

# The Weekly Bottom Line

December 13, 2019

## Highlights of the Week

### United States

- The U.S. and China reached a partial trade deal. The U.S. will reduce tariffs from 15% to 7.5% on \$120 billion of Chinese imports and cancel the tariffs that were to be imposed on December 15<sup>th</sup>. In exchange, China will increase its imports of U.S. goods and services.
- American consumption remains healthy. While retail sales were soft in November, spending on services continues to be robust, leaving consumption tracking at 2-2.5% for the fourth quarter of 2019.
- The Conservative party won a majority in the UK election, paving the way for Brexit in January 2020. The next step of securing a trade deal with the EU will likely be more challenging.

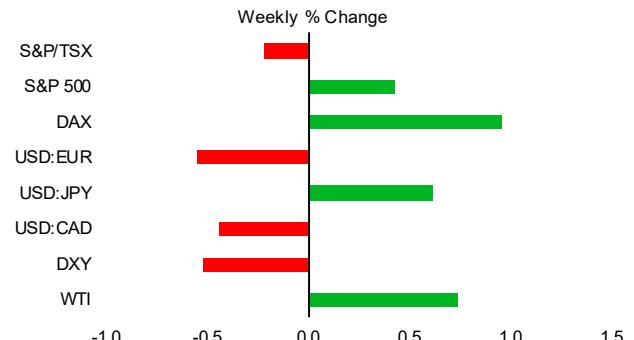
### Canada

- There were no major shocks in the economic data this week. Homebuilding ticked up a hair in November, and the cost of servicing household debt hit a new all-time high last quarter.
- Externally, amidst the crush of international headlines, a breakthrough on the 'new-NAFTA' was announced, addressing some lingering U.S. concerns. There is now a clear path to full ratification in early-2020.
- Bank of Canada Governor Poloz delivered his final speech of 2019. Careful neutrality in the remarks gave way to a hint of hawkishness during his media availability, suggesting the bar to future easing remains high.

This Week in the Markets				
	Current*	Week Ago	52-Week High	52-Week Low
<b>Stock Market Indexes</b>				
S&P 500	3157	3146	3169	2351
S&P/TSX Comp.	16956	16997	17115	13780
DAX	13293	13167	13293	10382
FTSE 100	7369	7240	7687	6585
Nikkei	24023	23354	24023	19156
<b>Fixed Income Yields</b>				
U.S. 10-yr Treasury	1.82	1.84	2.91	1.46
Canada 10-yr Bond	1.59	1.58	2.16	1.09
Germany 10-yr Bund	-0.29	-0.29	0.29	-0.71
UK 10-yr Gilt	0.79	0.77	1.35	0.41
Japan 10-yr Bond	-0.02	-0.01	0.06	-0.29
<b>Foreign Exchange Cross Rates</b>				
C\$ (USD per CAD)	0.76	0.75	0.77	0.73
Euro (USD per EUR)	1.11	1.11	1.15	1.09
Pound (USD per GBP)	1.33	1.31	1.33	1.20
Yen (JPY per USD)	109.2	108.6	113.6	105.3
<b>Commodity Spot Prices**</b>				
Crude Oil (\$US/bbl)	60.0	59.2	66.4	42.3
Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)	2.28	2.30	4.31	2.02
Copper (\$US/met. tonne)	6130.5	5962.0	6555.5	5584.5
Gold (\$US/troy oz.)	1475.8	1460.2	1552.4	1238.5

\*As of 11:28 AM on Friday. \*\*Oil-WTI, Cushing, Nat. Gas-Henry Hub, LA (Thursday close price). Copper-LME Grade A. Gold-London Gold Bullion. Source: Bloomberg.

### Markets Digesting Trade Deal News



Note: Data as of 12:34 PM ET, Friday, December 13, 2019.  
Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics

Global Official Policy Rate Targets	
	Current Target
Federal Reserve (Fed Funds Rate)	1.50 - 1.75%
Bank of Canada (Overnight Rate)	1.75%
European Central Bank (Refi Rate)	0.00%
Bank of England (Repo Rate)	0.75%
Bank of Japan (Overnight Rate)	-0.10%

Source: Central Banks.

## U.S. - Partial Trade Deal Cuts Tariffs

What a way to end the week. News of a potential phase one trade deal sent markets on a near-vertical climb. The S&P 500 hit a record-high upon digesting the news but fell back when more details emerged. For the week, it was up 0.8% at the time of writing.

