



**UNITED STATES**

**GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**

Third quarter real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 2.1% for the third quarter of 2019. For the second quarter of 2019, real GDP had a 2.0% growth according to the second estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The upward movement in real GDP for the third quarter reflected positive contributions from personal consumption expenditures (PCE), federal government spending, residential fixed investment, state and local government spending, and exports. This movement was partly offset by a negative contribution from non-residential fixed investment. Moreover, imports increased.

The acceleration in the real GDP growth in the third quarter reflected upturns in private inventory investment, exports, and residential fixed investment. These movements were partly tempered by slower growth in PCE, federal government spending, and state and local government spending, and a larger decline in non-residential fixed investment.

"Current dollar GDP increased 3.8%, or \$201.8 billion, in the third quarter to a level of \$21.54 trillion. In the second quarter, GDP increased 4.7%, or \$241.4 billion."

In the third quarter, the index for gross domestic purchases price index went up 1.4% when compared to rising 2.2% in the second quarter. In addition, the PCE price index increased 1.5% relative to an increase of 2.4%. With the exception of the food and energy prices, the PCE price index climbed 2.1% versus an increase of 1.9%.

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 266,000 in November, as the rate of unemployment recorded a small change at 3.5%, as stated by the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics. Job gains occurred within the health care and in professional and technical services. Employment increased in manufacturing, reflecting the return of workers from a strike.

Health care continued its upward trend in November (+45,000) as the segment added a total of 414,000 jobs over the past twelve months. Employment in professional and technical services rose by 31,000 over the month. Employment within the other major industries (including construction, wholesale trade, information, and government) reflected little change over the month.

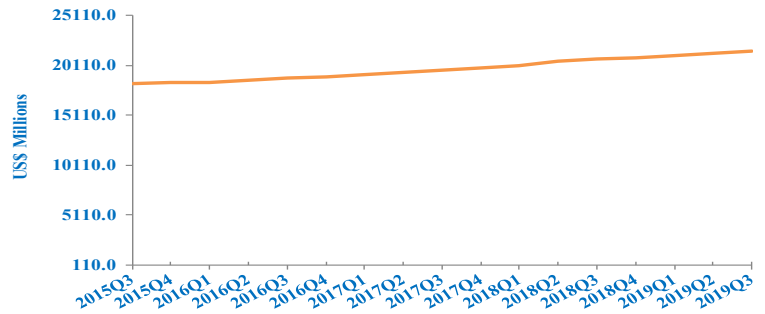
In November, the number of unemployed persons was little changed at 5.8 million, while the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was little changed at 1.2 million. Notably, the total number of persons classified as long-term unemployed, accounted for 20.8% of the unemployed.

The labour force participation rate for November was 63.2%, while the employment population ratio was held at 61% for the third consecutive month.

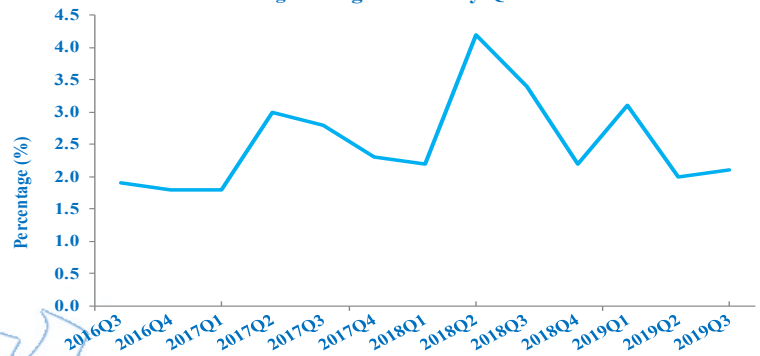
Persons employed part time for economic reasons stood at 4.3 million in November. Based on BLS assessment, "these individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been reduced or they were unable to find full-time jobs."

A total of 1.2 million individuals were marginally attached to the labour force, a 432,000 reduction 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.

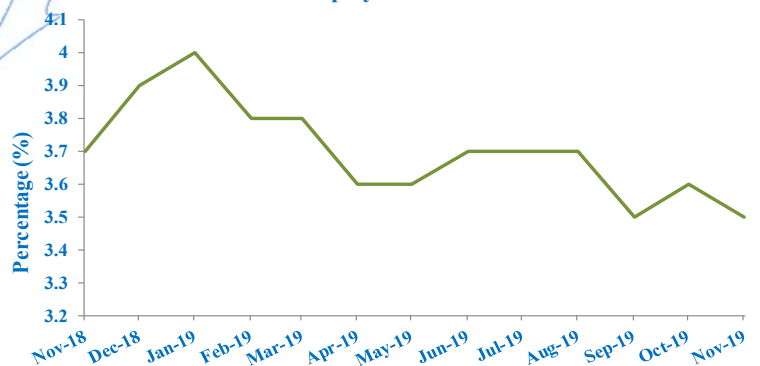
Total GDP



Percentage Change in GDP by Quarter



Unemployment Rate



Labour Force in Thousands	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct - Dec
Year	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	454,885	



## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.3% for November after increasing in October, on a seasonally adjusted basis according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The all items index increased 2.1% before seasonal adjustment over the last year. BLS stated, "increases in the shelter and energy indexes were major factors in the seasonally adjusted monthly increase of the all items index."

