

Fixed Income Group A Division of RJ O'Brien

The Missile www.fixedincomegroup.com

On Bloomberg: WECO <go> Economic Releases



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Fed Speak (All times are CST) On Bloomberg: Fed <go>

) Calendars 🔻 🗓 Aler	ts :	•						☑ Econ	_	
United States		6) Bro		06:12:15				22/24 🛎		26/24
entral Banks		All Centr	al Ba	anks	*			Agend		
Date Time A	М	R Event					Surv(M)	Actual		Revise
21) 01/31 13:00	Ϋ́			Decision (Upp		Jan 31	5.50%		5.50%	-
22) 01/31 13:00	Û			Decision (Low		Jan 31	5.25%		5.25%	
23) 01/31 13:30		Fed C	nair	Holds Press Co	onference Follo	owing FO	MC Meeti	ng		
24) 02/14 15:00		Fed's	Barr	Speaks at NA	BE Conference					
25) 02/15 11:00		Fed's	Daly	Speaks at NA	BE Conference					
26) 02/21 13:00	Φ	, FOMC	Meet	ing Minutes		Jan 31				
27) 03/06 13:00		Feder	al Re	eserve Release	s Beige Book					
28) 03/19 09:00		FOMC	Begi	ns Two-Day M	eeting					
29) 03/20 13:00		FOMC	Ends	Two-Day Mee	ting					
30) 03/20 13:00	Φ	.II FOMC	Rate	Decision (Upp	er Bound)	Mar 20	5.50%			
31) 03/20 13:00	Ť	, FOMC	Rate	Decision (Low	er Bound)	Mar 20	5.25%			
32) 03/20 13:30		Fed C	nair	Powell Holds F	ost-Meeting F	ress Cor	ference			
33) 04/10 13:00	Φ	, FOMC	Meet	ing Minutes		Mar 20				
34) 04/17 13:00		Feder	al Re	eserve Release	s Beige Book					
35) 04/30 09:00		FOMC	Begi	ns Two-Day M	eeting					
36) 05/01 13:00			_	Two-Day Mee						
37) 05/01 13:00	Δ	.il FOMC	Rate	Decision (Upp	er Bound)	May 1				
38) 05/01 13:00	Ţ			Decision (Low		May 1				
39) 05/01 13:30				Powell Holds F			ference			
40) 05/22 13:00	Û			ing Minutes	_	May 1				
41) 05/29 13:00				eserve Release	s Beige Book					
42) 06/11 09:00				ns Two-Day M	_					
43) 06/12 13:00	Ā		_	Decision (Upp		Jun 12				-
44) 06/12 13:00				Two-Day Mee						
45) 06/12 13:00	Д			Decision (Low		Jun 12				
46) 06/12 13:30				Powell Holds F			ference			
	1 077				20 7330 7500 Germany . 1 212 318 2000			ono 852 207	7 5000	

US Treasury Auction Schedule On Bloomberg: NI TRE <go>



The World is Smoldering...

Israel's War With Hamas Has No End in Sight

https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/israels-war-with-hamas-has-no-end-in-sight-898f2b19?mod=hp_lead_pos7

Israel's <u>conflict with Hamas</u> is set to be a long one—with both sides struggling to accomplish their fundamental aims and no clear path to any kind of enduring peace.

Israel has sworn to destroy Hamas as a significant military and political force. Hamas is committed to the long-term goal of erasing the Israeli state.

The irreconcilable stakes are existential for both. And that means that even if a cease-fire halts the current round of fighting in Gaza, the struggle between Israel and Hamas will continue.

Kyiv begins EU accession talks; U.S. military aid in the balance

 $\underline{https://www.cnbc.com/2024/01/26/live-updates-latest-news-on-russia-and-the-war-in-ukraine.html}\\$

In a post on X, the Ukrainian leader said he welcomed the start of "substantial preparations for This information is not to be construed as an offer to sell or a solicitation or an offer to buy the commodities herein named. The information of this report has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable but is not necessarily all-inclusive and is not guaranteed as to the accuracy and is not to be construed as representation by R.J O'Brien & Associates. The risk of trading futures and options can be substantial. Each investor must consider whether this is a suitable investment. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Ukraine's EU accession talks" in Brussels, following an agreement reached with EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen last week at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Across the Atlantic, bipartisan U.S. Senate negotiations over a border security deal that ties in aid for Ukraine have hit a critical juncture, Republican Senator John Thune told reporters on Thursday, according to Reuters. The White House said last week that the U.S. money supply to Ukraine has now run out, which could leave Kyiv ill-equipped to repel the Russian invasion.

