New York • London • Boston • Chicago
DECISION ECONOMICS, INC.
Information for Decisions™

Forecast Calendar

January 6, 2012

United States

Economic Indicators—Schedule and Forecasts

January 9 – 20, 2012

Sinai/Ellis/Hooper

f= DE forecast c=consensus a=advance s=second t=third r=revised

9

3-and 6-Month Bills (11:30)
$56.0 Billion

Lockhart Speech (12:40)
(Atlanta)

10

ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales (7:45) (1/7)

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55)
(1/7)

Wholesale Inventories (10:00)

Jul	0.8%	Oct	1.6%
Aug	0.1%	**Nov (f)**	**0.6%**
Sep	unch	**Nov (c)**	**0.5%**

Williams Speech (10:30)
(Vancouver, Washington)

Pianalto Speech (11:10)
(On labor market, Ohio)

4-Week Bill (11:30)
$30.0 Billion (f)

Geroge Speech (13:00)
(Kansas City)

11

Evans Speech (8:40)
(Lake Forest, Illinois)

Lockhart Speech (9:00)
(Atlanta)

Plosser Speech (12:30)
(Rochester)

FOMC Beige Book (14:00)

12

Initial Claims (8:30)

12/24	387	**1/7 (f)**	**370**
12/31	372	**1/7 (c)**	**375**

Advance Retail Sales (8:30)

	Total	Ex-Auto
Nov	0.2%	0.2%
Dec (f)	**0.2%**	**0.3%**
Dec (c)	**0.3%**	**0.3%**

Business Inventories, Sales (10:00)

	Inven.	Sales	I/S
Oct	0.8%	0.7%	1.270
Nov (f)	**0.5%**	**0.3%**	**1.273**
Nov (c)	**0.4%**		

Treasury Statement (14:00)
($ Billions)

	2011	2010
Nov	-137.3	-150.4
Dec (f)	**-70.0**	-78.1
Dec (c)	**-80.0**	-78.1

Monthly Money (16:30)
(SA, $ Billions)

	M1	M2
Oct	2150.1	9607.6
Nov	2149.1	9641.7
Dec (f)	**2151.4**	**9663.2**

13

Import Prices (Non-Fuel, Y/Y) (8:30)

Jul	5.5%	Oct	4.9%
Aug	5.5%	Nov	3.8%
Sep	5.4%	**Dec (f)**	**3.5%**

Trade Balance (8:30)
($ Billions, BOP Basis)

	Total	Merch.	Serv.
Oct	-43.5	-58.8	15.3
Nov (f)	**-44.5**	**-59.8**	**15.3**
Nov (c)	**-45.0**		

U of M Cons Sentiment Index (9:55) (Prelim.)

Sep	59.4	Dec	69.9
Oct	60.9	**Jan (f)**	**71.5**
Nov	64.1	**Jan (c)**	**71.5**

U of M Inflation Expectations (9:55) (Prelim.)

	1-Year	5-Year
Nov	3.2%	2.7%
Dec	3.1%	2.7%
Jan (f)	**3.1%**	**2.7%**

Duke Speech (11:10)
(On Regulation, Santa Barbara, CA)

Lacker Speech (12:45)
(Richmond)

Evans Speech (13:00)
(Indianapolis)

16

Holiday

17

Empire State Manufacturing Survey (8:30)

	Total	Prices
Nov	0.6	18.3
Dec	9.5	24.4
Jan (f)	**11.6**	**22.1**

3-and 6-Month Bills (11:30)
$56.0 Billion (f)

18

ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales (7:45) (1/14)

Producer Price Index (8:30)

	Total	Ex-F&E
Oct	-0.3%	unch
Nov	0.3%	0.1%
Dec (f)	**-0.1%**	**0.1%**

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55)
(1/14)

Monthly TIC flows (9:00) (Nov)

Industrial Production & Capacity Utilization (9:15)

	Prod.	Util.
Oct	0.7%	78.0%
Nov	-0.2%	77.8%
Dec (f)	0.6%	78.3%

NAHB Housing Market Index (10:00)