The all items less food and energy index increased 0.2% in November, after rising 0.2% in October. The indexes for medical care, for recreation, and for shelter rose 0.3%, 0.4% and 0.3% respectively in November. Whereas, the indexes for new vehicles, airline fares and motor vehicle insurance declined 0.1%, 0.9% and 0.2% respectively over the month.

The index for food increased 0.1% in November, while the index for food at home, rose 0.1%. The index for dairy and related products went up 0.6% in November. The indexes for non-alcoholic beverages; meat, poultry, fish, and eggs; and cereals and bakery products also climbed in November. These advances were tempered by a 0.7% decrease in the index for fruits and vegetables while other food at home index remained unchanged.

The index for energy climbed 0.8% in November after a rising in October. A 1.1% growth was recorded in the gasoline index in contrast to a 3.7% increase in October. The index for electricity index increased 0.3%. The natural gas index also increased by 1.1% in November.

## PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

Final demand for the Producer Price Index remained unchanged in November 2019, seasonally adjusted according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Final demand prices rose 0.4% in October and fell 0.3% in September. On an unadjusted basis, the final demand index increased 1.1% for the 12 months ended in November.

The index for final demand less foods, energy, and trade services was also unchanged in the month of November after climbing 0.1% in October. Notably, the index over the past twelve months ended November depicted an upwards trend with a 1.3% advance.

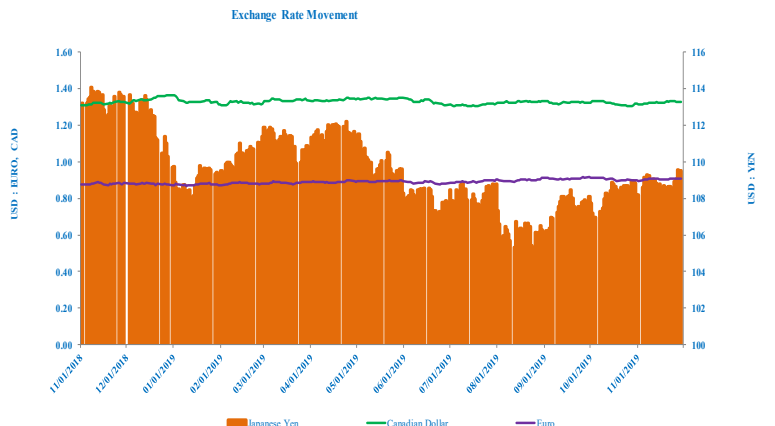
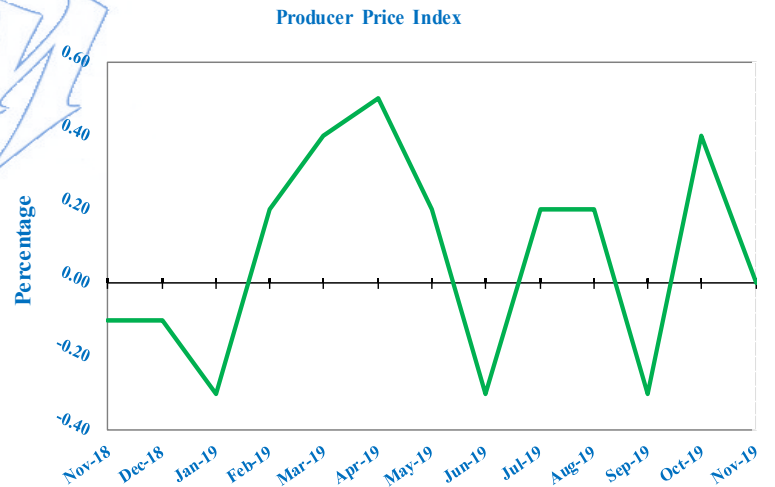
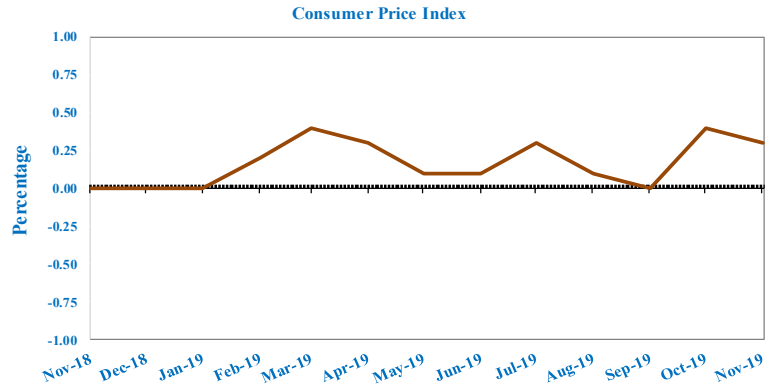
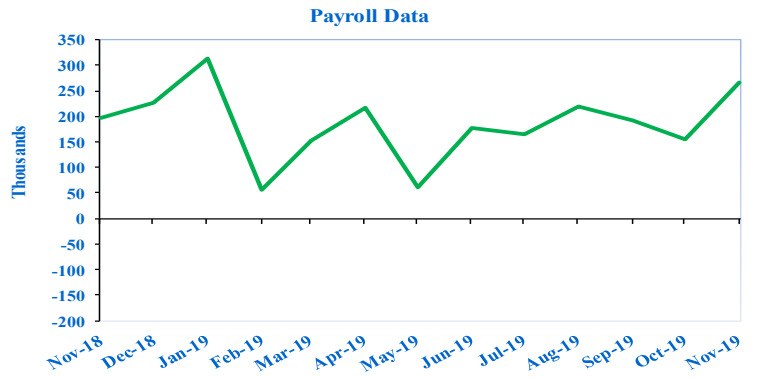
Final demand services fell 0.3%, the largest decline since February 2017. Approximately over two-thirds of the broad base decrease was linked to a 0.6% decline in margins for final demand trade services. BLS highlighted, "Prices for final demand services less trade, transportation, and warehousing went down 0.1%, and the index for final demand transportation and warehousing services decreased 0.3%."

