

WEEKLY INVESTMENT UPDATE

Oil prices up - extension of OPEC production cuts

KEY MESSAGES:

UK pushes ahead with key issues hindering commencement of trade talk-Brexit bill, rights of EU citizens and Irish border issue.

Senate's version of tax plan is due for vote after Thanksgiving break.

Germany coalition talks collapsed. SPD now open to negotiations with Merkel.

Oil reached a fresh two-year high, amid optimism that OPEC is nearing a production cut extension at its meeting next week. WTI Crude closed at \$58.83 a barrel.

USD fell to lowest in 8 weeks, S&P 500 closed at 2,597. US 10-year Treasuries yielded 2.33%. Gold closed at \$1,285.5 an ounce.

Market developments during the week

The main headlines of the week revolved around the upcoming major events. UK's attempts to achieve breakthrough in talks at December summit, oil march as OPEC nears production cut review and the vote on Senate's version of tax plan after thanksgiving has kept asset prices sensitive to future events.

The Senate's version of tax plan was released this week and Republican leaders plan a vote around Nov. 30. A deal is within reach if Republicans are willing to compromise on the size of tax cuts. Meanwhile, the Obamacare issue looms in the background, threatening at least one GOP senator's vote. The mandate repeal still appears much more likely to stay in the bill, where it helps offset more than \$300 billion in additional tax cuts. It's also crucial to President Donald Trump's goal of making corporate tax cuts permanent under the Senate's budget rules.

Another headline that caught market attention was statement by Fed Chair Janet Yellen that she will step down from the board of governors after Jerome Powell has been sworn into office, giving President Trump a fourth spot to fill on the Fed's seven-person board, including a vice chairman spot. She would have been eligible to stay on the Board of Governors until 2024. This came prior to release of minutes of Fed meeting, which showed several policy makers were concerned about soft inflation, though many still saw a near term rate hike as warranted. The

minutes revealed that while Fed officials remain confident in the labor market and above-trend economic growth, several are looking for stronger signs that price gains will pick up. A few even want to see inflation on an upward path before lifting rates again, underlining a persistent divide on the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee. Similar concern was voiced by Fed Chair Janet Yellen as she warned tightening monetary policy too quickly risked stranding inflation below the central bank's 2% target. Stocks stayed lower, the dollar declined and yields on two-year Treasury notes dipped after the minutes were released. With a December Fed rate hike almost fully priced in, market-implied odds of another rate increase by March held around 55%, based on trading in federal funds futures.

Ratcheting up the roiling standoff between the US and North Korea, President Trump declared North Korea a state sponsor of terrorism, triggering additional sanctions on the regime. The sanctions targeted three Chinese trading companies as well as North Korean shipping firms and vessels as the U.S. seeks to disrupt funding of Kim Jong Un's nuclear program. In response, North Korea considered it a severe provocation that reminds the country it should keep hold of its precious nuclear sword. Later in the week, in a Korean language statement, Pyongyang stated it opposed any form of support for terrorism, adding that it will continue to develop nuclear arms and its economy at the same time.

The information provided is not to be treated as specific advice. It has no regard for the specific investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person or entity. The investments discussed in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should make their own investment decisions based upon their own financial objectives and financial resources and, if in any doubt, should seek advice from an investment advisor. FTIM Safety First Portfolios are a range of investment solutions developed by Frenkel Topping Investment Management to cover a variety of investment needs. Safety First Portfolio solutions are some of the models that sit within this.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management does not make any warranties, express or implied, that the products, securities or services mentioned are available in your jurisdiction. Accordingly, if it is prohibited to advertise or make the products, securities or services available in your jurisdiction, or to you (by reason of nationality, residence or otherwise) such products, securities or services are not directed at you.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Limited - Frenkel House, 15 Carolina Way, Salford, Manchester, M50 2ZY

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Registered in England No: 05010380.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management is a subsidiary of Frenkel Topping Group Plc and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No: 409409.

WEEKLY INVESTMENT UPDATE

Oil prices up - extension of OPEC production cuts

On economic front, US Consumer Sentiment eased from a 13-year high in November while remaining at levels that signal Americans are open to spending in the holiday season, according to report by University of Michigan. Sentiment index fell to 98.5 (est. 98) from 100.7 in October. While the decline reflects an easing of confidence in both consumers' current financial situation and their expectations, sentiment still matches the second-highest level since 2004. Another measure of consumer sentiment, the Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index eased from a 10-week high to 51.7 from 52.1; it's still close to a 16-year high.