Alabama Inmate First in U.S. to Be Executed by Nitrogen Gas

https://www.wsj.com/us-news/law/alabama-inmate-kenneth-eugene-smith-execution-nitrogen-hypoxia-b2623881?mod=hp_lead_pos5

<u>Nitrogen hypoxia</u> involves forcing an inmate to inhale only nitrogen gas, depriving the body of oxygen. It has gained traction as a potential alternative to lethal injection, the primary form of execution in the U.S. in recent decades. Lethal injection has become harder to perform, partly because of the difficulty in obtaining the necessary drugs, public backlash against the death penalty and a rash of botched executions.

Biden Pauses Approvals for LNG Exports

https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/biden-pauses-approvals-for-lng-exports-3d065745?mod=politics lead pos1

The Biden administration effectively froze the approval process for new plants to export U.S. liquefied natural gas, bowing to demands from environmental groups and angering oil-and-gas companies.

<u>President Biden</u> said Friday the administration will pause export application reviews as it takes stock of the country's newfound status as the world's largest LNG exporter.

China Signals More Targeted Stimulus to Come

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-01-26/china-signals-more-targeted-stimulus-to-follow-abrupt-rrr-cut?srnd=premium&sref=k5DuN3at

The People's Bank of China <u>surprised</u> investors on Wednesday by <u>revealing</u> a bigger-than-expected RRR cut weeks in advance, providing markets with a much-needed boost. Economists see the central bank following up that move by steering credit into select areas, along with a handful of trims to the amount of cash banks must hold in reserve and modest policy-rate cuts. "RRR cuts will likely be more infrequent going forward, and only used as a signal tool when markets are performing particularly poorly," said Ding Shuang, chief economist for Greater China and North Asia at Standard Chartered Plc. "Structural tools will play an even bigger role."

The Fed Tells Banks Not to Be Shy About Asking It for Money

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-01-26/fed-aims-to-end-discount-window-stigma-for-banks-who-borrow-from-it?srnd=premium&sref=k5DuN3at

When Brookline Bancorp Inc. needs to borrow short-term cash quickly — part of the regular course of business for the Boston-based lender — it has a range of options. One source of cheap money it's loath to turn to, however, is the Federal Reserve for fear of setting off alarm bells.

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"This is the safety net for the financial system and for individual banks," said co-president and chief financial officer Carl Carlson. "If you have to use the safety net, that means you missed a rung on the swing and means you needed something."

"There's definitely a stigma," he added.

Policymakers in Washington want to change that. Nearly a century after the Fed first tried to discourage regular borrowing from its traditional backstop program, known as the discount window, officials are trying to rebrand the primary credit facility as a source for everyday liquidity.

FOMC Projections Materials, Accessible Version

For release at 2:00 p.m., EST, December 13, 2023

Table 1. Economic projections of Federal Reserve Board members and Federal Reserve Bank presidents, under their individual assumptions of projected appropriate monetary policy, December 2023

