



## UNITED STATES

### *Monthly Economic Review: US*

The S&P 500 Index rose 1.72% for the month, from 2,926.46 at the August close to 2,976.74 at the end of September. The index is still up 18.74% for all of 2019. The NASDAQ Index was up 0.46% from the August close of 7,962.88 to 7,999.34 at the September close. For the year, the NASDAQ is still up 20.56%.

U.S. retail sales fell for the first time in seven months in September. Retail sales dropped 0.3% as households slashed spending on building materials, online purchases and especially automobiles.

### *Monthly Highlights*

US employers added 136,000 new jobs in September, the unemployment rate was 3.5%, a slight dip from August. Over the past 12 months, wages have increased by 3.2%. The number of unemployed persons was essentially unchanged at 6.0 million.

The yield on 10-year U.S. Treasuries dropped during the 3rd quarter as the Fed made two small rate cuts. The yield fell from 2.00% at the end of the 2nd quarter to 1.68% at the September close.

Oil prices trended downward for September despite the quick uptick from the September 14 Saudi Oil field, the price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate, closed the 3rd quarter at \$54.07 – down 7.53% from the 2nd quarter close of \$58.47. For the month of September, oil was down 1.87%. The declining prices are largely due to a decrease in demand caused by a slowing global economy.

The annual inflation rate for the United States is 1.7% for the 12 months ended in September 2019, the same as August.

### *Analyst Summary*

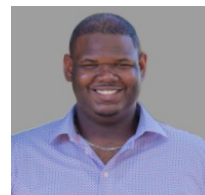
The 3rd quarter was marked by tariff disputes, a slowing global economy, stock market volatility, and two rate cuts by the Federal Reserve (Fed) that helped drive down bond yields.

For September US stocks are up slightly both the S&P and the NASDAQ increased month-over-month and are still up year to date, Retail sales remain strong, primarily due to increasing online retail Employment remains pretty much unchanged adding marginally fewer jobs impending signs of recession.

Most of the 11 sectors of the S&P 500 moved up for the 3rd quarter. Leading the way were Utilities, Real Estate, Consumer Staples, and Information Technology. The biggest losers were Energy and Health Care. Oil prices dipped in the month, while international equities bounced back.

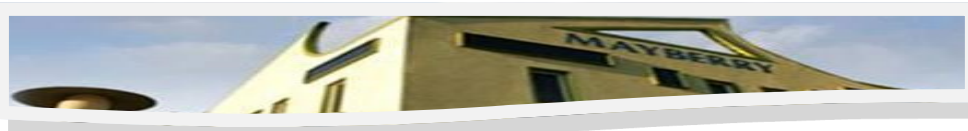


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**ECONOMIC SUMMARY**

**UNITED STATES**

**GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**

Second quarter real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 2.0% in the second quarter of 2019. For the first quarter of 2019, real GDP had a 3.1% growth according to the third estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. This report is based on more complete source data.

The upward movement in real GDP for the second quarter reflected positive contributions from (PCE), federal government spending, and state and local government spending. This movement was partly offset by a negative contribution from private inventory investment, exports, non-residential fixed investment and residential fixed investment.

Real GDP growth deceleration in the second quarter reflected downturns in inventory investment, exports, and non-residential fixed investment. These movements were partly tempered by an increase in PCE and federal government spending.

“Current-dollar GDP increased 4.7%, or \$241.5 billion, in the second quarter to a level of \$21.34 trillion. In the first quarter, current-dollar GDP increased 3.9%, or \$201.0 billion.”

In the second quarter, the index for gross domestic purchases price index went up 2.2% when compared to rising 0.8% in the first quarter. In addition, the PCE price index increased 2.4% relative to an increase of 0.4%. With the exception of the food and energy prices, the PCE price index climbed 1.9% versus an increase of 1.1%.

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 136,000 in September, with the rate of unemployment declining to 3.5%, as stated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment rose in health care and professional and business services.

In September, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 275,000 to 5.8 million. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, “The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was little changed at 1.3 million and accounted for 22.7 % of the unemployed.”

