving forward for month of December, the pair is going to be very choppy and sideways in general, but that’s nothing new as it has become the domain of high-frequency traders. This pair is not the first choice of investors when they think of long term moves. End of year is usually noisy and the pair can be expected to display erratic price action driven by news, macro data and geo-political events but highly unlikely for any event or news to bring the pair out of wider price band limitations. However in case Brexit deal passes through UK parliament in an unexpected move there is high chance that pair will break resistance at 1.1500 mark while aside from no-deal brexit scenario if no-confidence vote on PM May comes to pass then pair could fall below 1.1100 mark and is the most highly anticipated news of the month.”





FEDERAL RESERVE MINUTES

On December 19, 2018 all the members of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System voted to maintain the interest rate paid on required and excess reserve balances at 2.40%, effective December 20, 2018. Setting the interest rate paid on required and excess reserve balances 10 basis points below the top of the target range for the federal funds rate is intended to foster trading in the federal funds market at rates well within the FOMC's target range.

The FOMC voted for the Open Market Desk at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to permit and direct unless given other instructions, to execute transactions in the System Open Market Account in accordance with the following domestic policy directive:

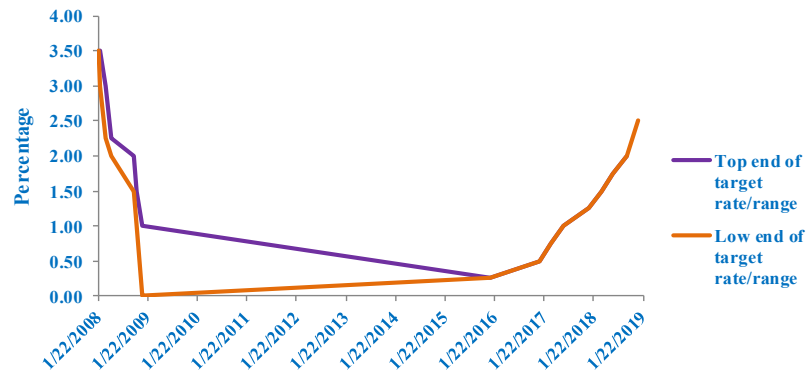
“Effective December 20, 2018, the Federal Open Market Committee directs the Desk to undertake open market operations as necessary to maintain the federal funds rate in a target range of 2-1/4 to 2-1/2%, including overnight reverse repurchase operations (and reverse repurchase operations with maturities of more than one day when necessary to accommodate weekend, holiday, or similar trading conventions) at an offering rate of 2.25%, in amounts limited only by the value of Treasury securities held outright in the System Open Market Account that are available for such operations and by a per-counterparty limit of \$30 billion per day.”

“The Committee directs the Desk to continue rolling over at auction the amount of principal payments from the Federal Reserve's holdings of Treasury securities maturing during each calendar month that exceeds \$30 billion, and to reinvest in agency mortgage-backed securities the amount of principal payments from the Federal Reserve's holdings of agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities received during each calendar month that exceeds \$20 billion. Small deviations from these amounts for operational reasons are acceptable.”

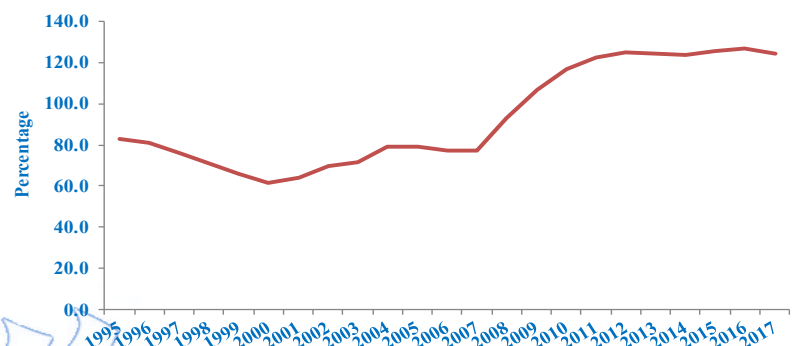
“The Committee also directs the Desk to engage in dollar roll and coupon swap transactions as necessary to facilitate settlement of the Federal Reserve's agency mortgage-backed securities transactions.”

