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A robust jobs report overshadowed the mixed U.S. economic data. The Labor Dept. said that nonfarm grew by 211,000 in November, which is better than expected. Its count of jobs in September and October was also revised and is up by a combined 35,000. The unemployment rate stayed at 5.0%, and first-time jobless claims stayed at historic lows, but broader measures of unemployment, ticked up and average hourly earnings did not overly impress. Vehicle sales continued to be a star in the domestic economy.

Factory activity, productivity and the service sector pulled back slightly. But the positive headline figures of the employment report should convince the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates in its policymaking meeting next week, even though its preferred measure of inflation is still low.

The short end of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) moved upward again over last week, with the 1-month rising from 24 basis points to 28 and the 3-month increasing from 41 basis points to 46.