Percent															
		1	Media	n ¹			Cent	ral Tendenc	y^2			1	Range ³		
Variable	2023	2024	2025	2026	Longer run	2023	2024	2025	2026	Longer run	2023	2024	2025	2026	Longer run
Change in real GDP September projection	2.6 2.1	1.4 1.5	1.8 1.8	1.9 1.8	1.8 1.8	2.5-2.7 1.9-2.2	1.2-1.7 $1.2-1.8$	1.5-2.0 $1.6-2.0$		1.7-2.0 1.7-2.0	2.5-2.7 1.8-2.6	$0.8-2.5 \\ 0.4-2.5$	1.4-2.5 1.4-2.5		1.6-2.5 1.6-2.5
Unemployment rate September projection	3.8 3.8	4.1 4.1	4.1 4.1	$\frac{4.1}{4.0}$	4.1 4.0	3.8 3.7–3.9	4.0-4.2 3.9-4.4	4.0-4.2 $3.9-4.3$		3.8-4.3 3.8-4.3	3.7-4.0 3.7-4.0	3.9-4.5 3.7-4.5	3.8-4.7 3.7-4.7	3.8-4.7 3.7-4.5	
PCE inflation September projection	2.8 3.3	2.4 2.5	$\frac{2.1}{2.2}$	$\frac{2.0}{2.0}$	2.0 2.0	2.7-2.9 3.2-3.4	2.2-2.5 $2.3-2.7$	2.0-2.2 2.0-2.3	2.0 2.0–2.2	2.0 2.0	2.7-3.2 3.1-3.8	2.1-2.7 $2.1-3.5$	2.0-2.5 2.0-2.9	2.0-2.3 2.0-2.7	2.0 2.0
Core PCE inflation ⁴ September projection	3.2 3.7	2.4 2.6	$\frac{2.2}{2.3}$	$\frac{2.0}{2.0}$		3.2–3.3 3.6–3.9	2.4-2.7 $2.5-2.8$	2.0-2.2 $2.0-2.4$	2.0-2.1 2.0-2.3		3.2-3.7 3.5-4.2	2.3–3.0 2.3–3.6	2.0-2.6 2.0-3.0	2.0-2.3 2.0-2.9	
Memo: Projected appropriate policy path															
Federal funds rate September projection	5.4 5.6	4.6 5.1	3.6 3.9	2.9 2.9	2.5 2.5	5.4 5.4–5.6	4.4–4.9 4.6–5.4	3.1–3.9 3.4–4.9		2.5-3.0 2.5-3.3	5.4 5.4–5.6	3.9 – 5.4 $4.4 – 6.1$	2.4 - 5.4 2.6 - 5.6	2.4-4.9 $2.4-4.9$	2.4-3.8 2.4-3.8

Note: Projections of change in real gross domestic product (GDP) and projections for both measures of inflation are percent changes from the fourth quarter of the previous year to the fourth quarter of the year indicated. PCE inflation and core PCE inflation are the percentage rates of change in, respectively, the price index for personal consumption expenditures (PCE) and the price index for PCE excluding food and energy. Projections for the unemployment rate are for the average civilian unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of the year indicated. Each participant's projections are based on his or her assessment of appropriate monetary policy. Longer-run projections represent each participant's assessment of the rate to which each variable would be expected to converge under appropriate monetary policy and in the absence of further shocks to the economy. The projections for the federal funds rate are the value of the midpoint of the projected appropriate target range for the federal funds rate or the projected appropriate target level for the federal funds rate at the end of the specified calendar year or over the longer run. The September projections were made in conjunction with the meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee on September 19-20, 2023. One participant did not submit longer-run projections for the change in real GDP, the unemployment rate, or the federal funds rate in conjunction with the September 19–20, 2023, meeting, and one participant did not submit such projections in conjunction with the December 12–13, 2023, meeting.

1. For each period, the median is the middle projection when the projections are arranged from lowest to highest. When the number of projections is even, the

- median is the average of the two middle projections.
- 2. The central tendency excludes the three highest and three lowest projections for each variable in each year
- 3. The range for a variable in a given year includes all participants' projections, from lowest to highest, for that variable in that year
- Longer-run projections for core PCE inflation are not collected.

https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/files/fomcprojtabl20231213.pdf

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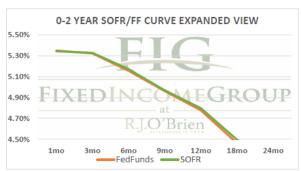
US Interest Rate Probabilities WIRP [GO]



Select STIR Rates

	Date		Change
Term SOFR	1/26/2024 6:08	Settles	
1 Month		5.33647	-0.0001
3 Month		5.31743	-0.00216
6 Month		5.1574	-0.01485
12 Month		4.79898	-0.0207
Term BSBY	1/26/2024 6:08	Settles	
1 Month		5.36144	-0.00186
3 Month		5.39458	0.00014
6 Month		5.31696	-0.00325
12 Month		5.16167	-0.01275

THE STIR CURVE: Distributed by The Fixed Income Group at RJ O'Brien





** Futures indicative prices supplied for analytics purposes only. Rates are not intended as a real-time offer to buy or sell.

