

Indicator/Action Economics Survey:

Last Actual:

Regions' View:

Fed Funds Rate

(after the FOMC meeting on December 17-18)

Range: 0.00 to 0.25 percent

Median: 0.125 percent (mid-point of target range)

0.00% to 0.25%

A busy week for data is made more so as the Census Bureau doubles down on reports (construction spending, new home sales) delayed by the government shutdown. The November employment report is of course the highlight of the week but, unlike some analysts, we do not see a strong report as sealing the deal for a vote to dial down QE at the December FOMC meeting.

November ISM Manufacturing Index

Range: 53.5 to 56.8 percent

Median: 55.0 percent

Monday 12/2 Oct = 56.4%

Down to 55.6 percent. We look for production and new orders to have moderated a bit from October but this is still a healthy print, particularly in light of the strength seen in recent months.

September Construction Spending

Range: 0.3 to 0.8 percent

Median: 0.5 percent

Monday 12/2 Aug = +0.6%

Up by 0.4 percent. The delayed September report will be issued along with the October report.

October Construction Spending

Range: -0.5 to 1.0 percent

Median: 0.4 percent

Monday 12/2 Sep = N/A

Up by 0.1 percent.

October Trade Balance

Range: -\$42.5 to -\$39.0 billion

Median: -\$40.2 billion

Wednesday 12/4 Sep = -\$41.8 bil

Narrowing to -\$39.8 billion.

September New Home Sales

Range: 400,000 to 446,000 units

Median: 429,000 units SAAR

Wednesday 12/4 Aug = 421,000

Down to an annualized rate of 404,000 units. The delayed September report will be issued along with the October report.

October New Home Sales

Range: 380,000 to 456,000 units

Median: 429,000 units SAAR

Wednesday 12/4 Sep = N/A

Down to an annualized rate of 388,000 units.

Q3 Real GDP – First Estimate

Range: 2.6 to 3.3 percent

Median: 3.1 percent SAAR

Thursday 12/5 Q3 (1st est) = +2.8%

Up at an annualized rate of 3.2 percent. This will look better than it will feel, as the bulk of the upward revision will come from a faster inventory build than was incorporated into the BEA's first estimate. But, to the extent higher inventories propped up Q3 growth, they will act as a drag on Q4 growth.

October Factory Orders

Range: -1.8 to 1.0 percent

Median: -0.8 percent

Thursday 12/5 Q2 = +0.6%

Down by 0.8 percent, as a decline in orders for durable goods drags overall order volume lower.

October Personal Income

Range: 0.2 to 0.5 percent

Median: 0.3 percent

Friday 12/6 Sep = +0.5%

Up by 0.2 percent, with rental income and private sector earnings leading the way. It is worth noting growth in dividend income slowed sharply in August and September, so we'll be interested to see what the October data bring.

October Personal Spending

Range: 0.1 to 0.4 percent

Median: 0.2 percent

Friday 12/6 Sep = +0.2%

Up by 0.3 percent. Another solid gain in control retail sales suggests spending on nondurable consumer goods posted a healthy gain, but lower utilities outlays could hold down spending on household services with spending on consumer durables largely a neutral factor. With the PCE deflator unchanged (the core PCE should be up 0.1 percent), real consumer spending will have logged a decent gain.

November Nonfarm Employment

Range: 153,000 to 205,000 jobs

Median: 181,000 jobs

Friday 12/6 Oct = +204,000

Up by 201,000 jobs with private sector payrolls up by 207,000 and government payrolls down by 6,000. With most of October's job gains incorporated into what was a delayed report, we expect only modest revisions to the previous estimate.

November Manufacturing Employment

Range: 5,000 to 30,000 jobs

Median: 10,000 jobs

Friday 12/6 Oct = +19,000

Up by 10,000 jobs.

November Average Weekly Hours

Range: 34.4 to 34.5 hours

Median: 34.5 hours

Friday 12/6 Oct = 34.4 hrs

Up to 34.5 hours.

November Average Hourly Earnings

Range: 0.1 to 0.2 percent

Median: 0.2 percent

Friday 12/6 Oct = +0.1%

Up by 0.2 percent which, along with our expectations for private sector job gains and hours worked yields a 0.6 percent increase in aggregate private sector earnings. This translates into an over-the-year increase of 4.4 percent.

November Unemployment Rate

Range: 7.1 to 7.3 percent

Median: 7.2 percent

Friday 12/6 Oct = 7.3%

Down to 7.2 percent. We look for big swings in both the labor force and household employment that reverse the effects of October's federal government shutdown, with the net effect being to push the unemployment rate lower.

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