Aug	15	Nov	19
Sep	14	Dec	21
Oct	17	**Jan (f)**	**23**

4-Week Bill (11:30)
$30.0 Billion (f)

19

Initial Claims (8:30)

12/24	387	**1/7 (f)**	**370**
12/31	372	**1/14 (f)**	**365**

Consumer Price Index (8:30)

	Total	Ex-F&E
Oct	-0.1%	0.2%
Nov	0.0%	0.1%
Dec (f)	**0.1%**	**0.2%**

Housing Starts (8:30)
(Units, Thousands, SAAR)

	Starts	Permits
Oct	627	644
Nov	685	681
Dec (f)	**695**	**730**

Philadelphia Fed Survey (10:00)

	Total	Prices
Nov	3.6	22.8
Dec	10.3	33.7
Jan (f)	**8.9**	**23.0**

10-Year TIPS (13:00)
$11.0 Billion (f)

20

Existing Home Sales (10:00)
(Units, Millions, SAAR)

Jul	4.000	Oct	4.250
Aug	4.320	Nov	4.420
Sep	4.190	**Dec (f)**	**4.500**

Recent History-Latest Results

2

Holiday

3

ISM Manufacturing Survey (10:00)

	Total	Prices
Oct	50.8	41.0
Nov	52.7	45.0
Dec	53.5	48.0

Construction Expenditure (10:00)

Jun	1.5%	Sep	1.1%
Jul	-3.3%	Oct	-0.2%
Aug	2.2%	Nov	1.2%

3-and 6-Month Bills (11:30)
$56.0 Billion

FOMC Minutes (14:00)
(December 13, 2011 meeting)

4

ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales (7:45) (12/31)

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55)
(12/31)

Manufacturers' (10:00)

	Orders	Ships.	Invs.
Sep	-0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
Oct	-0.2%	0.5%	0.9%
Nov	1.8%	unch	0.5%

Light Vehicle Sales
(Units, Millions, SAAR)

	Total	Domestic	Import
Oct	13.2	10.3	2.9
Nov	13.6	10.5	3.1
Dec			

4-Week Bill (11:30)
$30.0 Billion

5

ADP Employment Estimate (8:15)
(Oct)

Initial Claims (8:30)

12/10	368	12/24	387
12/17	366	12/31	372

ISM Non-Manufacturing (10:00)

	Total	Prices
Oct	52.9	57.1
Nov	52.0	62.5
Dec	52.6	61.2

Monthly Chain Store Sales
(Dec)

6

Unemployment Rate (8:30)

Jul	9.1%	Oct	8.9%
Aug	9.1%	Nov	8.7%
Sep	9.0%	Dec	8.5%

Employment Report (8:30)

	Payrolls (Thous.)	Weekly Hours	Hourly Earnings
Oct	112	34.4	0.3%
Nov	100	34.3	unch
Dec	200	34.4	0.2%

Rosengren Speech (10:20)
(Hartford)

Duke Speech (12:40)
(Richmond)

Raskin Speech (13:00)
(Baltimore)

Saturday:

Raskin Speech (12:40)
(Washington)

Bullard Speech (18:00)
(Chicago)

Indicator Highlights

A big indicator for the Fed now is Retail Sales (Thurs., Jan. 12, 8:30 a.m.), a key indicator for consumption, sometimes marking well the direction of aggregate consumer spending. The consumer is central to the expansion, its risks, and extent. The Trade Balance (Fri., Jan. 13, 8:30 a.m.) and its track of exports and imports can indicate the strength of the global economy. The Reuters/University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index (Fri., Jan. 13, 9:55 a.m.) will provide an initial look at consumer attitudes in December. Consumer sentiment retreated sharply on concerns over the economic outlook and policy makers' wrangling over the debt ceiling, but appears to have bottomed. Inflation expectations in the survey are also important, particularly for the Fed.