Details of the deal are still to come, but the Office of the United States Trade Representative stated that the U.S. will reduce tariffs from 15% to 7.5% on \$120 billion of Chinese imports and cancel the tariffs that were to be imposed on December 15<sup>th</sup>. In exchange, China will substantially increase its imports of U.S. goods and services. We do not have any official figures on this, however. It is quite possible, that this “deal” is a head fake.

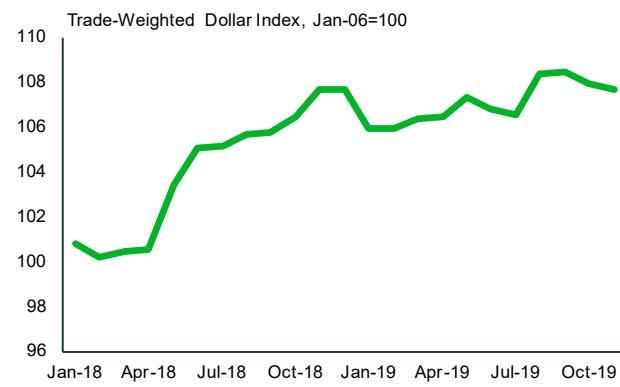
For the time being, with tariffs on Chinese consumer goods now off the table, U.S. retailers will be breathing sighs of relief, especially as retail sales growth has been slowing recently (Chart 1). Indeed, November data, released today, showed retail sales advanced by a soft 0.2% on a month-on-month basis. While spending on goods took a step down, consumption in services was buoyant in the third quarter. The Quarterly Services Survey had revenues in the services sector growing by 5.8% annualized. Overall, these data imply that consumption continues to drive the U.S. economy forward.

Even with all the vibrancy in spending, price pressures are muted. Consumer price inflation in November increased to 2.1% year-on-year from 1.8% in October, but this was mainly due to energy prices. Stripping out energy and food

**Chart 1: Retail Sales Growth is Slowing**



**Chart 2: U.S. Dollar Continues to Appreciate**



prices, core price inflation remained steady at 2.3%. Past tariffs, too, appear to be not have been fully passed through to consumers. This can be attributed to U.S. retailers absorbing higher prices, as well as a rising U.S. dollar (Chart 2).

Taking stock of the developments for the week, the Fed will be more than comfortable with their decision to take their foot off the pedal on Wednesday. Consumption remains robust, inflation pressures are muted, and past interest rate cuts are still working their way through the economy. On top of this, global uncertainty could be abating. Specifically, surrounding Brexit.

The Conservative Party won a resounding majority in the United Kingdom election. With this result in hand, Prime Minister Boris Johnson should be able to lead the country out of the EU. Anticipating this outcome, the pound appreciated, and UK bond yields moved higher. But leaving the EU is only the first hurdle. Next on the agenda is for the parties to agree on a trade deal. This will likely lead to a messier second chapter of the Brexit saga (see [commentary](#)).

The end game on Brexit and the China-U.S. trade war remains uncertain. Even what seems like progress towards unwinding uncertainty, reveals more uncertainty. This will continue to be one of the key forces influencing the global outlook in 2020.

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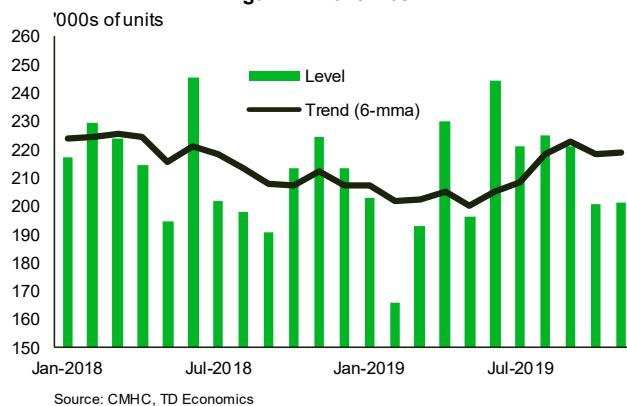
## Canada - Hooray, Hooray, CUSMA (Should Be) Here To Stay

It may feel like events beyond our borders sucked all the oxygen out of the news cycle this week, but while the resounding Conservative victory in the U.K. and rumours of a U.S.-China phase one deal may have gotten a lot of attention, lots was happening here as well. Kicking things off were the November housing starts, which edged a bit higher month-on-month to a 201.3k annualized pace (Chart 1). The details were decent (see [commentary](#)). Indeed, the slight downtick of late aside, the fundamentals for the sector are healthy and it should remain an important source of economic growth.

