



Financial Forecast

Alan Bush

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STOCK INDEX FUTURES

U.S. stock index futures declined as investors weighed multiple risk factors, including the uncertain global economic outlook, ongoing tensions between the U.S. and China and the heightened political tensions in Washington.

The main event today will be Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's testimony before the Senate Banking Committee on the CARES Act at 9:00 central time. Mr. Powell is expected to give an overview of the economy and monetary policy, which could provide clues into the central bank's actions going forward.

Jobless claims in the week ended September 19 were 870,000 when 880,000 were expected.

The 9:00 central time August new home sales report is anticipated to show 875,000 and the 10:00 September Kansas City Federal Reserve manufacturing index is estimated to be 13.

CURRENCY FUTURES

Safe haven flows continue to move into the U.S. dollar.

The euro currency is lower despite news that Germany's Ifo institute business sentiment index increased for the fifth consecutive month in September. The Ifo business-climate index came in at 93.4 in September from a downwardly revised 92.5 in August. Economists had forecast it at 93.5. Companies' assessment of their current situation improved to 89.2 in September from 87.9 in August. Expectations were higher, rising to 97.7 from a revised 97.2 in August.

The British pound is higher after a report showed U.K. retail sales volumes grew at the fastest pace since April in the year to September, according to the Confederation of British Industry's latest monthly Distributive Trades Survey.

INTEREST RATE MARKET FUTURES

The Treasury will auction seven-year notes today.

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In addition to Federal Reserve Chair Powell, other Federal Reserve speakers today are James Bullard at 11:00, Charles Evans at 12:00, Thomas Barkin at 12:00, Raphael Bostic at 1:00, Thomas Barkin at 1:00 and John Williams at 1:00.

Interest rate market futures at the short end of the curve are likely to be supported by ideas that major central banks, including the Federal Reserve, will keep short term interest rates low for an extended period. Many analysts believe it will be several years, possibly not until 2023, before the Federal Reserve will be in a position to hike its fed funds rate.

However, futures at the long end of the curve, especially the 30-year Treasury bond futures may be undermined by the inflationary aspects of the Federal Reserve's "average inflation targeting" policy.

Financial futures markets are predicting there is 97.7% probability that the Federal Open Market Committee will keep its fed funds rate unchanged at the November 4-5 policy meeting.

SUPPORT & RESISTANCE

December 20 S&P 500

Support 3196.00 Resistance 3244.00

December 20 U.S. Dollar Index

Support 93.230 Resistance 94.700

December 20 Euro Currency

Support 1.16400 Resistance 1.17050

December 20 Japanese Yen

Support .98770 Resistance .95210

December 20 Canadian Dollar

Support .74490 Resistance .74850

December 20 Australian Dollar

Support .7011 Resistance .7090

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December 20 Thirty-Year Treasury Bonds

Support 176⁰ Resistance 177⁰

December 20 Gold

Support 1848.0 Resistance 1878.0

December 20 Copper

Support 2.9100 Resistance 2.9750

November 20 Crude Oil

Support 39.12 Resistance 40.13