	Term SOFR from 1-day Returns								
5.34366%	5.32933%	5.17124%	4.96911%	4.79757%	4.49474%	4.27488%	4.09181%		
1.004601485	1.013471358	1.026143507	1.037820468	1.048775245	1.068295052	1.086803856	1.124572887		
1mo	3mo	6mo	9mo	12mo	18mo	24mo	36mo		
1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024		
2/25/2024	4/25/2024	7/25/2024	10/25/2024	1/25/2025	7/25/2025	1/25/2026	1/25/2027		
31	91	182	274	366	547	731	1096		

	Term FedFunds from 1-day Returns							
5.35122%	5.32250%	5.15595%	4.96119%	4.77742%	4.46163%	4.24425%		
100.46080%	101.34541%	102.60662%	103.77602%	104.85705%	106.77920%	108.61819%		
1mo	3mo	6mo	9mo	12mo	18mo	24mo		
1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024	1/26/2024		
2/25/2024	4/25/2024	7/25/2024	10/25/2024	1/25/2025	7/25/2025	1/25/2026		
31	91	182	274	366	547	731		
						1/26/2024 6:14	ct	

For more information, contact Rocco Chierici (SVP, RJO FIG) or Corrine Baynes (VP, RJO FIG) at RJ O'Brien: 312-373-5439

The risk of loss in trading futures and/or options is substantial, and each investor and/or trader must consider whether this is a suitable investment.

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US-SWAP curve IRSB <GO>

ited States 🕟 Dat	Range: 12/26/23 🖹 - 01/26/24 🖹	1 Month	¥			
40) SOFR Swaps 41) SOFR Swap S	ord 42) FF Swaps 43) SOFR/FF Basis	44) CME/LCH Sprs	45) SOFF	R-BSBY3M	46 5 O	
D SOFR Fixed/Float Swaps	Avg • No			PCS	BGN	
Tenor Bid Ask Mid Chang	_				+/-B	#
1 WK 5.322 / 5.328 5.325 0.00		5.314	● ─ 5.3		-1.1	-
2 WK 5.325 / 5.330 5.327 0.00			• 5.3		-1.0	
3 WK 5.326 / 5.333 5.330 -0.00			→ 5.3		-1.0	
1 MO 5.331 / 5.336 5.334 0.00		3.525	5.3		-0.5	
2 MO 5.328 / 5.333 5.331 0.00		5.525	5.3		-1.4	
3 MO 5.310 / 5.315 5.312 0.00		3.232	→ 5.3		-1.1	
4 MO 5.257 / 5.263 5.260 0.00		5.231	5.3		-2.2	
5 MO 5.204 / 5.209 5.207 0.00			5.2		-2.1 -1.6	
6 MO 5.147 / 5.152 5.150 0.00			5.2			
9 MO 4.960 / 4.965 4.962 0.00		4.834 4.759	5.05.0		-1.7 -1.6	
10 MO 4.899 / 4.905 4.902 0.00 11 MO 4.838 / 4.844 4.841 0.00	-	4.693	• 4.9		-1.0	
			4.9		-1.6	
1 YR 4.780 / 4.785 4.783 0.00 18 MO 4.406 / 4.411 4.408 0.01	1		4.9 4.5		-0.6	
2 YR 4.165 / 4.170 4.168 0.01		3.950	• 4.3		0.9	
3 YR 3.907 / 3.912 3.910 0.01		3.685	4.0		3.8	
4 YR 3.798 / 3.801 3.800 0.00		3.569	3.9		6.1	
5 YR 3.751 / 3.754 3.752 0.00		3.482	- 4- 3.8		7.8	
6 YR 3.735 / 3.738 3.736 0.00	_	3.439	-₩ 3.8		9.1	
7 YR 3.731 / 3.734 3.733 0.00		3.414	• 3.8		10.1	
8 YR 3.733 / 3.736 3.735 0.00		3.403 -	-•• 3.8		10.8	
9 YR 3.742 / 3.745 3.743 0.00			→ 3.8		11.4	
10 YR 3.752 / 3.755 3.754 -0.00			→ 3.8		11.9	
12 YR 3.780 / 3.784 3.782 -0.00	_	3.415 -	→•• 3.8		12.7	
15 YR 3.814 / 3.817 3.815 -0.00	0.0	3.434	• 3.8		13.5	
20 YR 3.809 / 3.813 3.811 -0.00	0.0	3.414 -	-•• 3.8		14.3	
25 YR 3.738 / 3.742 3.740 -0.00	6 0.0	3.332 -	→ 3.8		15.0	
30 YR 3.658 / 3.662 3.660 -0.00	6 0.0	3.246	• 3.7	21 3.509	15.3	

Getting Granular

The Fed watches 1-month bills v. 1-month bills 6-months forward. Below is a chart of 1-month SOFR v. 1-month SOFR 6-months forward.