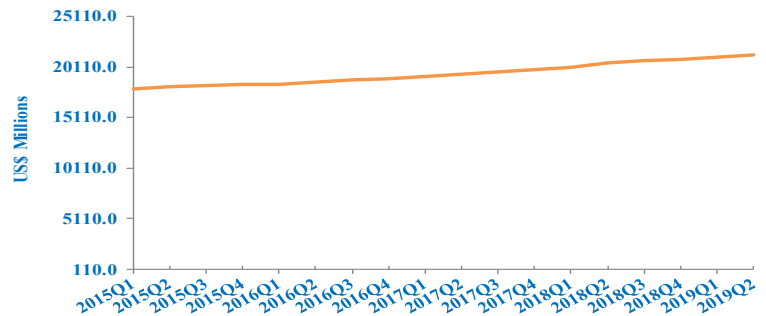
Labour force participation rate was 63.2% for September. In addition, the employment-population ratio was at 61.0%, unchanged over the month but up by 0.6% over the year.

Involuntary part-time workers or the number of persons employed part time for economic reasons was relatively unchanged September to 4.4 million. Based on BLS assessment, “these individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been reduced or they were unable to find full-time jobs.”

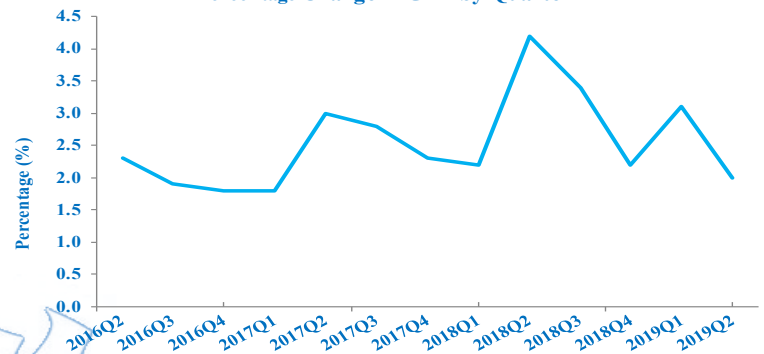
There were 1.3 million individuals marginally attached to the labour force, a 278,000 decline from last year. These persons were not in the labour force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job in the last year. They would not have been counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks before the survey was conducted.

Of the marginally attached, 321,000 persons were classified as discouraged workers in September, relatively unchanged a year ago. These persons are not currently seeking for work as they believe no jobs are available for them. There are still 978,000 persons marginally attached to the labour force in September who had not sought employment for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities.

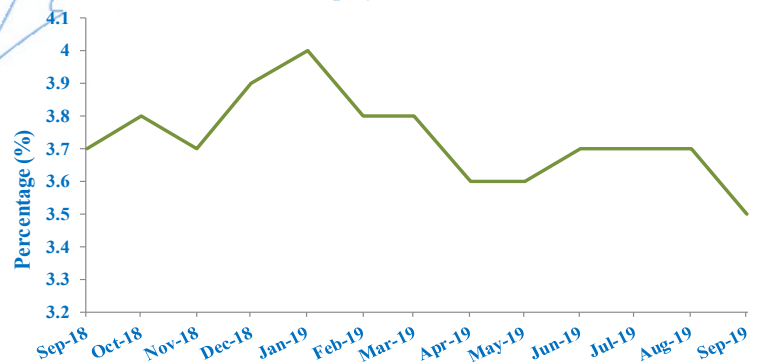
Total GDP



Percentage Change in GDP by Quarter



Unemployment Rate



| Labour Force in Thousands | Jan-Mar | Apr-Jun | Jul-Sep | Oct - Dec |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
|                           | Q1      | Q2      | Q3      | Q4        |
| 2015                      | 422,400 | 424,510 | 426,425 | 428,580   |
| 2016                      | 430,343 | 431,988 | 434,115 | 435,729   |
| 2017                      | 437,494 | 439,013 | 440,603 | 442,220   |
| 2018                      | 444,143 | 446,227 | 448,227 | 450,175   |
| 2019                      | 452,026 | 453,338 | 454,726 |           |



## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) remained unchanged for September after increasing 0.1% in August, on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated. The all items index increased 1.7% before seasonal adjustment over the last year.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.1% in September, after rising 0.3% in June, July and August. The indexes for medical care and shelter, the indexes for household furnishings and operations, and motor vehicle insurance all rose in September. The indexes for new vehicles, used cars and trucks, apparel and communication were some of the few that declined over the month.

The all items index rose 1.7% for the 12 months ending September. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.4 % over the last 12 months, and the food index also rose 1.8 %. The energy index decreased 4.8 % over the past year.

