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Yellen talks past successes, skirts future policy

Two Western states, Texas and Wyoming, dominated the news last week, but for two completely different reasons and outcomes. The attention paid to Hurricane Harvey as it intensified were met with worst fears confirmed: the storm devastated the Texas coast, causing major destruction and massive flooding, with economic impact likely felt for years.

The lead-up to the annual gathering of the world's central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyo., resulted in no turmoil. In fact, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's speech touched only slightly on future—imminent and long-term—monetary policy. Instead she talked about the positive efforts new financial regulations imposed by the Fed and others have had in the strengthening of the U.S. economy following the financial crisis, and that they should remain in place.

The housing market, both for existing and new houses, was again weak, but the broad manufacturing sector showed some pick-up.

The short end of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) yield was unchanged last week from the week prior, with 1-month Libor at 1.24%, 3-month at 1.32% and 6-month Libor at 1.46%, respectively.