

OCTOBER 8, 2018



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Labor market not slowing down

The extent to which Hurricane Florence affected the September labor market report is hard to determine. But the below-consensus headline reading of 134,000 jobs masked positive data: a 49-year low unemployment rate of 3.7% and upward revisions to July and August reports just some of them. The U.S. labor market unquestionably strong, with many companies actually having a hard time finding qualified candidates.

With more jobs comes more spending, and consumers have been doing that at the retail level lately. But in Sept, sales of big-ticket items also grew, as did factory orders: signs of positive opinions about the long-term economy.

Last week, the London interbank offered rate increased from the previous week: 1-month rose 2 basis points to 2.28%, 3-month rose 1 basis point to 2.41% and 6-month rose 2 basis points to 2.62%.