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

Forecast Calendar

September 7, 2012

United States

Economic Indicators—Schedule and Forecasts
September 10 – 21, 2012

Sinai/Ellis/Pumphrey

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

10

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

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

Mar	12.8	Jun	6.5
Apr	8.5	**Jul (f)**	**8.0**
May	16.7	**Jul (c)**	**9.6**

11

ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales
(7:45) (9/8)

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

	Total	Merch.	Serv.
Jun	-42.9	-57.5	14.6
Jul (f)	**-44.1**	**-58.8**	**14.7**
Jul (c)	**-44.4**		

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55)
(9/8)

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

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

12

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

Mar	2.0%	Jun	0.6%
Apr	1.3%	Jul	unch
May	1.0%	**Aug (f)**	**unch**

Wholesale Inventories (10:00)

Mar	0.3%	Jun	-0.2%
Apr	0.5%	**Jul (f)**	**0.3%**
May	unch	**Jul (f)**	**0.3%**

10-Year Note (13:00)
$21.0 Billion

13

Producer Price Index (8:30)

	Total	Ex-F&E
Jul	0.3%	0.4%
Aug (f)	**1.5%**	**0.2%**
Aug (c)	**1.2%**	**0.2%**

Initial Claims (8:30)

8/25	377	**9/8 (f)**	**370**
9/1	365	**9/8 (c)**	**370**

FOMC Meeting & Statement
(12:30) (Easing measures announced on weak economy and inflation relative to target. QE laid out as coming if necessary and dependent on data.)

30-Year Bond (13:00)
$13.0 Billion

Treasury Statement (14:00)
($ Billions)

	2012	2011
Jul	-69.6	-129.4
Aug (f)	**-125.0**	-134.1
Aug (c)	**-150.0**	

FOMC Central Tendency Forecasts
(14:00) (Downgraded)

Bernanke Press Conference (14:15)

14

Consumer Price Index (8:30)

	Total	Ex-F&E
Jul	unch	0.1%
Aug (f)	**0.8%**	**0.2%**
Aug (c)	**0.6%**	**0.2%**

Advance Retail Sales (8:30)

	Total	Ex-Auto
Jul	0.8%	0.8%
Aug (f)	**1.1%**	**1.1%**
Aug (c)	**0.7%**	**0.6%**

Industrial Production
& Capacity Utilization (9:15)

	Prod.	Util.
Jul	0.7%	79.3%
Aug (f)	**-0.2%**	**79.0%**
Aug (c)	**unch**	**79.2%**

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

May	79.3	Aug	74.3
Jun	73.2	**Sep (f)**	**74.6**
Jul	72.3	**Sep (c)**	**74.0**

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

	1-Year	5-Year
Jul	3.0%	2.7%
Aug	3.6%	3.0%
Sep (f)	**3.5%**	**3.0%**

Business Inventories, Sales
(10:00) Inven. Sales I/S

Jun	0.1%	-1.1%	1.29
Jul (f)	**0.3%**	**1.0%**	**1.25**
Jul (c)	**0.3%**		

Lockhart Speech (13:00)
(Employment Consequences of the Recession, Atlanta Fed)

17

Empire State Manufacturing
Survey

(8:30)	Total	Prices
Jul	7.4	7.4
Aug	-5.9	16.5
Sep (f)	**3.7**	**16.5**

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

18

ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales
(7:45) (9/15)

Evans Speech (8:00)
(Current Economic Issues; Ann Arbor, MI)

Current Account ($ Billions) (8:30)

11:Q3	-108.2	12:Q1	-137.3
11:Q4	-118.7	**12:Q2 (f)**	**-129.0**

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55)
(9/15)

Monthly TIC flows (9:00) (Jul)

NAHB Housing Market Index
(10:00)

Apr	24	Jul	35
May	28	Aug	37
Jun	29	**Sep (f)**	**36**

1-Year Bill (11:30)
$25.0 Billion (t)

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

19

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

	Starts	Permits
Jun	754	760
Jul	746	811
Aug (f)	**752**	**780**

George Speech (9:45)
(Future of Workforce Development; Kansas City Fed)

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

Mar	4.47	Jun	4.37
Apr	4.62	Jul	4.47
May	4.62	**Aug (f)**	**4.52**

20

Rosengren Speech (7:45)
(Outlook; Quincy, MA)

Initial Claims (8:30)

8/25	377	**9/8 (f)**	**370**
9/1	365	**9/15 (f)**	**365**

Lockhart Speech (9:30)
(Kansas City Fed Conference)

Philadelphia Fed Survey (10:00)

	Total	Prices
Jul	-12.9	3.7
Aug	-7.1	11.2
Sep (f)	**3.8**	**12.2**

Leading Indicators (10:00)

Mar	0.2%	Jun	-0.4%
Apr	-0.1%	Jul	0.4%
May	0.3%	**Aug (f)**	**-0.1%**

Kocherlakota Speech (12:30)
(Ironwood Township, MI)

10-Year TIPS (13:00)
$15.0 Billion (t)

Bullard Speech (18:30)
(Lecture; South Bend, IN)

21

Lockhart Speech (12:40)
(Economic Policy and Outlook; Atlanta)

Recent History-Latest Results

3

Holiday

4

ISM Manufacturing Survey (10:00)

	Total	Prices
Jun	49.7	37.0
Jul	49.8	39.5
Aug	49.6	54.0

Construction Expenditure (10:00)

