

NEWS SUMMARY 17 December 2018

Economic Calendar				
17-Dec	18-Dec	19-Dec	20-Dec	21-Dec
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Market Focus	8-Week Bill Settlement	MBA Mortgage Applications	Weekly Bill Settlement	Quadruple Witching
International Perspective	FOMC Meeting Begins	Current Account	Jobless Claims	Durable Goods Orders
Simply Economics	Housing Starts	Existing Home Sales	Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook Survey	GDP
3-Yr Note Settlement	Redbook	EIA Petroleum Status Report	Leading Indicators	Corporate Profits
10-Yr Note Settlement	4-Week Bill Announcement	FOMC Meeting Announcement	EIA Natural Gas Report	Personal Income and Outlays
30-Yr Bond Settlement	8-Week Bill Announcement	FOMC Forecasts	3-Month Bill Announcement	Consumer Sentiment
Empire State Mfg Survey		Fed Chair Press Conference	6-Month Bill Announcement	Kansas City Fed Manufacturing Index
Housing Market Index			2-Yr FRN Note Announcement	Baker-Hughes Rig Count
3-Month Bill Auction			2-Yr Note Announcement	
6-Month Bill Auction			5-Yr Note Announcement	
Treasury International Capital			7-Yr Note Announcement	
			Fed Balance Sheet	
			Money Supply	

http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/b-econoday.htm

Prepared by: Bess Chau

Canada says China has granted consular access to second detainee

China has now granted Canada access to both of its recently arrested citizens, Canada's foreign ministry said in a statement that gave few details. John McCallum, Canada's ambassador to Beijing, met Michael Spavor, the statement said.

China central bank says to guide credit, social financing growth as economic challenges rise

The People's Bank of China said it will guide reasonable growth of credit and social financing and further improve the monetary policy transmission channel. The central bank reiterated that it will step up support for private and smaller companies, making it easier for these firms to access bank loans.

China Sees Bankruptcies Surge; Bondholders May Get Less Back

China is seeing a surge of new bankruptcies and defaults as Shanghai's plans to torpedo insolvent companies drags on the domestic Chinese economy with investors continuing to take hefty haircuts on investments that have gone bad.

Shanghai and Taipei rebuild city-to-city cross-strait ties after Taiwan's local elections

China is sending its largest delegation in two years to the self-ruled island of Taiwan for a city-to-city forum which has been rejuvenated after a period of rising cross-strait tensions. The delegates will be led by executive vice-mayor Zhou Bo, the highest-ranking official to attend the event in recent years.

Stephen Miller says Trump prepared to shut down government over border wall

White House senior adviser Stephen Miller said the Trump administration has continued its public fight over the border wall and President Donald Trump is "absolutely" willing to shut down the government on December 21 if Congress refuses to authorize funding for his wall.

U.S. oil prices inch up, but global economic concerns weigh

U.S. oil prices edged up on Monday amid a fall in drilling activity in the United States, but lingering concerns about weaker economic growth in major economies kept a lid on gains.

Safe haven support keeps dollar near 19-month high on growth risks

Weaker-than-expected economic data out of China and Europe and fears of a possible U.S. government shut down spooked investors away from stocks toward safe haven assets. The dollar index was little changed at 97.44, below the 19-month high of 97.71 it hit on Friday.

Italy coalition in agreement on budget figures

Italy's coalition government has agreed on the "numbers and contents" of the budget it will propose to Brussels in a bid to avoid disciplinary action over its plans to hike deficit spending next year. But a final deal with Brussels had yet to be reached.

French PM predicts budget deficit at 3.2 percent of GDP in 2019 - Les Echos

France is expected to breach the deficit ceiling after President Emmanuel Macron made concessions to anti-government protesters earlier this month, blowing a 10 billion euro hole in the budget. France's budget deficit is likely to overshoot the EU's limit of 3% of GDP next year and stand at around 3.2%.

North Korea condemns US sanctions, warns denuclearization at risk

North Korea on Sunday denounced the latest US sanctions, saying they could "block the path to denuclearization on the Korean peninsula forever". The North Korean administration expressed "shock and indignation" at the new US sanctions.

New Brexit vote would 'break faith' with British, says May

British Prime Minister Theresa May will state her opposition to a second Brexit referendum on Monday, telling parliament such a vote would "break faith" with British people and do "irreparable damage" to politics.

UK signs air service deal with Switzerland for post-Brexit flights

Transport minister Chris Grayling will sign an agreement with Switzerland on Monday to ensure air services continue to operate between the two countries after Brexit.

UK consumer spending falls by most since July in run-up to Brexit: Visa data

British consumer spending fell 0.7% year-on-year in November as uncertainty lingers over the outcome of ongoing Brexit negotiations. Online shopping growth slowed, while spending at bars and restaurants picked up to grow by a robust 5.1%.

No-deal Brexit fears take heavy toll on UK housing market

UK housing market continues to struggle, falling -1.5% against the previous year's -1.7% slide. Asking prices fell for a second month in December, recording the steepest back-to-back declines since 2012.

Japan Inc's inflation expectations nudge higher before BOJ meeting

Japanese companies expect inflation to have risen 0.9% a year from now, slightly above their projection of a 0.8% increase three months ago. Firms expect consumer prices to have risen by an annual 1.1% three years from now, unchanged from the previous survey.

Australia Poised for First Budget Surplus Since Financial Crisis

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg is expecting a federal budget surplus of \$4.1 billion in mid-2020, almost double the \$2.2 billion projected in the May budget. He is also forecasting a smaller deficit of \$5.2 billion in the current financial year.

Saudi Arabia condemns US Senate 'interference' over Jamal Khashoggi murder

Saudi Arabia has denounced US Senate resolutions to end U.S. military aid for a Riyadh-led war in Yemen and to blame the country's crown prince for the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The Saudi foreign ministry described the move as "interference" based on "untrue allegations".

Disclaime

The information contained within this document ('information') is believed to be reliable but MLB Financial Group does not warrant its completeness nor accuracy. Opinions and estimates contained herein constitute our judgment and are subject to change without notice. MLB Financial Group shall not be liable for any errors, omissions nor opinions contained within this document. This material is not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any financial instrument. For the avoidance of doubt, any information contained within this document will not form an agreement between parties. Additional information is available on request.

About U

MLB Financial Group manages a substantial amount of assets for a broad range of institutional and private clients including funds and family offices. We offer comprehensive finance, asset management, and wealth management solutions to achieve the unique goals of every client. Our team of over 30 financial experts spot the best investment opportunities by leveraging on our insight, experience, and global presence.

Contact

Tel: (852) 2117 3482 Fax: (852) 2117 3486 Email: info@mlb-financial.com