The index for food was little changed in September, while the index for food at home, was also unchanged in September. The index for cereals and bakery products rose 0.5% after August's decline. The indexes for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs and for other food at home both climbed 0.3%. The index for dairy and related products and the non alcoholic beverages increased 0.2% and 0.1% respectively. However, these advances were tempered by a 1.0 % decrease in the index for fruits and vegetables. Meanwhile, the indexes for fresh fruits and for fresh vegetables both declined in September.

The energy index fell 1.4% in September. The gasoline index decreased 2.4% in September following a 3.5% decline in August. The index for electricity index was unchanged. The natural gas index, however, decreased by 0.7% in September.

## PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

Final demand for the Producer Price Index declined 0.3% in September 2019, seasonally adjusted. Final demand prices recorded advances 0.1% in August and 0.2% in July. On an unadjusted basis, the final demand index increased 1.4% for the 12 months ended in September.

The decline observed in September was linked to a 0.2% decrease in the final demand services index. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics, "prices for final demand goods dropped 0.4."

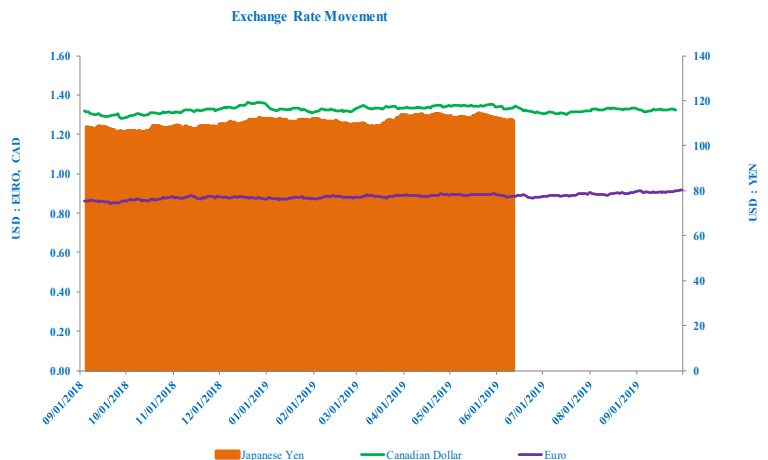
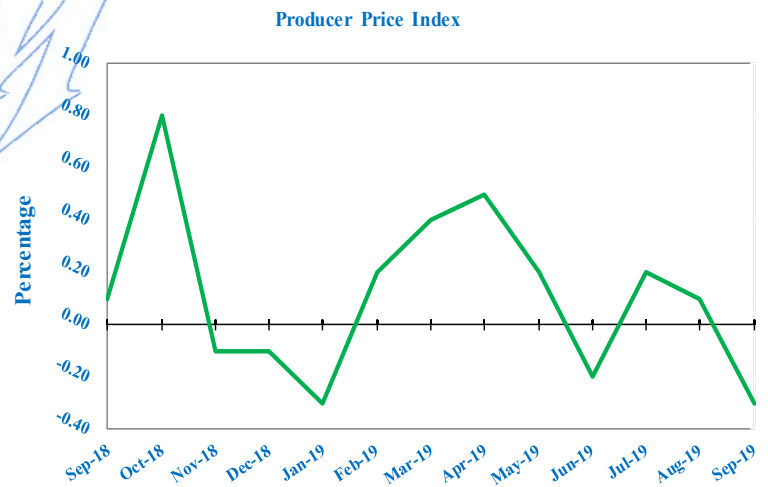
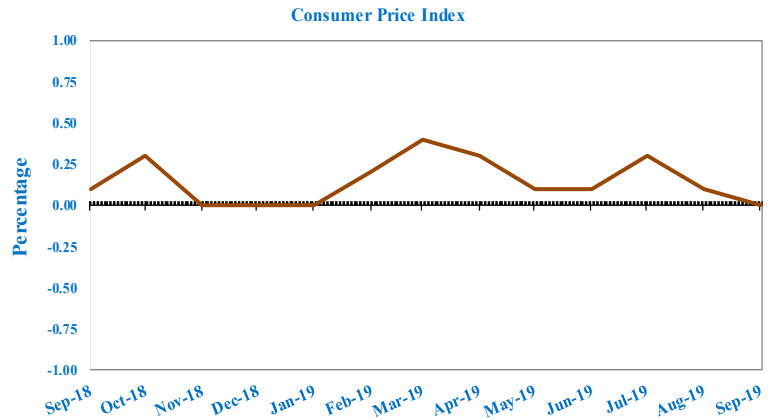
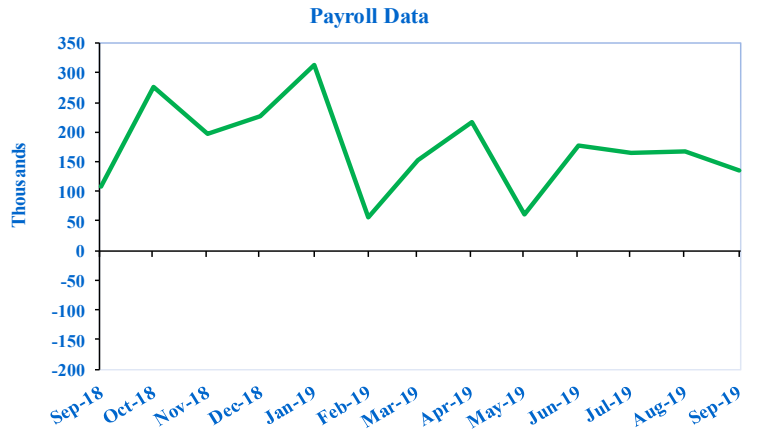
In September, the index for final demand less foods, energy, and trade services remained unchanged at 0.4%. For the 12 months ended in September, prices for final demand less foods, energy and trade services rose 1.7%.