Feb	-0.5%	May	1.7%
Mar	-0.3%	Jun	0.4%
Apr	0.9%	Jul	-0.9%

Light Vehicle Sales (17:00)
(Units, Millions, SAAR)

	Total	Domestic	Import
Jun	14.3	11.3	3.0
Jul	14.1	11.0	3.1
Aug	14.5	11.5	3.0

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

5

ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales
(7:45) (9/1)

Productivity and Costs (8:30)

(Final)	Prod.	Comp.	ULC
12:Q1	-0.5%	5.1%	5.6%
12:Q2 (p)	1.6%	3.3%	1.7%
12:Q2 (f)	2.2%	3.7%	1.5%

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55)
(9/1)

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

6

ADP Employment Estimate (8:15)
(Aug)

Initial Claims (8:30)

8/11	369	8/25	377
8/18	374	9/1	365

ISM Non-Manufacturing

(10:00)	Total	Prices
Jun	52.1	48.9
Jul	52.6	54.9
Aug	53.7	64.3

7

Unemployment Rate (8:30)

Mar	8.2%	Jun	8.2%
Apr	8.1%	Jul	8.3%
May	8.2%	Aug	8.1%

Employment Report (8:30)

	Payrolls (Thous.)	Weekly Hours	Hourly Earnings
Jun	45	34.5	0.3%
Jul	141	34.4	0.1%
Aug	96	34.4	unch

Indicator Highlights

United States

The Trade Balance (Tue., Sept. 11, 8:30 a.m.) and its track of exports and imports show the impact of the global economy on the U.S. The Producer Price Index (Thurs., Sept. 13, 8:30 a.m.) should be watched for further signs that commodity price inflation is abating. The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) (Fri., Sept. 14, 8:30 a.m.) is important for its overall and "core" readings on inflation, the latter for the Fed. A big number for the Fed now is Retail Sales (Fri., Sept. 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. Industrial Production & Capacity Utilization (Fri., Sept. 14, 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. The Reuters/University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index (Fri., Sept. 14, 9:55 a.m.) will give an initial look at consumer attitudes in September.

The Empire State Manufacturing (Mon., Sept. 17, 8:30 a.m.) and Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing (Thurs., Sept. 20, 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. Housing Starts (Wed., Sept. 19, 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%. Existing Home Sales (Wed., Sept. 19, 10:00 a.m.) tracks completed transactions in the major part of the housing market.

Indicator	Forecast	Consensus	Analysis
Consumer Credit	+$8.0 Billion	+$9.6 Billion	Moderate-sized gain.
Trade Balance (BOP Basis)			
Total	-$44.1	-$44.4	Exports weaken a bit.
Merchandise	-$58.8		
Services	$14.7 Billion	Billion	
Import Prices (Non-Fuel, Y/Y)	unch		Momentarily stable.
Wholesale Inventories	+0.3%	+0.3%	Wholesale inventories rebound from decline in June.
Producer Price Index			
Total	+1.5%	+1.2%	Gasoline prices surge.
Ex-Food & Energy	+0.2%	+0.2%	
Treasury Statement	-$125.0 Billion	-$150.0 Billion	Calendar shift balloons deficit.
Consumer Price Index			
Total	+0.8%	+0.6%	Gasoline price jumps.
Ex-Food & Energy	+0.2%	+0.2%	
Advance Retail Sales			
Total	+1.1%	+0.7%	Price-driven rise in service station sales, strong autos, and solid elsewhere.
Ex-Auto	+1.1%	+0.6%	
Industrial Production	-0.2%	unch	Manufacturing decline. Auto related.
Capacity Utilization	79.0%	79.2%	Eases back.
U. of M. Consumer Sentiment Index (Prelim)	74.6	74.0	Very modest rebound is likely.
U. of M. Inflation Expectations (Prelim.)			
1-Yr Ahead (Median)	3.5%		Slight cooling in near-term expectations, but quantum step last month sticks.
5-Yr Ahead (Median)	3.0%		
Business Inventories, Sales			
Inventories	+0.3%	+0.3%	Inventories under close control—a positive.
Sales	+1.0%		
I/S	1.25		
Empire State Manufacturing Survey			
Total	3.7		Substantial increase from sharp decline in August.
Prices	16.5		Prices stable for September, with further advances likely.
Current Account	-$129.0 Billion		Narrows on improved goods and services trade; still worse than 2011Q4 figure.
NAHB Housing Market Index	36		Small decline following upward bounces in July and August.
Housing Starts (Units, SAAR)	752,000		Rebound from decline in July.
Housing Permits (Units, SAAR)	780,000		Permits ease following large bounce in July.
Existing Home Sales (Units, SAAR)	4.52 Million		Narrow range of movement since March.
Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Survey			
Total	3.8		Rebound to positive territory.
Prices	12.2		Prices rebound a little more, but not much.
Leading Indicators	-0.1%		Real indicators deteriorating, financial indicators still strong.

Assessment

Q3 track on U.S. economy a little stronger than first half—relative strengths: consumption, housing, business equipment spending. Pick-up in residential construction reflecting long, long period of low interest rates and easy monetary policy. "Off-shore" risks to U.S. from ongoing European recession and 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—biggest issue for global economy. Federal Reserve sure to ease some on "grave" situation in labor market. 45% to 55% chance of expanding Fed balance sheet.

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

© 2012. Decision Economics, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the copyright owner is prohibited.