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Forecast Calendar

August 10, 2012

United States

Economic Indicators—Schedule and Forecasts

Sinai/Ellis/Husby

August 13 – 24, 2012

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

13

3-and 6-Month Bills (11:30)
$60.0 Billion

14

ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales (7:45) (8/11)

Producer Price Index (8:30)

	Total	Ex-F&E
Jun	0.1%	0.2%
Jul (f)	**0.3%**	**0.2%**
Jul (c)	**0.2%**	**0.2%**

Advance Retail Sales (8:30)

	Total	Ex-Auto
Jun	-0.5%	-0.4%
Jul (f)	**0.1%**	**0.2%**
Jul (c)	**0.3%**	**0.4%**

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55) (8/11)

Business Inventories, Sales

(10:00)	Inven.	Sales	I/S
May	0.3%	-0.1%	1.27
Jun (f)	**0.1%**	**-0.4%**	**1.26**
Jun (c)	**0.2%**		

4-Week Bill (11:30)
$40.0 Billion (f)

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Consumer Price Index (8:30)

	Total	Ex-F&E
Jun	unch	0.2%
Jul (f)	**0.1%**	**0.2%**
Jul (c)	**0.2%**	**0.2%**

Empire State Manufacturing Survey

(8:30)	Total	Prices
Jul	7.4	7.4
Aug (f)	**7.8**	**7.6**
Aug (c)	**7.0**	

Monthly TIC flows (9:00) (Jun)

Industrial Production & Capacity Utilization (9:15)

	Prod.	Util.
Jun	0.4%	78.9%
Jul (f)	**0.5%**	**79.2%**
Jul (c)	**0.5%**	**79.2%**

NAHB Housing Market Index (10:00)

Apr	24	Jul	35
May	28	**Aug (f)**	**33**
Jun	29	**Aug (c)**	**34**

Kocherlakota Speech (20:00)
(Minot, ND: Fed Overview)

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

	Starts	Permits
Jun	760	755
Jul (f)	**750**	**735**
Jul (c)	**757**	**766**

Initial Claims (8:30)

7/28	367	**8/11 (f)**	**360**
8/4	361	**8/11 (c)**	**364**

Philadelphia Fed Survey (10:00)

	Total	Prices
Jul	-12.9	3.7
Aug (f)	**-8.6**	**2.8**
Aug (f)	**-5.0**	

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

	M1	M2
May	2246.1	9897.2
Jun	2256.1	9944.4
Jul (f)	**2320.3**	**10021.0**

Kocherlakota Speech (20:00)
(Williston, ND: Fed Overview)

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

Apr	76.4	Jul	72.3
May	79.3	**Aug (f)**	**73.0**
Jun	73.2	**Aug (c)**	**72.0**

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

	1-Year	5-Year
Jun	3.1%	2.8%
Jul	3.0%	2.7%
Aug (f)	**3.0%**	**2.7%**

Leading Indicators (10:00)

Mar	0.2%	Jun	-0.3%
Apr	-0.1%	**Jul (f)**	**0.3%**
May	0.3%	**Jul (c)**	**0.2%**

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3-and 6-Month Bills (11:30)
$60.0 Billion (f)

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ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales (7:45) (8/18)

Lockhart Speech (8:45) (U.S. Outlook and Implications for Latin America, Atlanta)

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55) (8/18)

4-Week and 1-Year Bills (11:30)
$40.0 Billion (f)

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

Feb	4.60	May	4.62
Mar	4.47	Jun	4.37
Apr	4.62	**Jul (f)**	**4.50**

FOMC Minutes (14:00)
(July 31-August 1 Meeting)

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Initial Claims (8:30)

7/28	367	**8/11 (f)**	**360**
8/4	361	**8/18 (f)**	**360**

New Home Sales (10:00)
(Units, Thousands, SAAR)

Feb	366	May	382
Mar	352	Jun	350
Apr	358	**Jul (f)**	**363**

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Durable Goods (8:30)

	Orders	Ex-Def.	Ships.
May	1.5%	0.9%	1.1%
Jun	1.3%	-1.0%	-0.1%
Jul (f)	**3.0%**	**3.0%**	**0.5%**

Recent History-Latest Results

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3-and 6-Month Bills (11:30)
$60.0 Billion

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ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales (7:45) (8/4)

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55) (8/4)

4-Week Bill (11:30)
$40.0 Billion

3- Year Note (13:00)
$32.0 Billion

Consumer Credit (15:00)
($ Billions, Chg.)