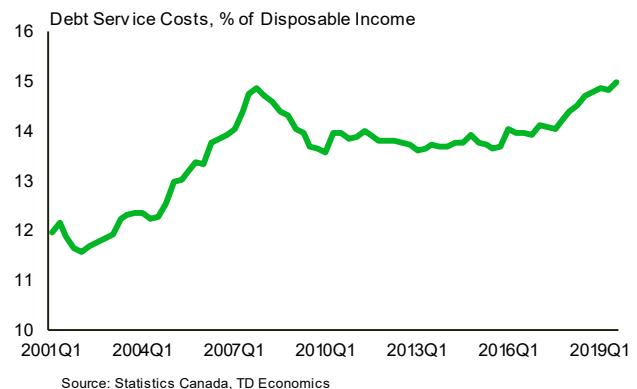
This morning brought the latest [update](#) on the state of household finances. Echoing the revisions they made with the most recent GDP report (discussed in our [commentary](#)), Statistics Canada has marked up their estimate of household incomes, leading to a lower than previously thought debt-to-income ratio. This was 'just' 175.9% (i.e. \$1.76 owed for every dollar in disposable income), rather than the previously reported 177.1%. The cost of servicing this debt continued to climb, hitting an all-time high in the third quarter (Chart 2). The sharp climb in these costs goes a long way in explaining rising household insolvencies, but lower rates this year should provide a [bit of relief](#).

Away from the data, the trade development with the biggest direct impact on Canada was the announcement that the "new NAFTA" trade deal (Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement, or CUSMA north of the border) had received the final tweaks needed for ratification by all three countries. It is hard to find much to quibble with in the [changes](#), which were generally minor, including provisions to ensure

**Chart 1: Housing Starts at 200k Again in November**



**Chart 2: Debt Service Costs Hit an All Time High in the Third Quarter**



functional dispute panels, reduced protections for certain classes of drugs, and new approaches to ensuring labour provision compliance by Mexico. While Canada may be working to diversify the sources of trade (see our recent [report](#)), CUSMA partners nevertheless represent more than 75% of our trade in goods, so getting within inches of locking the new deal in (recent indications suggest it could be passed in the U.S. early next year) is a good thing. Moreover, the deal should provide at least some modest support to Canadian manufacturers who, as we [noted](#) this week, have so far avoided the slowdown seen elsewhere.

Other trade headlines, notably the apparent U.S.-China 'phase one' deal, may have distracted from Bank of Canada Governor Poloz's final speech of the year. It is perhaps just as well. The Governor was very careful not to say anything new in his prepared remarks, focusing instead on the key areas of focus for the Bank in 2020 (see [commentary](#)). This isn't a big surprise: what more could he add only a week after his Deputy Governor [covered](#) the factors that drove their last interest rate decision? But, as careful as the Governor was in keeping his speech neutral, he seemed a tinge more hawkish during his media availability. Asked about last week's [dismal jobs numbers](#), the Governor focused instead on the longer-term trends, characterizing the labour market as being in a 'nice spot'. He also suggested that global growth is 'bottoming out'. His closing message of the year seems to be that it will take more than a bump or two to get the Bank of Canada to move rates lower.

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## U.S.: Upcoming Key Economic Releases

### Personal Income & Spending - November\*

Release Date: December 20, 2019

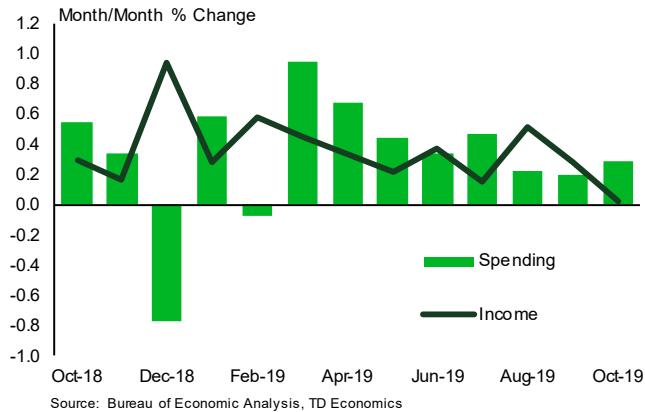
Previous: spending: 0.3% m/m; income: 0.0%

