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Last week was one of discrepancy between the individuals and companies. Consumer confidence rose, with those surveyed by the University of Michigan indicated higher sentiment in current and in future conditions. Retail sales for October came in above consensus and better than September's report. Finally, two measures of employment were strong. Weekly jobless claims remained at a four-decade low, and job openings neared a 15-year high.

But inflation at the producer level declined, news of more weakness in China emerged, oil prices fell and there was general handwringing by businesses over the growing expectations of the Federal Reserve's rate hike. All of these pushed against the positive news, leaving the week ending in an unsettled manner.

The short end of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) ticked up over the week, with the 1-month rising from 19 basis points to 20 and the 3-month increasing from 34 basis points to 36.