

THE DAY AHEAD

MARKET RECAP at 4 pm ET

Stocks fell and **Treasury prices** rose as investors remained skeptical about the Republicans' efforts to pass the tax bill. **Gold** rose benefiting from weakness in the **dollar**. **Oil** prices were up.

STOCKS	Close	Chng	%Chng	Yr-high	Yr-low
DJIA	23358.52	-99.84	-0.43	23602.12	18825.89
Nasdaq	6782.79	-10.50	-0.15	6806.67	5397.99
S&P 500	2578.82	-6.82	-0.26	2597.02	2245.13
Toronto	15998.57	63.20	0.40	16131.79	14672.79
FTSE	7380.68	-6.26	-0.08	7598.99	7093.57
Eurofirst	1509.10	-4.32	-0.29	1564.80	1420.78
Nikkei	22396.80	45.68	0.20	23382.15	18224.68
Hang Seng	29199.04	180.28	0.62	29320.03	21883.82

TREASURIES	Yield	Price
10-year	2.3470	4 /32
2-year	1.7255	-1 /32
5-year	2.0583	1 /32
30-year	2.7809	16 /32

FOREX	Last	% Chng
Euro/Dollar	1.1793	0.20
Dollar/Yen	112.07	-0.87
Sterling/Dollar	1.3212	0.14
Dollar/CAD	1.2759	0.03
TR/HKEX RMB	95.27	0.03

COMMODITIES (\$)	Price	Chng	% chng
Front Month Crude /barrel	56.59	1.45	2.63
Spot gold (NY/oz)	1293.88	15.48	1.21
Copper U.S. (front month/lb)	0.0306	0.0002	0.69
Reuters/Jefferies CRB Index	193.12	2.18	1.14

S&P 500	Price	\$ Chng	% Chng
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GAINERS

Foot Locker	40.82	8.97	28.16
Viacom	26.15	2.46	10.38
Ross Stores	72.25	6.56	9.99
Gap	29.39	1.91	6.95

LOSERS

Cummins	159.41	-7.72	-4.62
PACCAR Inc	66.69	-3.01	-4.32
SCANA Corp	43.44	-1.56	-3.47
Cognizant Technology Solutions	72.91	-2.32	-3.08

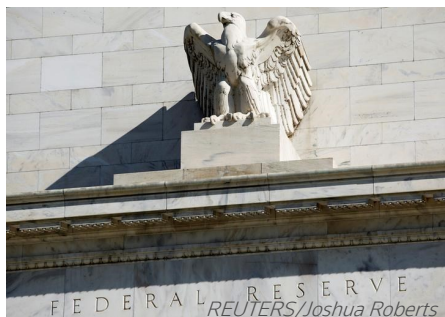
Coming Up - On Monday

ECB President **Mario Draghi** is scheduled to speak to the European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs committee. Meanwhile, ECB executive board member **Sabine Lautenschlager** will speak at IIF European CRO Forum in Frankfurt

LIVECHAT - CRUDE FOCUS

This week we talk about the black gold - crude. Crude is lively again and experts have started calling for new levels on the upside. Can it cross past \$60/bbl? We talk to Ekpen Omonbude, petroleum and mining economist, The Commonwealth. (1115 ET/1615 GMT) To join, [click here](#)

Coming Up - Week Ahead



U.S. Federal Reserve's **Federal Open Market Committee** will release the **minutes** from its October policy meeting on Wednesday. The policymakers kept interest rates unchanged during the meeting and pointed to strong economic growth and a strengthening labor market. Also scheduled on the day is the **European Central Bank (ECB) Governing Council** meeting in which no interest rate announcements are expected. ECB releases the **accounts** of its October policy meeting on Thursday.

Housing and **manufacturing** data dominate a holiday-shortened week. The National Association of Realtors is expected to report on Tuesday that

existing home sales increased 0.7 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.43 million units in October. Data from the Commerce Department on Wednesday will likely show that new orders for **non-defense capital goods orders excluding aircraft**, a closely watched proxy for business spending plans, rose 0.5 percent in October after surging 1.7 percent in September. Orders for **durable goods** are also forecast increasing 0.3 percent after rising 2.0 percent in September.