The Producer Price Index (Weds., Jan. 18, 8:30 a.m.) should be watched for further signs that commodity price inflation is abating. Industrial Production & Capacity Utilization (Weds, Jan. 18, 9:15 a.m.) will give a detailed read on industrial-side activity. Also of interest is slack, as measured by capacity utilization. The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) (Thurs., Jan. 19, 8:30 a.m.) is important for its overall and "core" readings on inflation, the latter for the Fed. Housing Starts (Thurs., Dec. 19, 8:30 a.m.) will provide a forward look at residential construction, a component of real GDP, though less than 3% of it now. Builders remain pessimistic about demand prospects. Existing Home Sales (Fri., Jan. 20, 10:00 a.m.) will offer a glimpse of demand conditions in the broad housing market. Underlying demand for homes appears to have stabilized, but at a low level

Indicator	Forecast	Consensus	Analysis
Wholesale Inventories	+0.6%	+0.5%	Growth slows sharply from month before.
Advance Retail Sales			
Total	+0.2%	+0.3%	Medium-sized increases in most categories. Holiday sales satisfactory.
Ex-Auto	+0.3%	+0.3%	
Business Inventories, Sales			
Inventories	+0.5%	+0.4%	Inventory growth slightly exceeds sales growth.
Sales	+0.3%		
I/S	1.273		
Treasury Statement	-$70.0 Billion	-$80.0 Billion	Economic growth narrows deficit modestly.
Monthly Money (SA)			
M1	+$2.3		M2 growth moderates, as M1 stagnates.
M2	+$21.5 Billion		
Import Prices (Non-Fuel, Y/Y)	+3.5%		Dollar firming on year-to-year basis, materials prices less firm.
Trade Balance (BOP Basis)			
Total	-$44.5	-$45.0	Imports rise, exports stable.
Merchandise	-$59.8		
Services	+$15.3		
U. of M. Consumer Sentiment Index (Final)	71.5	71.5	Improvement slows after two large increases.
U. of M. Inflation Expectations (Prelim.)			
1-Yr Ahead (Median)	3.1%		Continuing stable.
5-Yr Ahead (Median)	2.7%		
Empire State Manufacturing Survey			
Total	11.6		Strengthening activity to mid-2011 levels.
Prices	22.1		Prices move upward gradually.
Producer Price Index			
Total	-0.1%		Energy prices take a step down this month. Elsewhere, modestly firmer.
Ex-Food & Energy	+0.1%		
Industrial Production	+0.6%		A solid rebound.
Capacity Utilization	78.3%		Rising again
NAHB Housing Market Index	23		Continues momentum upward.
Consumer Price Index			
Total	+0.1%		Retail gasoline prices fall. Service price inflation steady to lower.
Ex-Food & Energy	+0.2%		
Housing Starts (Units, SAAR)	695,000		More strength following large run-up in November.
Housing Permits (Units, SAAR)	730,000		Moderate increase in housing permits.
Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Survey			
Total	8.9		Growth a bit narrower, but broadening over time.
Prices	23.0		Prices move upward following a choppy half-year.
Existing Home Sales (Units, SAAR)	4.500 Million		Modest increase.

Assessment

Economy has firmed nicely, late Q3 and Q4. Q4 real GDP track 3.5%+ with underpinnings better and self-sustaining. "Off-shore" risks to U.S. still, from European downturn and weaker growth in Asia. Europe recession for Q4 and Q1 in-place. Super-Committee breakdown a disappointment, leaving "on books" a Draconian fiscal contraction starting in 2013. Washington surely will change this. Fed likely to continue pause on easing, neither easing more nor exiting for quite awhile. Reacceleration of U.S. economy notable to Fed, but will be cautious given previous premature expectations on a better economy.

Decision Economics, Inc.
555 5th Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10017
Telephone: 212-884-9440
Facsimile: 212-884-9451

Decision Economics, Inc.
288 Bishopsgate, 3rd Floor
London EC2M 4QB
Telephone: 011-44-20-7814-6706
Facsimile: 011-44-20-7959-3344

Decision Economics, Inc.
One Boston Place, 16th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Telephone: 617-994-0500
Facsimile: 617-994-0501/0502

Decision Economics, Inc.
2 North La Salle, Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60602
Telephone: 312-476-7504

© 2011. Decision Economics, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the copyright owner is prohibited.