Federal Reserve economists said, watching forward rates relative to those on current Treasury bills has served traders well in the past.

When the short term forward spread inverts, it indicates easier Fed policy in the near future.

Treasury 2s/10s



THE TREND

3-Month SFRH4: 94.92^ is the pivot point.

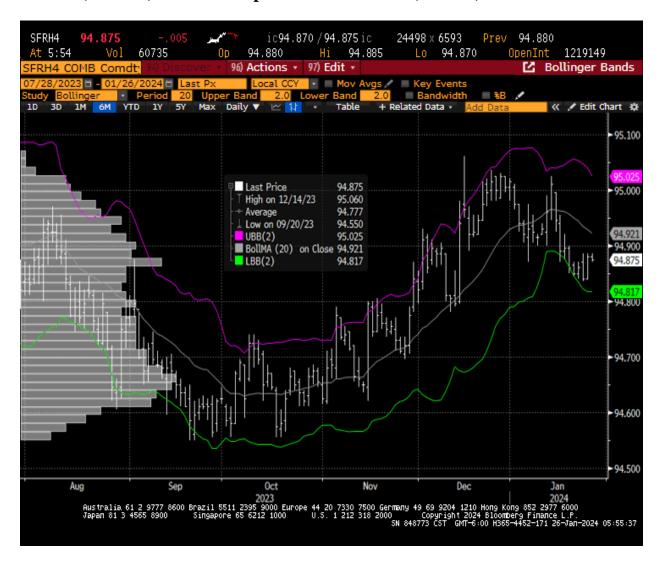
Above the pivot you should be long, below short.

Resistance is at 94.92[^] and 95-03**

Support is at **94-82****

^Pivot Point is a 20-day moving average.

The long position from 94.99 (1/12/23) has rolled over resulting in a 5-tick winner (\$156.25) and a short position from 94.94 (1/16/24).



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^{** 2-}STD Deviations from the pivot point.

Ultra 10-year Note (UXYH4): 116-10[^] is the pivot point.

Above the pivot you should be long, below short.

Resistance is at 116-10[^] and 118-05**

Support is at **114-15****

^Pivot Point is a 20-day moving average.

The trend that had you long from 109-16 (11/1/23) has rolled over, resulting in a 240 tick (\$7500.00) winner and a short position from 116-09 (1/4/24).





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^{** 2-}STD Deviations from the pivot point.

EQUITIES



The **S&P** is **-5** and the **NASDAQ** is **-76**.

Earnings: www.moneycentral.msn.com/investor/market/earncalendar

On Bloomberg type in ACDR <GO>

UK

In the UK the FTSE is at +1.22%. BOE Rate 5.00% (.50% increase). Next meeting 02/01/24

EU:

The CAC Index is at +2.08%.

The DAX Index is at +0.15%.

ECB Main Refinancing Operations Rate 4.50% (no change).

Deposit Facility Rate 4.00%.

Next meeting 03/07/24

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Japan:

The TOPIX closed -1.35%.
The NIKKEI closed -1.34%.
BOJ Policy Balance Rate -0.10% (No Change).
Next meeting 01/23/24

China:

The Hang Seng closed -1.60%.

The Shanghai Composite closed -0.71%.

PBOC

Deposit Rate: 1.50%

1-Year Prime Rate: 3.45% 7-Day Repo Rate: 1.8813%

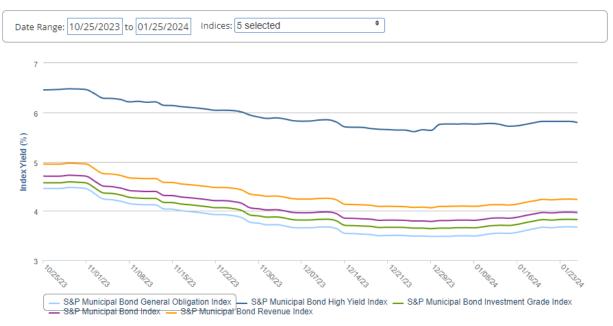
Reserve Requirement Ratio: 10.50% (25 BP Cut)

Muni IG Curve

The S&P Municipal Bond Index and its sub-indices are market value-weighted and based on bonds that are tax-exempt but may be subject to alternative minimum tax (AMT). Data are available for 12/02/2009 through 09/20/2021.

https://emma.msrb.org/ToolsAndResources/MBISYieldCurve?daily=False

Historical Index Data



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The Fundamentals

LABOR

Bureau of Labor and Statistics

http://www.bls.gov/news.release/

CPI, ECI, Employment situation PPI, CPI, Productivity and Costs, Real Earnings and US import/exports.