Cloud-based software maker **Salesforce.com Inc** is expected to report a rise in its third-quarter revenue and profit on Tuesday helped by strong demand for its cloud based sales and marketing software. The company recently partnered with Google's cloud platform G Suite, to support its rapidly growing global customer base.

Fed Chair **Janet Yellen** participates in moderated discussion on Tuesday, "In Conversation with Mervyn King," at NYU Stern, New York. On Saturday, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco President **John C. Williams** is expected to participate in a panel discussion on

KEY ECONOMIC EVENTS

Events	ET	Poll	Prior
Leading index change mm for Oct	1000	0.6 pct	-0.2 pct



interest rates at the 2017 Clausen Center Conference on Global Economic Issues.

The world's largest standalone medical device maker **Medtronic Plc**, which reported preliminary earnings earlier this month, is expected to report second-quarter results on Tuesday. Investors will focus on its full-year forecast after the company said the impact from Hurricane Maria was lower than initially anticipated.

Lowe's Cos reports third-quarter results on Tuesday and is expected to benefit from the surge in demand for emergency supplies like generators and home rebuilding materials spurred by hurricanes in the quarter. The home improvement retailer is taking steps to attract more contractor customers to cash in on demand from the increase in home renovation activity amid surging new home prices.

On Wednesday, **Deere & Co** is expected to report higher profit and revenue for the fourth quarter, as demand improves for its farm and construction equipment in international markets. Investors will look for comments on fiscal 2018 financial forecast.

Campbell Soup Co is scheduled to release its results on Tuesday. The company is expected to post revenue declines in the first quarter as the company was unable to reach an agreement with a key customer for a promotional program. Investors will be looking for any updates on the partnership negotiations ahead of the holiday season.

GameStop Corp will report its third-quarter results on Tuesday and is expected to report a fall in profit, hurt by lower sales of new gaming software and hardware. The company's mainstay videogame retail business continues to fall as players increasingly buy games online by downloading them, rather than visiting stores to buy game disks.

On Wednesday, UK finance minister **Philip Hammond** will deliver his **budget plans**, a key test for Britain's second-most powerful politician whose job may be on the line. He looks likely to have lost a lot of the war-chest he wanted to keep in reserve in case the economy needs helping through the Brexit challenge - Britain's budget forecasters have signaled they are likely to

revise down their productivity projections, meaning less growth in the economy and fewer tax revenues.

Mexico's central bank issues the **minutes** of its monetary policy meeting on Thursday. Separately, **Central Bank of Argentina** is scheduled to release its **monetary policy statement** on Tuesday.

Canada wholesale trade and **retail sales** for September will be the main economic indicators next week, with the reports due on Tuesday and Thursday, respectively. Analysts will look at both to see how the economy fared at the end of the third quarter, with growth expected to slow from the strong pace seen in the first half of the year.



Cans of Campbell's Soup are displayed in a supermarket in New York City, U.S. February 15, 2017. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

KEY RESULTS

Company Name*	Quarter	ET	Smart Estimates	EPS Estimates**	Year Ago	Rev Estimates (mln)
Intuit	Q1	AMC	\$0.04	\$0.05	\$0.06	\$85,616.00
Agilent Technologies	Q4	AMC	\$0.63	\$0.62	\$0.59	\$1,170.00

*Includes companies on S&P 500 index. **Estimates may be updated or revised; release times based on company guidance or past practice.

EPS and Revenue estimates are according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. Smart Estimates are according to Thomson Reuters StarMine.