TD Forecast: spending: 0.4% m/m; income: 0.3%

Consensus: spending: 0.4% m/m; income: 0.3%

The key core PCE price index probably rose just 0.1% in November, lowering the 12-month change to 1.5% from 1.6% in October. Base effects should help boost the 12-month change again in Q1, but for now the pace is moving away from the Fed's 2% goal. We expect the headline PCE price index to be up 0.2% m/m, lifting the 12-month change to a still-low 1.4% from 1.3%. Separately, we anticipate personal spending to advance a firm 0.4% in November, marking its strongest monthly increase in four months. Despite that, the November print should continue to indicate household spending is moderating in Q4. Lastly, we forecast income growth to rebound at 0.3% m/m, following a flat print in October.

**U.S. Personal Income and Spending**



\*Forecast by Rates and FX Strategy Group. For further information, contact [TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com](mailto:TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com)

## Canada: Upcoming Key Economic Releases

### Manufacturing Sales – October\*

Release Date: December 17, 2019

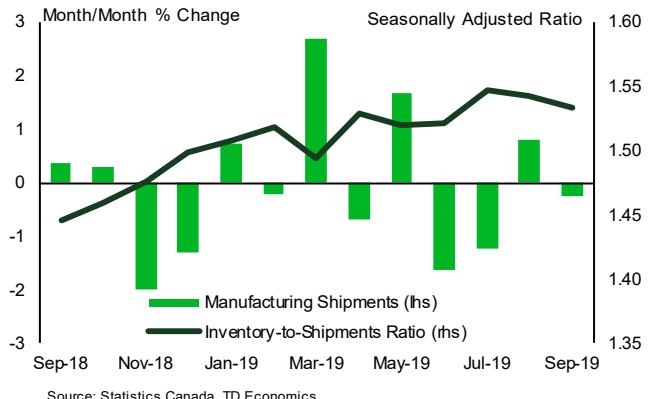
Previous: -0.2%

TD Forecast: 0.1%

Consensus: NA

TD looks for a muted 0.1% increase in manufacturing shipments for October as a large drag from motor vehicles offsets strength elsewhere. Motor vehicle production fell sharply in October and auto part exports fell by nearly 12% on the month as Canadian plants felt the impact of the UAW strike in the US. Elsewhere, higher petroleum prices will provide a tailwind to nominal refinery sales while a sharp increase in exports of chemical products suggests another source of strength. Forest products should weigh on the headline print along with motor vehicles, owing to ongoing weakness at Canadian lumber mills, while real

### Canadian Manufacturing Shipments



manufacturing sales should match the nominal increase with factory prices largely unchanged.

### Consumer Price Index – November\*

Release Date: December 18, 2019

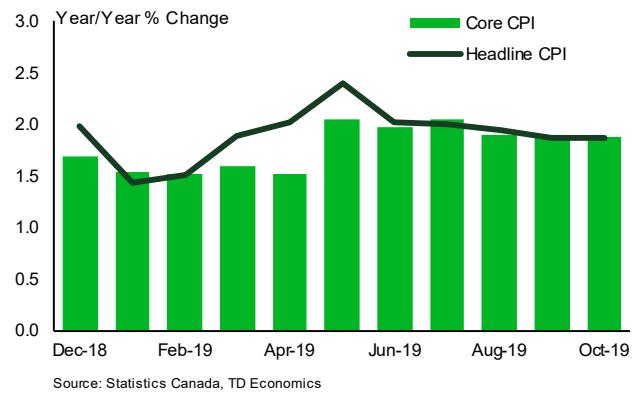
Previous: 0.3% m/m, 1.9% y/y

TD Forecast: -0.1% m/m, 2.2% y/y

Consensus: NA

CPI inflation is projected to firm to 2.2% y/y in November owing to a significant tailwind from base-effects, with prices down 0.1% m/m. Energy prices are the main catalyst for the month-over-month decline, as a change from summer to winter gasoline blends weighs on the price at the pump. While this is typical for Q4, last November saw a much sharper pullback in gasoline prices due to softer crude oil prices, and the base effects from this move should eliminate a 0.2pp drag from gasoline on a year-ago basis. Elsewhere, food prices should make a positive contribution on higher crop prices alongside a modest pullback in the Canadian dollar, while shelter should provide another tailwind as the

### Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI)



housing market recovery feeds into higher homeowner replacement costs. Muted base-effects to CPI-trim and CPI-median suggest a high hurdle to any pullback in core CPI, which should leave the average of the three near 2.1% y/y and allow the BoC some patience as they monitor incoming activity data for signs of slowdown.