A growth of 0.3% was observed in prices for final demand goods. This performance stemmed from prices for final demand foods, which moved up 1.1%. The index for final demand energy advanced 0.6%, while prices for final demand goods less foods and energy rose 0.2%.

## U.S. Dollar

For the month of November 2019 the EUR/USD pair closed at \$1.10 versus \$1.12 at the start of the month a 1.79% decline. FX empire noted, that this movement was, "likely fuelled by the thin volume caused by the holiday-shortened week in the United States that sent many of the major players to the sidelines."

Additionally, FX Empire indicated, "with the ECB being so loose with monetary policy though, it is a bit difficult to imagine that the Euro is going to gain longer-term unless something negative comes across for the US dollar. That being said, US economic numbers as of late have been a bit mixed. We have a clear resistance barrier in the form of 1.12 that we should be paying attention to."





## FEDERAL RESERVE MINUTES

On December 11, 2019, the Federal Open Market Committee indicated that the the labour market remained strong, whilst economic activity has been rising at a solid rate. Job gains job gains have been strong and the unemployment rate has remained low. Household spending has continued to grow strongly, however business fixed investment and exports has moderated from its rapid pace earlier in the year. 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, indicators of longer-term inflation expectations have little changed.”

The FOMC decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 1.50% - 1.75% considering the realized and expected labour market conditions and inflation. According to the FOMC, “in determining the timing and size of future adjustments to the target range for the federal funds rate, the Committee will assess realized and expected economic conditions relative to its maximum employment objective and its symmetric 2 percent inflation objective. This assessment will take into account a wide range of information, including measures of labour market conditions, indicators of inflation pressures and inflation expectations, and readings on financial and international developments.”

“As part of its policy decision, the Federal Open Market Committee voted to authorize and direct 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 December 12, 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 1-1/2 to 1-3/4 percent. In light of recent and expected increases in the Federal Reserve’s non-reserve liabilities, the Committee directs the Desk to continue purchasing Treasury bills at least into the second quarter of 2020 to maintain over time ample reserve balances at or above the level that prevailed in early September 2019. The Committee also directs the Desk to continue conducting term and overnight repurchase agreement operations at least through January 2020 to ensure that the supply of reserves remains ample even during periods of sharp increases in non-reserve liabilities, and to mitigate the risk of money market pressures that could adversely affect policy implementation. In addition, the Committee directs the Desk to conduct 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 1.45 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.”

“In a related action, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System voted unanimously to approve the establishment of the primary credit rate at the existing level of 2.25 percent.” The next FOMC meeting is scheduled for December 15—16 2019.