Market Monitor

Wall Street ended the week on a sour note on Friday, with major indexes falling modestly as investors weighed the fate of the Republicans' tax overhaul plan. Investors have been hopeful that a tax bill under debate in Congress will boost corporate earnings and further fuel the stock market's record-setting run. The benchmark S&P 500 has rallied more than 15 percent this year, supported by corporate earnings growth and solid economic data. With nearly all of the S&P 500 companies reporting results, third-quarter earnings are expected to have climbed 8.2 percent, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. **Abercrombie & Fitch** jumped 23.9 percent and **Gap** rose 6.95 percent. The **Dow Jones Industrial Average** fell 0.43 percent to 23,358.21, the **S&P 500** lost 0.26 percent to 2,578.80 and the **Nasdaq Composite** dropped 0.15 percent to 6,782.79. For the week, the S&P fell 0.13 percent, the Dow Lost 0.27 percent and the Nasdaq gained 0.47 percent.

Treasury yields edged lower, in line with weakness on Wall Street and declines in German 10-year bond yields, as the yield curve continued to flatten following strong U.S. housing starts data for October. "The front end of the curve is building in the greater and greater probability of Fed rate hikes," said Tom Simons, money market economist at Jefferies in New York. "This week has been a big week for data prior to the December meeting, especially CPI (consumer price index). The CPI didn't necessarily reject the December rate hike thing, and so people are now more comfortable with that," he added. The upbeat U.S. housing data further flattened the yield curve. The gap between U.S. two-year and 10-year yields contracted. The difference, meanwhile, in five-year and 30-year yields narrowed. Despite the significant yield curve tightening this year, there is further scope to go, analysts said. The **10-year Treasury yield** fell to 2.470 percent, while prices rose 4/32. The **two-year** rose 1.7255 percent and prices fell 1/32. **Thirty-year bond yields** slid to 2.7801 percent, while prices rose 17/32.



A trader talks on the phone on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, November 8, 2017. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

The **dollar** fell against a basket of other major currencies, as Treasury yields slipped and investors remained skeptical of U.S. Republicans' efforts to pass tax cuts after a barren first year for the Trump administration in Congress. The **dollar index** was down 0.29 percent to 93.66. The **euro** was up 0.20 percent to \$1.1793. The greenback was down 0.87 percent against the Japanese **yen** to 112.07 yen. The dollar was also pressured by a report on Thursday that Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigators probing possible Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election had subpoenaed Trump's election campaign for documents. The dollar firmed briefly after data showed U.S. homebuilding jumped to a one-year high in October, but failed to hold gains.

Oil rose as a major U.S. crude pipeline was shut and traders anticipated an OPEC deal to extend curbs on production. "Market participants are closely watching the rising oil-production profile in the U.S., which will remain the predominant bearish factor," said Abhishek Kumar, senior energy analyst at Interfax Energy's Global Gas Analytics in London. U.S. energy

companies kept the oil rig count unchanged this week, General Electric's Baker Hughes energy services firm said. Some analysts expect a gradual decline in the fourth quarter. **Brent crude** was up 2.17 percent at \$62.69 a barrel while **U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude** rose 2.61 percent to \$56.58 per barrel.

Gold jumped as the dollar softened on uncertainty about the progress of a proposed overhaul of the U.S. tax code that would be the biggest since the 1980s. "With the ultimate fate of tax reform in Congress in serious doubt and the Alabama Senate race threatening to narrow the already wafer-thin GOP majority, sentiment has turned sharply against the dollar, which may finally allow gold to test key medium-term resistance at \$1,310 early next week," said Tai Wong, head of base and precious metals trading at BMO Capital Markets in New York. **Spot gold** was up 1.22 percent at \$1293.97 an ounce. **U.S. gold futures for December delivery** settled up 1.26 percent at \$1294.30 an ounce.

