



WEEKLY ECONOMIC DIGEST

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

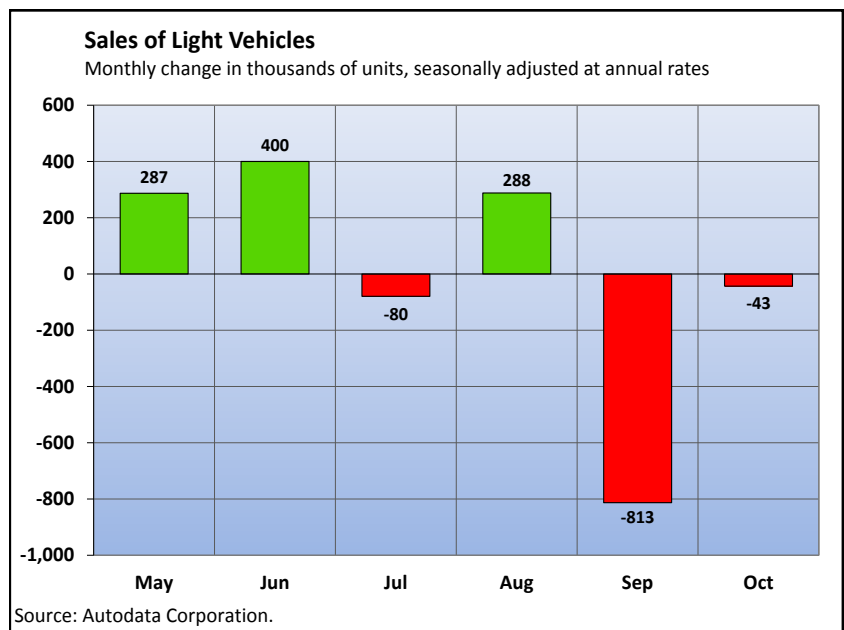
Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Vice Chair
Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Senior Democratic House Member

November 5, 2013

Vehicle Sales Remained Weak in October

Sales of imported vehicles fell, while sales of domestic vehicles rose slightly

- Total sales of new light vehicles (autos and light trucks) decreased by 43,300 units (or 0.3 percent) last month, following a drop of 813,300 units in September according to data released by Autodata Corporation (see chart).
- The October sales decline was concentrated in imports which fell by 115,200 units.
- Sales of domestic light vehicles (vehicles assembled in the United States, Canada, or Mexico) rose by 71,800 units in October, after declining by 793,100 units in September.
- Some analysts attribute the weak recent vehicle sales to uncertainty caused by the government shutdown.



While overall retail sales edged down, nonautomotive sales strengthened in September

- Sales at retail and food service establishments decreased 0.1 percent in September following an increase of 0.2 percent in August, according to the Census Bureau's advance estimates.
- That slight September decrease is largely the result of a drop in automotive sales, which declined 1.4 percent in September after increasing 3.3 percent over the preceding four months.
- Nonautomotive sales, which account for about 70 percent of total retail sales, accelerated in September, rising 0.4 percent on the heels of a 0.1 percent gain in August.
- Over the past year, total retail sales rose by 3.2 percent while nonautomotive sales increased by 3.9 percent.

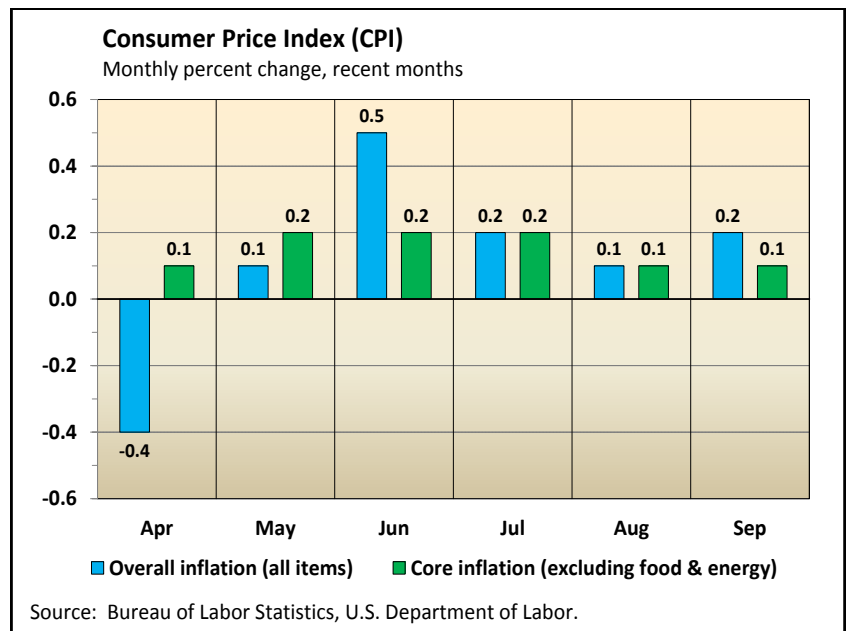
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Industrial production continues to grow

- Manufacturing output continued to rise in October and orders for manufactured goods picked up notably, according to a survey by the Institute for Supply Management.
- Industrial output at the nation's factories, utilities and mines rose 0.6 percent in September following a 0.4 percent increase in August, according to the Federal Reserve Board.
- The September rise in production largely reflected a 4.4 percent surge in production at electric and gas utilities following 5 months of declines.
- Factory production edged up 0.1 percent in September, following an increase of 0.5 percent in August.
- So far this year, factory output has grown only 0.7 percent, about half the pace of growth through the first nine months of 2012.

Inflation remains modest

- Inflation trends remain low: over the 12 months through September, consumer price inflation has averaged 1.2 percent while core inflation has been 1.7 percent.
- The consumer price index (CPI) for all urban consumers increased 0.2 percent in September, after increasing 0.1 percent in August and 0.2 percent in July (see chart).
- A 0.8 percent increase in retail gasoline prices boosted overall prices in September.
- Core inflation (which excludes changes in the often volatile prices of food and energy) held steady at 0.1 percent in September.



THE WEEK AHEAD

DAY

SELECTED UPCOMING DATA RELEASES & EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 7

Gross Domestic Product, (third quarter, advance estimate)
Consumer Credit (September)

Friday, Nov. 8

The Employment Situation (October)
Personal Income and Outlays (September)