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An upward turn for jobs and manufacturing

The U.S. economy showed some solid, if not spectacular, gains last week. Though it came late in the week, the employment report led the good news with an above-consensus tally of 209,000 new nonfarm jobs added in July, with June's numbers revised higher. The unemployment rate moved down a tick to 4.3%. The manufacturing sector had a strong gain, fitting nicely with signs of activity growth coming in another report earlier in the week.

The domestic housing market also got some good news as the report of pending sales recorded a sizable increase that should set up good levels of sales and prices later this year.

All in all, it was a good week coming ahead of the height of the vacation season in August.

The short end of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) yield was essentially unchanged last week from the week prior: 1-month Libor at 1.23%, 3-month at 1.31% and 6-month at 1.45%.