Top News

Tesla's unfettered ambition will drain finances -analysts

Tesla shares rose as analysts questioned how soon Chief Executive Elon Musk will have to ask creditors and shareholders for more capital to fund development of an electric semi truck, a new roadster and accelerated production of a high-volume electric sedan. Musk unveiled one flashy strategy for generating cash during the launch event Thursday for the Semi truck, surprising the audience with a prototype of a new generation of the Tesla Roadster. Musk promised the Roadster will be the fastest production car available. The first 1,000 cars will cost \$250,000 each, paid in full upfront, with later models starting at \$200,000. Those deposits would put \$250 million into Tesla's cash drawer today for a car that is likely to go into production in 2020. Tesla spent \$1.1 billion on its auto business in the third quarter, and expects expenses of \$1 billion in the current one. It had about \$3.5 billion in cash and cash equivalents as of Sept. 30. At the current cash-burn rate, it would likely be down to about \$1 billion in cash by the end of the first quarter. Separately, Wal-Mart Stores and J.B. Hunt Transport Services said they will order Tesla's electric semi trucks, boosting the automaker's effort to expand its reach beyond luxury cars and solar energy systems. Tesla's shares ended 0.82 percent higher at \$315.05

Abercrombie, Gap rebound spark positive trends in apparel

Abercrombie & Fitch's solid showing in the latest quarter and robust holiday season sales forecast reinforced a raft of earnings reports that suggest a turnaround in the apparel retailing sector. Abercrombie returned to same-store sales growth in the third quarter after more than a year of declines helped by Hollister, while Gap's quarterly revenue beat on Thursday was driven by strong demand for its low-priced Old Navy brand. The chief executives of Abercrombie and Gap cited improving traffic and spending at their stores and provided robust forecasts for the holiday quarter and the fiscal year. Abercrombie said earnings before one-time items was



Tesla's new electric semi truck is unveiled during a presentation in Hawthorne, California, November 16. REUTERS/Alexandria Sage

30 cents per share on net revenue of \$859.11 million. The company also forecast percentage growth of fourth-quarter comparable sales in the low-single digits and net sales in the mid-to-high-single digits, which translates to \$1.09 billion to \$1.13 billion.

Fox shares rise on signs of more takeover interest

Twenty-First Century Fox shares were up in trading after sources said both Comcast and Verizon Communications were interested in buying parts of its studio and TV operations. Buyers have expressed interest in Fox's production studios, cable networks FX and National Geographic, and international assets such as the Star network in India and Sky, sources told Reuters on Thursday. "Either Disney or Comcast would be a good fit, but its always about price and neither has to be a strategic buyer, only opportunistic," said JBL Advisors analyst Jeffrey Logsdon. Comcast, the largest cable provider in the United States, has steadily boosted its content ownership over the years and

buying Fox's assets would give it an international distribution footprint and strengthen its position against Disney. Pivotal Research analyst Brian Wieser remains uncertain as to whether the Murdoch family is seriously entertaining offers. Wieser surmised that all the interest in Fox by other companies probably came after they heard something regarding Disney's potential interest that was at least enough to take a meeting. Fox's shares closed 6.24 percent higher at \$31.15.

Apple pushes launch of HomePod smart speaker to early 2018

Apple has pushed the launch of its HomePod smart speaker to early next year from December, the company said, missing the holiday shopping season as the market for such devices becomes increasingly competitive. "We can't wait for people to experience HomePod ... but we need a little more time before it's ready for our customers. We'll start shipping in the U.S., UK and Australia in early 2018," an Apple spokeswoman said via email. Apple has forecast between

REUTERS/Stephen Lam



\$84 billion and \$87 billion in revenue for the holiday - mostly driven by sales of its \$999 iPhone X - so it's unlikely that missing a few weeks of sales of its \$349 speaker will affect its financial results, Bob O'Donnell, founder of Technalysis Research, said. "Last holiday season, smart speakers were huge, and this season they're going to be huge," O'Donnell said. With Apple's delay, "there will now be some people who make a different choice. The market's getting more and more competitive."