\*Forecast by Rates and FX Strategy Group. For further information, contact [TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com](mailto:TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com)

## Canada: Upcoming Key Economic Releases

### Retail Sales – October\*

Release Date: December 20, 2019

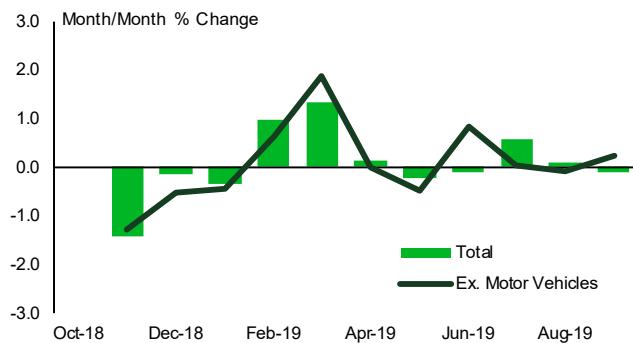
Previous: -0.1%, ex-auto: 0.2%

TD Forecast: 0.5%, ex-auto: 0.3%

Consensus: NA

Retail sales are forecast to rise by 0.5% in October on stronger auto sales and a 0.3% increase in the ex-autos measure. Preliminary motor vehicle sales saw a sharp increase for October, helped by unseasonably warm weather, which indicates a full rebound of the drop observed last month. Elsewhere, higher gasoline prices will flatten nominal sales at the pump while a solid increase in hours worked bodes well for the retail sector as a whole. Real retail sales should match the nominal increase, reflecting little change to consumer goods prices, which should help anchor Q4 consumption after a disappointing (-0.1%) handoff from September.

Canadian Retail Sales\*



\*Seasonally adjusted  
Source: Statistics Canada, TD Economics

Recent Key Economic Indicators: Dec 9 - 13, 2019						
Release Date	Economic Indicator/Event		Data for Period	Units	Current	Prior
<b>United States</b>						
Dec 10	NFIB Small Business Optimism	Nov	Index	104.7	102.4	
Dec 10	Unit Labor Costs	3Q	Q/Q % Chg.	2.5	3.6	
Dec 11	Consumer Price Index	Nov	M/M % Chg.	0.3	0.4	
Dec 11	Consumer Price Index	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	2.1	1.8	
Dec 11	Consumer Price Index Ex Food and Energy	Nov	M/M % Chg.	0.2	0.2	
Dec 11	Consumer Price Index Ex Food and Energy	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	2.3	2.3	
Dec 11	FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound)	Dec 19	%	1.75	1.75	
Dec 12	Household Change in Net Worth	3Q	Blns	574.0	1862.0	
Dec 12	Initial Jobless Claims	Dec 19	Thsd	252.0	203.0	
Dec 12	Producer Price Index Ex Food and Energy	Nov	M/M % Chg.	-0.2	0.3	
Dec 12	Producer Price Index Final Demand	Nov	M/M % Chg.	0.0	0.4	
Dec 13	Business Inventories	Oct	M/M % Chg.	0.2	-0.1	
Dec 13	Retail Sales Advance	Nov	M/M % Chg.	0.2	0.4	
Dec 13	Retail Sales Ex Auto and Gas	Nov	M/M % Chg.	0.0	0.2	
<b>Canada</b>						
Dec 9	Building Permits	Oct	M/M % Chg.	-1.5	-5.9	
Dec 9	Housing Starts	Nov	Thsd	201.3	200.7	
Dec 11	Capacity Utilization Rate	3Q	%	81.7	83.3	
<b>International</b>						
Dec 9	CH Consumer Price Index	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	4.5	3.8	
Dec 10	UK Industrial Production	Oct	Y/Y % Chg.	-1.3	-1.4	
Dec 10	UK Monthly Gross Domestic Product (3M/3M)	Oct	M/M % Chg.	0.0	0.3	
Dec 12	EZ ECB Deposit Facility Rate	Dec 19	%	-0.50	-0.50	
Dec 12	JN Industrial Production	Oct	Y/Y % Chg.	-7.7	-7.4	

Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.