Jan	15.6	Apr	10.0
Feb	8.8	May	16.7
Mar	12.8	Jun	6.5

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Productivity and Costs (8:30)

(Prelim)	Prod.	Comp.	ULC
11:Q4	1.2%	-0.3%	-1.5%
12:Q1	-0.5%	5.1%	5.6%
12:Q2	1.6%	3.3%	1.7%

10- Year Note (13:00)
$24.0 Billion

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

	Total	Merch.	Serv.
Apr	-50.6	-65.2	14.6
May	-48.0	-62.9	14.9
Jun	-42.9	-57.5	14.6

Initial Claims (8:30)

7/14	388	7/28	367
7/21	357	8/4	361

Wholesale Inventories (10:00)

Jan	0.6%	Apr	0.5%
Feb	0.9%	May	unch
Mar	0.3%	Jun	-0.2%

30- Year Bond (13:00)
$16.0 Billion

10

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

Feb	2.4%	May	0.9%
Mar	2.0%	Jun	0.6%
Apr	1.3%	Jul	unch

Treasury Statement (14:00)
($ Billions)

	2012	2011
May	-124.6	-57.6
Jun	-59.7	-43.1
Jul	-69.6	-129.4

Indicator Highlights

United States

The Producer Price Index (Tue., August 14, 8:30 a.m.) should be watched for further signs that commodity price inflation is abating. A big number for the Fed now is Retail Sales (Tue., August 14, 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 Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) (Wed., August 15, 8:30 a.m.) is important for its overall and "core" readings on inflation, the latter for the Fed. The Empire State Manufacturing (Wed., August 15, 8:30 a.m.) and Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing (Thu., August 16, 10:00 a.m.) surveys are important gauges of regional manufacturing activity that can foreshadow the national picture. Trouble on exports, tied to the global economy, would show up here. Industrial Production & Capacity Utilization (Wed., August 15, 9:15 a.m.) will give a detailed read on industrial-side activity and capacity use progress. Slack, as measured by capacity utilization, is of interest. Housing Starts (Thu., August 16, 8:30 a.m.) will provide a forward look at residential construction, a component of real GDP, though less than 3% now; five years ago it was 6%. The Reuters/University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index (Fri., August 17, 9:55 a.m.) will give a initial look at consumer attitudes in August.

Existing Home Sales (Wed., Aug. 22, 10:00 a.m.) track completed transactions in the major part of the housing market, while New Home Sales (Thu., Aug. 23, 10:00) give a very prompt reading on buying decisions in the sector which generates new construction.

Indicator	Forecast	Consensus	Analysis
Producer Price Index			
Total	+0.3%	+0.2%	Energy prices firm up a bit.
Ex-Food & Energy	+0.2%	+0.2%	
Advance Retail Sales			
Total	+0.1%	+0.3%	Very moderate underlying growth.
Ex-Auto	+0.2%	+0.4%	
Business Inventories, Sales			
Inventories	+0.1%	+0.2%	Inventories up slightly, while sales fall.
Sales	-0.4%		
I/S	1.26		
Consumer Price Index			
Total	+0.1%	+0.2%	Gasoline prices dip. Elsewhere, very mild increases.
Ex-Food & Energy	+0.2%	+0.2%	
Empire State Manufacturing Survey			
Total	7.8	7.0	Activity strengthens but remains sluggish.
Prices	7.6		Very slight increase in prices but still near low for the year.
Industrial Production	+0.5%	+0.5%	Not bad in manufacturing, utility output up on high July temperatures.
Capacity Utilization	79.2%	79.2%	Moving up slowly.
NAHB Housing Market Index	33	34	Modest move downward from a rather high 35 in July.
Housing Starts (Units, SAAR)	750,000	757,000	Some slowdown from strong activity for both starts and permits.
Housing Permits (Units, SAAR)	735,000	766,000	
Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Survey			
Total	-8.6	-5.0	Activity declines for fourth consecutive month.
Prices	2.8		Prices rise, but by less than in preceding month.
Monthly Money (SA)			
M1	+$64.2		Jump higher.
M2	+$76.6 Billion		
U. of M. Consumer Sentiment Index (Prelim)	73.0	72.0	Holding steady.
U. of M. Inflation Expectations (Prelim.)			
1-Yr Ahead (Median)	3.0%		No expectations shift.
5-Yr Ahead (Median)	2.7%		
Leading Indicators	+0.3%	+0.2%	Modest rebound.
Existing Home Sales (Units, SAAR)	4.50 million		Rather small upward movement.
New Home Sales (Units, SAAR)	363,000		Modest Increase in sales.
Durable Goods			
Orders	+3.0%		A surge in commercial aircraft orders
Ex-Defense	+3.0%		
Shipments	+0.5%		

Assessment

Economy momentum diminished further in Q2, coming in at 1½%. Pick-up in residential construction has reflected pent-up demands. But consumption "pillar of strength" for economy looks suspect. "Off-shore" risks to U.S. from European recession and ongoing weaker growth in Asia showing up in exports and trade and some in PM data. The look ahead, six months and more out, is better. Europe recession for Q4, Q1 and Q2, now looks longer, maybe deeper—the biggest issue for global economy. Fed continues alert on unemployment being too high, and the likelihood of another balance sheet easing baked-in-cake, but timing, format, extent murky. Too many unknowns still for markets.

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