Broadcom closes \$5.5 billion Brocade deal

Broadcom said it closed its acquisition of network gear maker Brocade Communications Systems, giving it a larger share of the data center products market. Singapore-based Broadcom, formerly Avago Technologies, is trying to become the dominant chip supplier. It is known for its connectivity chips used in products ranging from mobiles to servers. California-based Brocade makes networking switches, software and storage products. With this deal, Broadcom will grab more data center products market share by using Brocade's fiber channel switches that speed up data transfer between servers and storage devices. It will also help the chipmaker dig deeper into the connected devices and cars market. Brocade's common stock will stop trading on Nasdaq and the firm will operate as a unit of Broadcom, the company said.

GE shares rise after CEO Flannery buys stock

Shares of General Electric opened higher after Chief Executive John Flannery disclosed that he bought 60,000 shares of the industrial conglomerate's stock. Flannery bought the shares on Wednesday

at \$18.27 apiece, a regulatory filing showed. Flannery's purchase comes when GE's shares are hovering around six-year lows following a poorly received overhaul plan that the 125-year old conglomerate unveiled on Monday. The announcement included a 50 percent cut to GE's dividend and a lower earnings forecast for 2018. GE shares fell 12.6 percent in the two days following the announcement. The stock, which has fallen 42.2 percent since the beginning of 2017, is the worst performer on the Dow Jones industrial average. DJI this year. However, GE's shares closed 0.22 percent lower at \$18.21.

Wireless carriers on mute as U.S. top court hears big privacy case

The U.S. Supreme Court is set to consider a major cellphone privacy case later this month, but leading players in the wireless industry that is at the center of the closely watched dispute are keeping their distance. The case, to be heard by the justices on Nov. 29, involves whether a warrant is required for authorities to obtain cellphone location information that could implicate criminal suspects, the latest in a string of Supreme Court cases on privacy rights in the digital age. Of the four major U.S. mobile phone carriers -- Verizon Communications, AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile US -- only Verizon has taken a stand in the case. Verizon joined a legal brief with technology companies including Google and Apple calling for stronger protections for customer data privacy.

Sports retail stocks jump after upbeat earnings

Shares of sports retailers soared on better-than-expected earnings from Foot Locker, Shoe Carnival and Hibbett Sports as the companies sold more premium shoes and cut stocks of low-margin ones. Brokerages Jefferies raised price target on Shoe Carnival's shares by \$2 to \$22 and Wedbush to \$27 on expectations of better performance in 2018. "It is clear to us the Shoe Carnival team is managing its business exceptionally well," Susquehanna analyst Sam Poser said. The strong results come at a time when many of its peers such as Sports Authority and Sports Chalet have gone bankrupt trying to beat competition from ecommerce sites that are

forcing retailers to cut prices and clear excess stocks. Shoe Carnival and Hibbett have raised their same-store sales forecasts, while Foot Locker said it expects to achieve or modestly exceed top- and bottom-line guidance for the fourth quarter provided earlier in August. Foot Locker's shares closed 28.16 percent higher at \$40.82. Shoe Carnival finished 29.67 percent up at \$26.75, while Hibbett Sports ended 15.15 percent higher at \$17.10.

U.S. car maker Ford to invest over 750 million euros in Valencia plant

Ford announced it would invest more than 750 million euros in its Spanish plant in the eastern region of Valencia to produce the new model of its Kuga SUV. The Valencia plant employs over 8,000 people and, in addition to the Kuga, makes the Mondeo, S-Max and Galaxy cars and two models of van - mostly for export. Kuga represents around half of the production of the Valencia plant. "This significant investment underlines Ford's commitment to Spain as one of its most important manufacturing sites in Europe," the Detroit-based company said in a statement. The investment in the Spanish plant continues a trend of auto production moving south or east in Europe, where wages tend to be lower. Separately, the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it was rejecting a petition by Ford Motor to delay recall of about 3 million vehicles with potentially defective air bag inflators to conduct additional testing.

Gulf carriers may be in focus under foreign airline U.S. tax exemption cut

A U.S. congressional proposal that would eliminate income tax exemptions for certain airlines could affect major Gulf carriers, potentially worsening an international spat between U.S. airlines and their Middle East rivals. The proposal, tucked deep in the Senate tax-cut plan, calls for airlines headquartered in foreign countries to pay the U.S. incorporate tax rate if: 1) the carrier's home country does not have an income tax treaty with the United States and 2) the carrier's country of origin has fewer than two arrivals and departures, per week, operated by major U.S. airlines.