Average Hourly Earnings y/y Department of Labor Department.



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Bureau of Labor Statistics

https://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesnaicsrev.htm

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Revisions between over-the-month estimates, 1979-present

KC Federal Reserve Agricultural Finance Update NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Farm debt balances at commercial banks grew steadily in the third quarter but loan performance remained strong. Despite some indications of <u>slower lending activity in recent</u> <u>surveys</u> and <u>subdued loan demand</u> for some lenders, outstanding debt at commercial banks in aggregate grew at a pace similar to the past year. Alongside ongoing strength in farm finances, delinquency rates on agricultural loans dropped for the third consecutive year and remained at historically low levels.

Steady loan growth has coincided with a pullback in deposit growth and firmed liquidity at agricultural banks. Higher interest rates have induced greater competition for deposits, pushed up costs of funding and compressed net interest margins slightly in recent months. Profits for agricultural banks, however, have stayed solid with support from higher interest income. Sound liquidity has continued to ease much of the risk surrounding elevated levels of unrealized losses at many banks and will remain important going forward.

https://www.kansascityfed.org/agriculture/agfinance-updates/credit-conditions-strong-but-softening/

How do Farm Incomes Compare to the average population

https://www.ers.usda.gov/faqs/#Q1

Charge-off Delinquency Rates on Loans and Leases at Commercial Banks https://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/chargeoff/delallsa.htm

Baker Hughes Rig Count Overview and Summary Count

https://bakerhughesrigcount.gcs-web.com/rig-count-overview?c=79687&p=irol-rigcountsoverview

What is U.S. electricity generation by energy source?

https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm table grapher.php?t=epmt es1b

Biofuels International

https://biofuels-news.com/home/

Renewable Fuels Association

http://www.ethanolrfa.org/

How Many Electric Vehicles are on the Road in America

https://usafacts.org/articles/how-many-electric-cars-in-united-states/

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How do Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles Work Using Hydrogen

https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/how-do-fuel-cell-electric-cars-work

Trucking 01/19/24

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	rch and Data> Dashboard (BI 3PLSG) Global 🌣						
gistics services search	Air Airport Ocean Ports U.S. Ex/Im	N.A. Surface	Mainland	China Fu	el Surve	v Results	
Dashboard Ho	North America Truck North America Rail					,	
industry	View 12 Week Growth None	¥				Currer	ncy USD
quity	Name	01/19	01/12	01/05	12/29	12/22	12/1
Podcasts	Truckstop.com Stats						
ta Library	 Average Market Demand Index (MDI) 	52.61	51.09	52.10	35.82	34.03	35.8
larket Share	 U.S. Dry-Van Market Demand Index 	77.69	72.90	80.34	52.58	53.62	59.9
lacro	 U.S. Flatbed Market Demand Index 	62.77	61.29	59.46	34.36	37.71	39.4
ndustry	▶ U.S. Temperature-Controlled Market De	110.18	93.29	89.91	93.92	56.38	47.1
ompany	 U.S. Specialty Market Demand Index 	12.82	14.80	16.27	11.32	11.13	12.9
nalyzer							
aluation	 Weekly Avg Truckload Rates Inc. Fuel Su 						
ontributors	 Average Rate Per Mile 	2.395	2.326	2.302	2.376	2.277	2.22
nitor	 Dry-Van Rate Per Mile 	2.147	2.081	2.131	2.144	2.050	1.97
lews/Research	 Flatbed Rate Per Mile 	2.389	2.331	2.265	2.255	2.311	2.29
vents	 Temperature Controlled Rate Per Mile 	2.665	2.542	2.639	2.742	2.342	2.19
omp Sheets	 Specialized Rate Per Mile 	2.538	2.481	2.319	2.501	2.521	2.46
larkets							
	U.S. Fuel Surcharge	0.48	0.47	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.5
	Weekly average rates are weighted by						
	the # of loads per day.						
	Load Turnaround (minutes)	286.4	287.5	270.8	261.5	261.9	265
	Truck Turnaround (minutes)	1,052.1	1,080.9	1,075.3	1,150.7	1,096.7	1,090
	Truckers Looking for Loads	27.941M	29.941M	22.817M	18.108M	27.732M	32.679
	Shippers Looking for Truckers	98,784.0	94,866.0	83,356.0	62,605.0	89,436.0	85,091
	Truckers' Average Credit Scores	20.2	20.1	19.9	19.9	19.9	20
	Source: Truckstop.com						