“In a related action, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System voted unanimously to approve a 1/4 percentage point increase in the primary credit rate to 3%, effective December 20, 2018.”

Federal Interest Rates



Debt to GDP (Percentage)

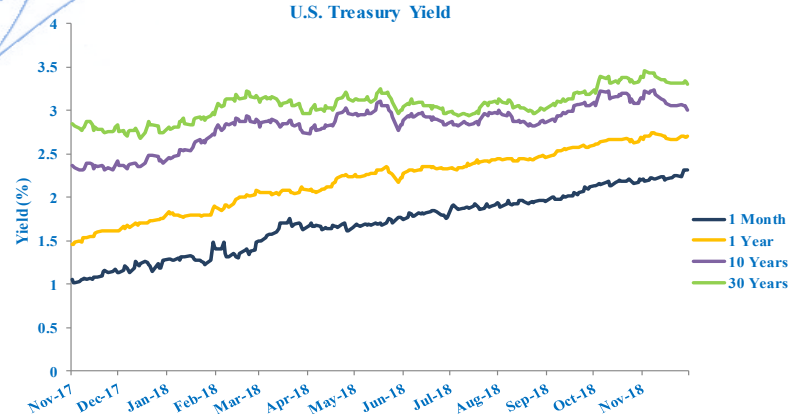


U.S. TREASURY YIELD CURVE

According to Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, “In November, the yield curve twisted flatter, with short rates rising and long rates falling. The 3-month (constant maturity) Treasury bill rate rose to 2.40 percent (for the week ending November 23) up from October's 2.31 percent and well above September's 2.17 percent. The 10-year rate (also constant maturity) moved in the opposite direction, falling to 3.06 percent, down from October's 3.18 percent and back to nearly even with September's 3.05 percent. The twist brought the slope down to 66 basis points, over a fifth of a percent down from October's slope of 87 basis points and September's 88 basis points.”

“Despite a flatter yield curve, expectations of growth stayed the same, as the model incorporated the string of strong GDP growth numbers in recent quarters. Using past values of the spread and GDP growth suggests that real GDP will grow at about a 2.0 percent rate over the next year, even with October's estimate and up from September's estimate of 1.6 percent. Although the time horizons do not match exactly, the forecast, like other forecasts, does show moderate growth.”

U.S. Treasury Yield



GOVERNMENT DEBT/DEFICIT

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the federal budget deficit was \$303 billion for the first two months of the 2019 fiscal year. This was notably \$102 billion more than the recorded deficit for the corresponding period last year.

Receipts between October and November 2018 amounted to \$458 billion, \$14 billion above the \$444 billion documented for the similar period last year. The CBO noted that individual income and payroll (social insurance) taxes together rose by less than \$1 billion or by less than 1%. Corporate income taxes increase by \$5 billion, while receipts from other sources, on net, climbed by \$9 billion of 21%. Outlays during first two months of FY2019 reflected a \$115 billion increase to \$761 billion compared to \$645 billion in 2018.”

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) noted that since December 1, 2018 feel on the weekend, “this year's outlays were boosted by the shift of certain payments from December to November. Last year's outlays for the same period were reduced by a similar amount because of payment shifts from October 2017 into fiscal year 2016. (October 1, 2017, the first day of fiscal year 2017, also fell on a weekend.) If not for those timing shifts, outlays and the deficit through November would have been larger last year and smaller this year. Outlays so far this year would have been \$27 billion, or 4 percent larger than those in the same period last year, and the deficit would have risen by \$13 billion.”

Budget Totals, October–November

Billions of Dollars

	Actual, FY 2018	Preliminary, FY 2019	Estimated Change
Receipts	444	458	14
Outlays	645	761	115
Deficit (-)	-202	-303	-102