A supporter of the Kenyan opposition National Super Alliance (NASA) coalition gestures during a rally in the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya, November 16. REUTERS/Baz Ratner

Insight and Analysis

Analysts flee Wall Street with gallows humor as research changes loom

Having covered financial stocks at big and small banks for more than two decades, David Hilder was accustomed to the ebb and flow of Wall Street job cuts and hiring sprees. But he threw in the towel as an analyst last year after deciding customers simply will not pay what it costs to produce research in the years ahead, especially after a regulation called MiFID II upended the pricing model. "It certainly seemed that the difficulty of being paid for research was going to increase, not decrease," said Hilder, who is now trying to reinvent himself as an investment banker. Major global investment banks have slashed their equity research budgets by more than half to \$3.4 billion in 2017.

Oil giants unlikely to share coal's fate, for now

The Norwegian sovereign wealth fund's proposal to ditch its oil and gas shares, though hugely symbolic in the battle against climate change, is unlikely to cause a rush to the exit by major investors in the sector in the short term. The move by the \$1 trillion fund, the world's largest, rattled stock markets, exposing what is seen as one of the biggest threats to companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil and BP as the world shifts towards renewable energy such as wind and solar. But in the meantime, expectations of growing global demand for oil and gas for decades to come mean reliance on these companies is likely to continue.

U.S. towns, cities fear taxpayer revolt if Republicans kill deduction

From Pataskala, Ohio, to Conroe, Texas, local government leaders worry that if Republican tax-overhaul plans moving through the U.S. Congress become law, it will be harder for them to pave streets, put out fires, fight crime and pay teachers. A tax plan approved by the House of Representatives on Thursday would sharply curtail a federal deduction that millions of Americans can now claim for tax payments to state, county, city and town governments. Ending that deduction, the local leaders say, could make their taxpayers, especially in high-tax communities, less likely to support future local tax increases or even tolerate local taxes at present levels.

CANADA

MARKET MONITOR

Canada's **main stock index** ended higher, helped by gains in its heavyweight financial shares and a bounce back in natural resource stocks after heavy losses earlier in the week.

Enbridge rose 1.93 percent. **Teck Resources** gained 3.40 percent. **Royal Bank of Canada** added 0.35 percent. **Bank of Montreal** was up 0.05 percent.

The **Toronto Stock Exchange's composite index** rose 0.401 percent to 15,998.57.

The **dollar** edged higher 0.02 percent against the **Canadian dollar** to C\$1.2758.

COMING UP - ON MONDAY

No major events are scheduled.

TSE's S&P/TSX composite	Price	\$ chng	% chng
GAINERS			
Nexgen Energy	2.99	0.24	8.73
Canopy Growth	18.45	1.19	6.89
Eldorado Gold	1.61	0.10	6.62
LOSERS			
New Flyer Industries	49.19	-1.10	-2.19
Peyto Exploration & Development	16.27	-0.35	-2.11
Premium Brands	97.23	-1.82	-1.84

Top News



Cooler Canada Oct inflation gives central bank room to wait on rates

Weaker energy prices pulled Canada's annual inflation rate lower in October, further distancing it from the Bank of Canada's target and giving the central bank room to wait until next year to raise interest rates again. The annual inflation rate decreased to 1.4 percent last month from 1.6 percent in September, Statistics Canada said, in line with economists' forecasts. The central bank's measures of core inflation were also muted. CPI common, which the central bank says is the best gauge of the economy's underperformance, edged up to 1.6 percent, while CPI median, which shows the median inflation rate across CPI components, dipped to 1.7 percent. "The moderate inflation pressures evident in the report reinforce the view that there's no urgency on the part of the Bank of Canada to tighten further," said Paul Ferley, assistant chief economist at Royal Bank Of Canada. The transportation component

contributed the most to the inflation rate, rising 3 percent on an annual basis, compared with September's 3.8 percent. CPI trim, which excludes upside and downside outliers, rounded out the central bank's three measures of underlying inflation and was unchanged at 1.5 percent.