The index for final demand services went down 0.2% in September. According to BLS, the "leading the decline, the index for final demand trade services decreased 1.0%. Prices for final demand transportation and warehousing services also moved down 1.0%. In contrast, the index for final demand services less trade, transportation, and warehousing climbed 0.3%."

The index for final demand goods inched down 0.4% in September, the after a 0.5% fall in August. The September's decline is attributable to a 2.5% fall in the index for final demand energy. The index for final demand goods less foods and energy fell 0.1%, while prices for final demand foods increased 0.3%.

## U.S. Dollar

For the month of September 2019 the EURUSD pair closed at \$1.0898 versus \$1.0966 at the start of the month a 0.62% decline. FX empire noted, "the catalysts behind the weakness are safe-haven buying of the greenback as well as seasonal demand." FX Empire also indicated, "In addition to the weak Manufacturing data, Eurostat reported a decline in the Consumer Price Index to 0.9%, marking the lowest reading in nearly three years. Inflation data plays a major role in central bank decisions and the already low CPI was part of the reason why the European Central Bank eased policy last month. Despite the overall poor data, EUR/USD appears to be catching a bid shortly after the data releases with a notable technical support area influencing the exchange rate."





## FEDERAL RESERVE MINUTES

On September 18, 2019, The Federal Open Market Committee indicated that the labor market remained strong as economic activity continued to rise at a moderate rate. Job gains have been solid, on average over past months while the unemployment rate has remained low.

Household spending has been increasing at a strong pace, while business fixed investment has weakened. According to the Fed, "On a 12-month basis, overall inflation and inflation for items other than food and energy are running below 2 percent. Market-based measures of inflation compensation remain low; survey-based measures of longer-term inflation expectations are little changed."

The FOMC decided to lower the target range for the federal funds rate from 2% to 1.75%. According to the FOMC, "the Committee's view that sustained expansion of economic activity, strong labor market conditions, and inflation near the Committee's symmetric 2 percent objective are the most likely outcomes, but uncertainties about this outlook remain. As the Committee contemplates the future path of the target range for the federal funds rate, it will continue to monitor the implications of incoming information for the economic outlook and will act as appropriate to sustain the expansion, with a strong labor market and inflation near its symmetric 2% objective."

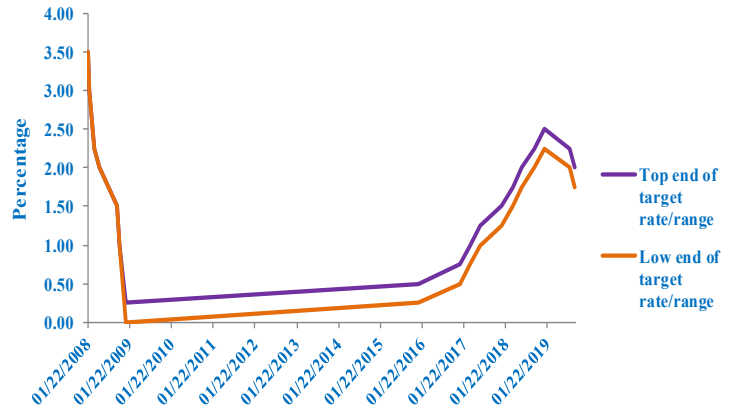
In addition to the policy decision, the FOMC voted for the Open Market Desk at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York until instructed otherwise, to execute transactions in the System Open Market Account in accordance with the following domestic policy directive:

"Effective September 19, 2019, 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 1-3/4 to 2 percent, 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 1.70 percent, 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."