## U.S. TREASURY YIELD CURVE

The 3-month Treasury bill rate inched up to 1.59% from October's 1.54%. The 5-year rate registered an increase to close November 2019 at 1.62% from 1.51% a month earlier. The 10-year rate (also constant maturity) increased to 1.78%, up from October's 1.69% and above September's 1.68%.

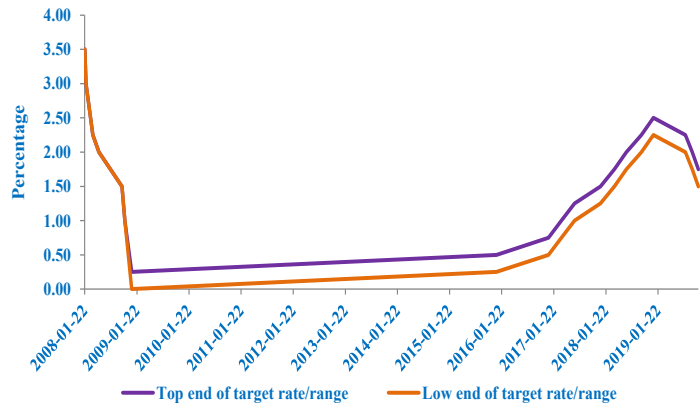
## GOVERNMENT DEBT/DEFICIT

For the first two months in fiscal year 2020, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) indicated that the federal budget deficit amounted to \$342 billion. Notably, this was \$36 billion more than the deficit recorded during the corresponding period last year.

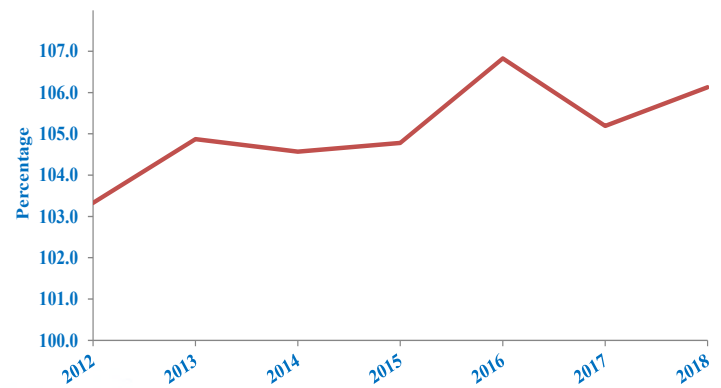
Furthermore, for the first two months of fiscal year 2020, receipts amounted to \$471 billion based on CBO estimates which totalled \$12 billion more than in the similar period in 2018.

Outlays for the first two months of fiscal year 2020, however, based on CBO estimates, totalled \$813 billion which was a \$49 billion increase relative to the same period last year.

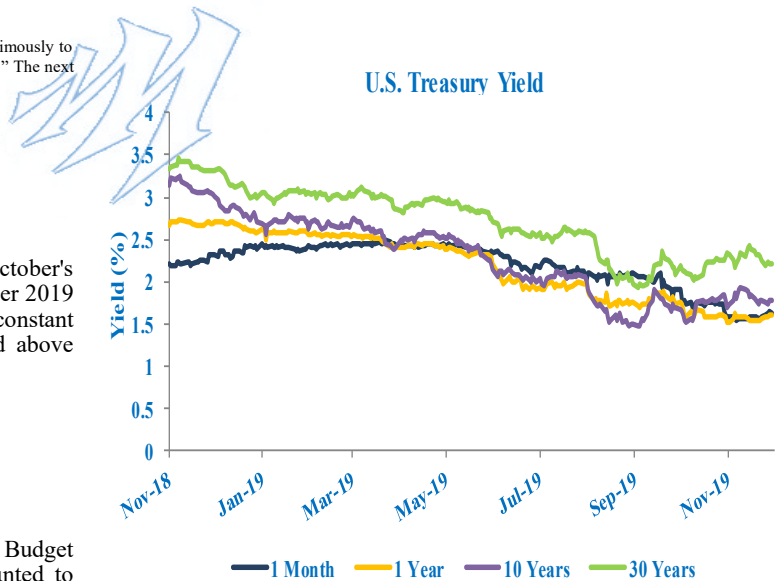
Federal Interest Rates



Debt to GDP (Percentage)



U.S. Treasury Yield



Budget Totals, October 2019 – November 2019			
Billions of Dollars			
	Actual, FY 2019	Preliminary, FY 2019	Estimated Change
Receipts	459	471	12
Outlays	764	813	49
Deficit (-)	-305	-342	-36