More speeches from Bank of Canada not enough for markets

The decision this week by Canada's central bank to add more speeches from policymakers to its schedule after an interest rate decision will not do enough to provide better forward guidance on monetary policy, analysts said. Those who hoped the speeches would come before rate decisions as a way for the bank to prepare markets for changes in policy or tone were disappointed that the speeches will come after the so-called fixed announcement dates for rate decisions.

South Dakota pipeline spill hits TransCanada shares, Canada crude price

Canadian heavy crude prices and TransCanada Corp shares slid, the day after the Keystone pipeline spilled 5,000 barrels of oil in South Dakota as officials in Nebraska mulled whether to approve another pipeline proposed by the company. It was unclear when exports could resume on Keystone, and the leak gave ammunition to environmental groups and other U.S. opponents of another

pipeline proposed by TransCanada, the long-delayed Keystone XL. TransCanada said it had contained the leak in the town of Amherst, South Dakota, and was investigating the cause. It said the pipeline will be shut until it gets approval to restart from the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. In Nebraska, Keystone XL opponents seized on the spill as an example of its environmental risks. The Nebraska Public Service Commission, or PSC, is scheduled to announce a decision on Monday on whether Keystone XL is in the best interests of the state. Its decision focuses narrowly on whether the pipeline is in the public interest, not environmental questions. Meanwhile, no date has been set yet for a restart of the Keystone pipeline, a company spokesman said. Its shares ended 0.93 percent lower at C\$62.54.

BlackBerry COO Beard resigns to deal with family health issues -source

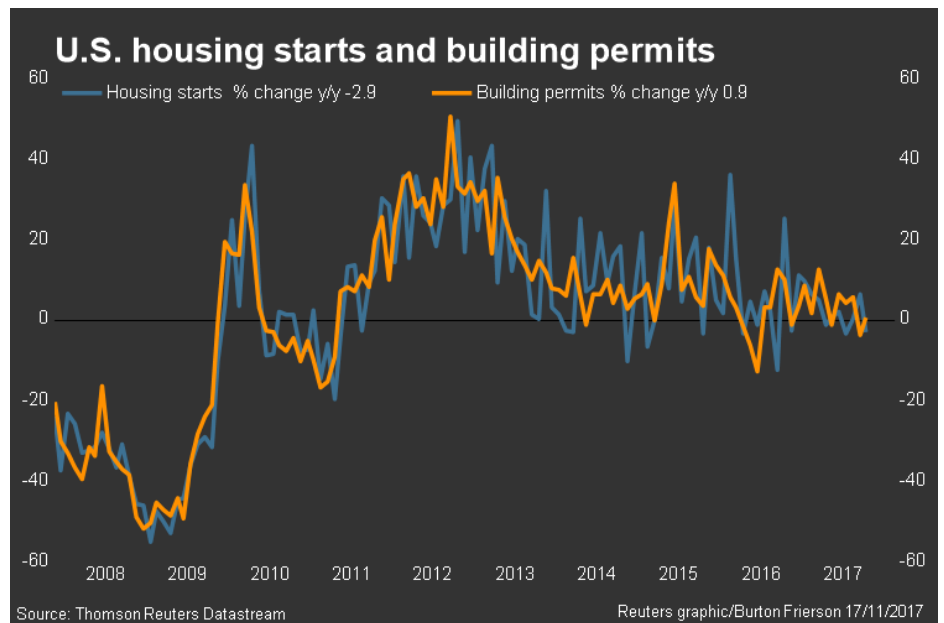
BlackBerry Chief Operating Officer Marty Beard has resigned from the Canadian software company, effective Dec. 1, to help family members deal with health issues, a person familiar with the plans told Reuters. The source did not say whether BlackBerry Chief Executive John Chen intended to name a new COO. Representatives with BlackBerry did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the departure.