Upcoming Economic Releases and Events: Dec 16 - 20, 2019						
Release Date	Time*	Economic Indicator/Event	Data for Period	Units	Consensus Forecast	Last Period
<b>United States</b>						
Dec 16	8:30	Empire Manufacturing	Dec	Index	4.5	2.9
Dec 16	9:45	Markit US Manufacturing PMI	Dec	Index	52.8	52.6
Dec 16	9:45	Markit US Services PMI	Dec	Index	52.0	51.6
Dec 16	10:00	NAHB Housing Market Index	Dec	Index	71.0	70.0
Dec 17	8:30	Building Permits	Nov	Thsd	1405.0	1461.0
Dec 17	8:30	Housing Starts	Nov	Thsd	1340.0	1314.0
Dec 17	9:15	Capacity Utilization	Nov	M/M % Chg.	77.4	76.7
Dec 17	9:15	Industrial Production	Nov	M/M % Chg.	0.9	-0.8
Dec 17	9:15	Manufacturing (SIC) Production	Nov	M/M % Chg.	0.7	-0.6
Dec 19	8:30	Current Account Balance	3Q	Blns	-121.0	-128.2
Dec 19	8:30	Initial Jobless Claims	Dec 14	Thsd	-	-
Dec 19	10:00	Existing Home Sales	Nov	Mlns	5.4	5.5
Dec 20	8:30	Core Personal Consumption Expenditure	3Q	Q/Q % Chg.	-	2.1
Dec 20	8:30	Gross Domestic Product Annualized	3Q	Q/Q % Chg.	2.1	2.1
Dec 20	8:30	Personal Consumption	3Q	M/M % Chg.	-	2.9
Dec 20	10:00	Personal Consumption Expenditure Core Deflator	Nov	M/M % Chg.	0.1	0.1
Dec 20	10:00	Personal Consumption Expenditure Core Deflator	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	1.6
Dec 20	10:00	Personal Consumption Expenditure Deflator	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	1.3
Dec 20	10:00	Personal Income	Nov	M/M % Chg.	0.3	0.0
Dec 20	10:00	Real Personal Spending	Nov	M/M % Chg.	-	0.1
<b>Canada</b>						
Dec 16	9:00	Existing Home Sales	Nov	M/M % Chg.	-	0.0
Dec 17	8:30	Manufacturing Sales	Oct	M/M % Chg.	-	-0.2
Dec 18	8:30	Consumer Price Index	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	1.9
Dec 18	8:30	Consumer Price Index Core- Common %	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	1.9
Dec 18	8:30	Consumer Price Index Core- Median %	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	2.2
Dec 18	8:30	Consumer Price Index Core- Trim %	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	2.1
Dec 18	8:30	Consumer Price Index NSA	Nov	M/M % Chg.	-	0.3
Dec 18	8:30	Teranet/National Bank HPI	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	1.0
Dec 19	8:30	Wholesale Trade Sales	Oct	M/M % Chg.	-	1.0
Dec 20	8:30	Retail Sales	Oct	M/M % Chg.	-	-0.1
Dec 20	8:30	Retail Sales Ex Auto	Oct	M/M % Chg.	-	0.2
<b>International</b>						
Dec 16	4:00 EZ	Markit Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	Dec	Index	-	46.9
Dec 16	4:30 UK	Markit UK PMI Manufacturing	Dec	Index	-	48.9
Dec 17	4:30 UK	ILO Unemployment Rate 3Mths	Oct	%	-	3.8
Dec 18	4:30 UK	Consumer Price Index	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	1.5
Dec 18	5:00 EZ	Consumer Price Index	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	0.7
Dec 19	4:30 UK	Retail Sales Ex Auto Fuel	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	2.7
Dec 19	18:30 JN	Natl Consumer Price Index	Nov	Y/Y % Chg.	-	0.2
Dec 20	4:30 UK	Gross Domestic Product	3Q	Y/Y % Chg.	-	1.0

\* Eastern Standard Time. Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.

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