Rail Traffic

For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 397,553 carloads and intermodal units, down 13.2 percent compared with the same week last year.

Total carloads for the week ending January 20 were 173,371 carloads, down 22.4 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 224,182 containers and trailers, down 4.5 percent compared to 2023.

None of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 21,055 carloads, to 47,731; nonmetallic minerals, down 11,953 carloads, to 18,628; and grain, down 5,246 carloads, to 15,752.

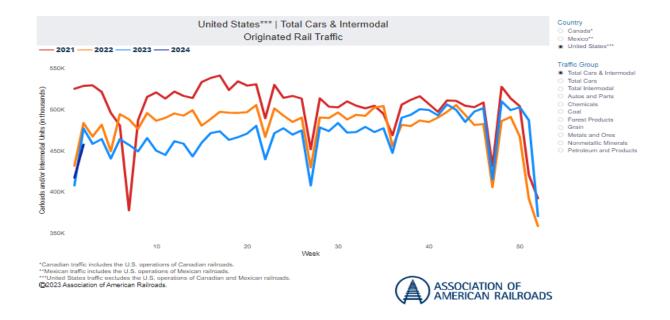
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For the first three weeks of 2024, U.S. railroads reported cumulative volume of 594,824 carloads, down 10.8 percent from the same point last year; and 677,439 intermodal units, up 0.2 percent from last year. Total combined U.S. traffic for the first three weeks of 2024 was 1,272,263 carloads and intermodal units, a decrease of 5.3 percent compared to last year. North American rail volume for the week ending January 20, 2024, on 12 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads totaled 265,838 carloads, down 20.3 percent compared with the same week last year, and 289,982 intermodal units, down 6.0 percent compared with last year. Total combined weekly rail traffic in North America was 555,820 carloads and intermodal units, down 13.5 percent. North American rail volume for the first three weeks of 2024 was 1,778,528 carloads and intermodal units, down 5.6 percent compared with 2023.

Canadian railroads reported 74,967 carloads for the week, down 21.5 percent, and 54,327 intermodal units, down 15.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first three weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 424,647 carloads, containers and trailers, down 9.8 percent.

Mexican railroads reported 17,500 carloads for the week, up 18.1 percent compared with the same week last year, and 11,473 intermodal units, up 24.0 percent. Cumulative volume on Mexican railroads for the first three weeks of 2024 was 81,618 carloads and intermodal containers and trailers, up 17.7 percent from the same point last year.

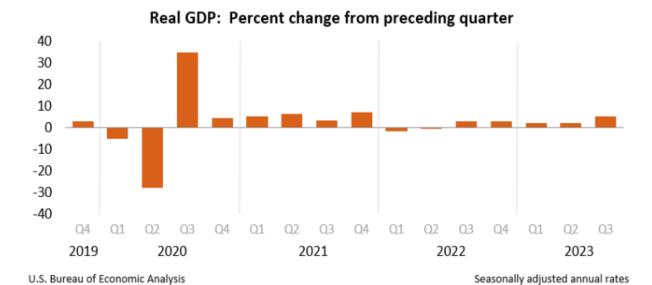
https://www.aar.org/news/weekly-rail-traffic-for-the-week-ending-january-20-2024/



GDP

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of economic analysis http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/national/gdp/gdpnewsrelease.htm
GDP, Personal Income, Outlays, Consumer Spending, Corporate Profits and Fixed Assets

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Atlanta Fed GPD-Now Estimate Latest estimate: 2.4 percent -- January 19, 2024

The GDPNow model estimate for real GDP growth (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in the fourth quarter of 2023 is **2.4 percent** on January 19, unchanged from January 18 after rounding. After this morning's existing-home sales report from the National Association of Realtors, the nowcast of fourth quarter real residential investment growth decreased from -0.4 percent to -0.6 percent.