WEALTH NEWS

HOMEBUILDING RISES

U.S. housing starts vault to one-year high; permits increase

Homebuilding jumped to a one-year high in October as disruptions caused by recent hurricanes in the South faded and communities in the region started replacing houses damaged by flooding. The sharp rebound in home construction reported by the Commerce Department was also driven by robust gains in the Northeast and Midwest regions. Housing starts surged 13.7 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.29 million units. That was the highest level since October 2016 and also the second -best reading in 10 years. Permits for future homebuilding increased 5.9 percent to a rate of 1.297 million units in October, the highest level since January.



CONSUMER LENDING CHIEF FIRED

Wells Fargo consumer lending head axed after disparaging regulators -source

Wells Fargo fired Franklin Codel, its head of consumer lending, over a conversation he had with a former employee about compensation in which he disparaged U.S. regulators, a person familiar with the matter said.

REUTERS SUMMIT

U.S. tax plan could cause sugar high, then economic slump

Slashing taxes may give the U.S. economy a temporary boost but the "sugar rush" may cause deeper problems ahead, investors at the Reuters Global Investment 2018 Outlook Summit in New York said.

EXECUTIVE QUILTS

Shell's long-standing head of crude trading Muller quits

Royal Dutch Shell's head of crude oil trading Mike Muller, has stepped down after 29 years with the company, an internal announcement reviewed by Reuters showed.

SETTLEMENT TALKS

Financial firms stall settlement talks amid U.S. consumer watchdog upheaval

The bargaining positions have shifted for financial firms in the crosshairs of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) after its director announced this week he would be leaving. The departure of Richard Cordray at the end of the month gives companies being pursued by the CFPB for alleged predatory lending practices added incentive to stall settlement talks until Republican President Donald Trump puts his own appointee in place, lawyers and analysts say.

NAFTA NEGOTIATIONS

Canada, Mexico try more flexibility as key NAFTA round opens

A key round of talks to update the NAFTA trade pact formally opened with Canada and Mexico seeking to show more flexibility about addressing hard line U.S. demands that they had previously dismissed as unworkable.

POLL

Major U.S. tax cuts not likely this year -economists

U.S. Republicans are not expected to push major tax cuts through Congress this year, according to a majority of economists in a Reuters poll, who in any case were skeptical that the legislation would provide a significant boost to the economy.

ON THE RADAR

Events	ET	Poll	Prior
Tue: National Activity Index for Oct	0830	--	0.17
Existing home sales for Oct	1000	5.43 mln	5.39 mln
Existing home sales percentage change for Oct	1000	0.7 pct	0.7 pct
Wed: Durable goods for Oct	0830	0.3 pct	2.0 pct
Durables ex-transport for Oct	0830	0.5 pct	0.7 pct
Durables ex-defense mm for Oct	0830	0.9 pct	1.9 pct
Nondefense cap ex-air for Oct	0830	0.4 pct	1.7 pct
Initial jobless claims	0830	240,000	249,000
Jobless claims 4-week average	0830	--	237,750
Continued jobless claims	0830	--	1.860 mln
U Mich Sentiment Final for Nov	1000	98.0	97.8
U Mich Conditions Final for Nov	1000	112.9	113.6
U Mich Expectations Final for Nov	1000	87.6	87.6
U Mich 1 year inflation final for Nov	1000	--	2.6 pct
U Mich 5 year inflation final for Nov	1000	--	2.5 pct
Fri: Markit Composite Flash PMI for Nov	0945	--	55.2
Markit Manufacturing PMI Flash for Nov	0945	54.9	54.6
Markit Services PMI Flash for Nov	0945	--	55.3
ECRI weekly index	1030	--	--
ECRI weekly annualized	1030	--	--

The Day Ahead - North America is compiled by Debanjan Bose and Benny Thomas in Bengaluru.

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