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Consumer spending and confidence fell last week, more evidence of a pullback in growth that many analysts and economists worry may be due to more than just harsh winter weather. The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index fell and retail sales dropped significantly. Along with diminishing metrics for industrial production and producer price inflation (PPI), the story of the U.S. economy is becoming that of a dampening of optimism. But countering this somewhat was the continued strengthening of the labor market. First time jobless claims beat consensus by several thousand and the Labor Department's March Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) came in slightly lower, but still positive.

The yield on the 1- and 3-month Treasuries ticked up 1 basis point to one and two basis points, respectively. The 1- and 3-month London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) did not budge at 18 and 27 basis points, respectively. The rate for the Fed's overnight reverse-repo facility was 0.05%, and the overnight Treasury and mortgage-backed repo rates were 0.06% and 0.08%.