This is the last GDPNow forecast for the fourth quarter. The first GDPNow forecast for the first quarter will be on Friday, January 26. Please see the "Release Dates" tab below for a list of upcoming releases.

https://www.atlantafed.org/cqer/research/gdpnow

St. Louis Fed GDP Now Q4 2023 2.38% 01/19/2024 https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/GDPNOW

Manufacturing AT A GLANCE December 2023

Index	Series Index Dec	Series Index Nov	Percentage Point Change	Direction	Rate of Change	Trend* (Months)
Manufacturing PMI [®]	47.4	46.7	+0.7	Contracting	Slower	14
New Orders	47.1	48.3	-1.2	Contracting	Faster	16
Production	50.3	48.5	+1.8	Growing	From Contracting	1
Employment	48.1	45.8	+2.3	Contracting	Slower	3
Supplier Deliveries	47.0	46.2	+0.8	Faster	Slower	15
Inventories	44.3	44.8	-0.5	Contracting	Faster	10
Customers' Inventories	48.1	50.8	-2.7	Too Low	From Too High	1
Prices	45.2	49.9	-4.7	Decreasing	Faster	8
Backlog of Orders	45.3	39.3	+6.0	Contracting	Slower	15
New Export Orders	49.9	46.0	+3.9	Contracting	Slower	7
mports	46.4	46.2	+0.2	Contracting	Slower	14
	OVERALL	ECONOMY		Contracting	Slower	3
	Manufact	uring Sector		Contracting	Slower	14

Manufacturing ISM® Report On Business® data is seasonally adjusted for the New Orders, Production, Employment and Inventories indexes.
*Number of months moving in current direction.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Month	Manufacturing PMI [®]
Dec 2023	47.4
Nov 2023	46.7
Oct 2023	46.7
Sep 2023	49.0
Aug 2023	47.6
Jul 2023	46.4

Month	Manufacturing PMI [®]
Jun 2023	46.0
May 2023	46.9
Apr 2023	47.1
Mar 2023	46.3
Feb 2023	47.7
Jan 2023	47.4

Average for 12 months - 47.1 High - 49.0 Low - 46.0

https://www.ismworld.org/supply-management-news-and-reports/reports/ism-report-on-business/pmi/december/

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<u>US Census Bureau (Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders).</u> <u>http://www.census.gov/manufacturing/m3/</u>

Ranking of Countries by Military might.

www.military.com

Our Nation in numbers

The Constitution gives us four missions...

- 1. Establish Justice and Ensure Domestic Tranquility.
- 2. Provide for the Common Defense.
- 3. Promote the General welfare.
- 4. Secure the Blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and Our Posterity.

www.usafacts.org

US Foreign Assistance

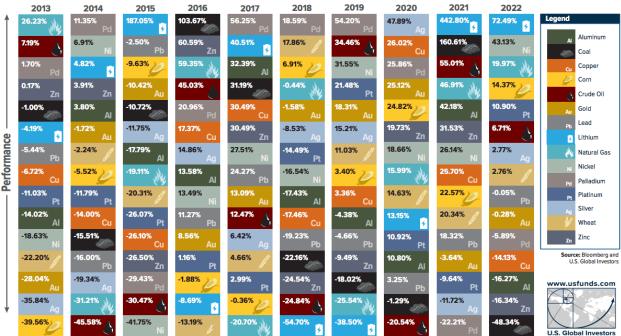
http://foreignassistance.gov/

How much aid do we give around the world?

https://usaid.gov

How Natural Resources have performed over the last 10 years.

The Periodic Table of Commodities Returns 2022



Natural resources are the building blocks of the world, essential to progress and prosperity. These commodities, like all investments, can have wide price fluctuations over time. This table shows the ebb and flow of commodity prices over the past decade and illustrates the principle of mean reversion — the concept that returns eventually move back towards their mean or average. The price movement of commodities is historically both seasonal and cyclical. That's why when investing in natural resources, we believe it is important for your portfolio to hold a diversified basket of commodities and to be actively managed by professionals who understand these specialized assets and the global trends impacting them. As with all investments, diversification does not protect an investor from market risks and does not assure a profit, and of course, past performance does not quarantee future results. Returns are based on historical soot prices or futures prices.

https://www.usfunds.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/23-006-CommoditiesPeriodicTable.pdf

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