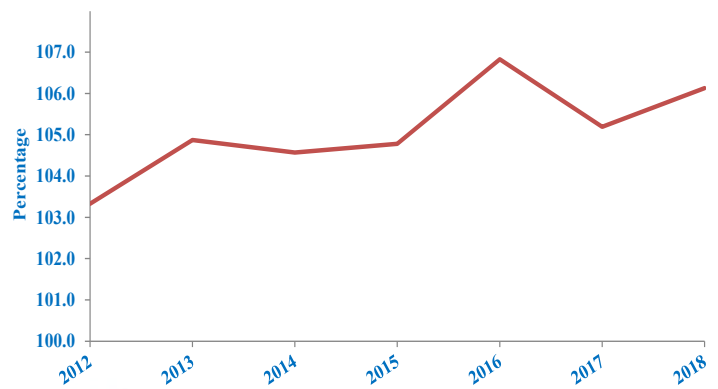
"The Committee directs the Desk to continue rolling over at auction all principal payments from the Federal Reserve's holdings of Treasury securities and to continue reinvesting all principal payments from the Federal Reserve's holdings of agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities received during each calendar month. Principal payments from agency debt and agency mortgage backed securities up to \$20 billion per month will continue to be reinvested in Treasury securities to roughly match the maturity composition of Treasury securities outstanding; principal payments in excess of \$20 billion per month will continue to be reinvested in agency mortgage-backed securities. 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."

Federal Interest Rates



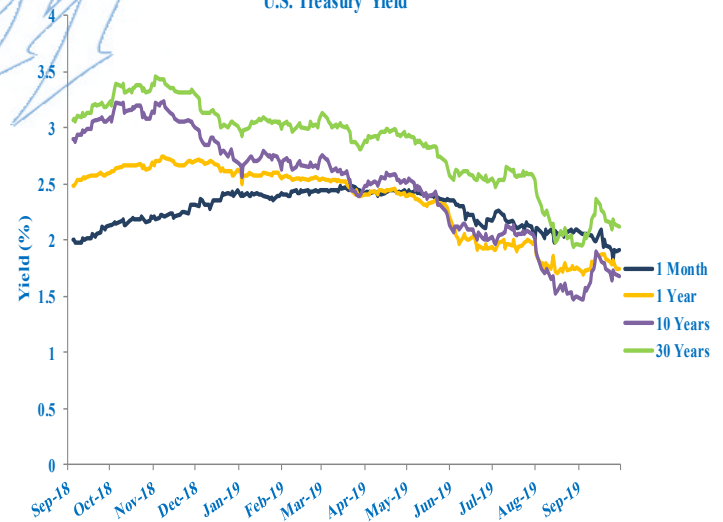
Debt to GDP (Percentage)



## U.S. TREASURY YIELD CURVE

The 3-month (constant maturity) Treasury bill rate inched down to 1.88% down from August's 1.99% as well as July's 2.08%. The 5-year rate registered an increase to close September at 1.55% from 1.39% a month earlier. The 10-year rate (also constant maturity) increased to 1.68%, up from August's 1.50% and below July's 2.02%.

U.S. Treasury Yield



## GOVERNMENT DEBT/DEFICIT

For the fiscal year 2019, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) indicated that the federal budget deficit amounted to \$984 billion. The estimated deficit is \$205 billion more than the deficit recorded during the fiscal year 2018, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office.

Furthermore, for the fiscal year 2019, receipts amounted to \$3,462 billion based on CBO estimates which totalled \$133 billion more than in the similar period in fiscal year 2018.

Outlays for the fiscal year 2019, however, based on CBO estimates, totalled \$4,446 billion which was a \$338 billion increase relative to the same period last year.

| Fiscal Year Totals -Billions of Dollars |                 |                      |                  |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
|   | Actual, FY 2018 | Preliminary, FY 2019 | Estimated Change |
| Receipts                                | 3,329           | 3,462                | 133              |
| Outlays                                 | 4,108           | 4,446                | 338              |
| Deficit (-)                             | -779            | -984                 | -205             |