Report on US Business Equipment Orders showed October orders fell for the first time in four months even as a gain in capital goods shipments pointed to steady investment growth, Commerce Department. Shipments of those goods, which are used to calculate gross domestic product, rose 0.4% (est. 0.3% increase) after an upwardly revised 1.2% increase (prev. 0.9% gain). Bookings for all durable goods dropped 1.2% (est. 0.3% advance) following an upwardly revised 2.2% increase. While the decline in non-defense capital orders excluding aircraft raises the risk capital equipment sales will cool in coming months, the October advance in shipments and a stronger September point to firm investment demand this quarter.

Currencies

The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index declined to the lowest in eight weeks, sparked by Wednesday's more dovish than expected Federal Reserve minutes.

The euro rose 0.8% to \$1.19, the strongest in two months, particularly strong economic data bolstered investor confidence.

The British pound gained 0.75% to \$1.33, the strongest in eight weeks.

The Japanese yen tumbled 0.6% to 111.4 per dollar.

Equities

Futures on the S&P 500 Index jumped 0.7% to close at 2,597.

The S&P/TSX Composite Index closed at 16,108.09, the highest in nearly three weeks. The weekly gain was 0.7%.

The Stoxx Europe 600 Index climbed 0.2%. Italian banks led an advance in the Index, buoyed by a new proposal to deal with bad loans.

The U.K.'s FTSE 100 Index gained 0.44% to close at 7,414.

Germany's DAX Index gained less than 0.8% crossing 13k level to close at 13,098.

The MSCI Emerging Market Index rose 0.2%.

The selloff in Chinese stocks raised investor concern this week. Equities fell sharply after a recent surge that prompted government warnings about runaway prices. The bond market slump appears to have spread to equities as well. The CSI 300 Index slid as much as 3.3% Thursday and closed down 3%, its biggest loss since June 2016. The ChiNext Index fell 3.2%, the most in four months. The Shanghai Composite Index and Shenzhen Composite Index both also tumbled more than 2%.

The Hang Seng Index rose 0.5% and the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index of Chinese stocks traded in Hong Kong climbed 1.4% after a 1.9% slide on Thursday amid Chinese equity selloff. The slide was also a reminder to international investors that turbulence in mainland Chinese markets can spread, at least to Hong Kong. The Hang Seng plunged more than 30% after China's stock bubble burst two years ago.

The Topix index rose 0.2%, bouncing from a drop of 0.6%. The Nikkei 225 Stock Average was up 0.1%, reversing a 0.6% decline. Both indexes are up over the week, their 10th weekly advance in 11.

Asia's record equity rally continued as the region's stock benchmark surpassed closing high set in 2007. The MSCI Asia Pacific Index rose to 172.67 this week, gains led by energy and industrial stocks after U.S. equities continued their bounce from a two-week slide.

The information provided is not to be treated as specific advice. It has no regard for the specific investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person or entity. The investments discussed in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should make their own investment decisions based upon their own financial objectives and financial resources and, if in any doubt, should seek advice from an investment advisor. FTIM Safety First Portfolios are a range of investment solutions developed by Frenkel Topping Investment Management to cover a variety of investment needs. Safety First Portfolio solutions are some of the models that sit within this.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management does not make any warranties, express or implied, that the products, securities or services mentioned are available in your jurisdiction. Accordingly, if it is prohibited to advertise or make the products, securities or services available in your jurisdiction, or to you (by reason of nationality, residence or otherwise) such products, securities or services are not directed at you.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Limited - Frenkel House, 15 Carolina Way, Salford, Manchester, M50 2ZY

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Registered in England No: 05010380.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management is a subsidiary of Frenkel Topping Group Plc and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No: 409409.

WEEKLY INVESTMENT UPDATE

Oil prices up - extension of OPEC production cuts

India's S&P BSE Sensex rose with foreign buying of the nation's stocks so far this month on course to be the highest since March. Further bolstering gains in Indian equities comes a \$32 billion funding plan for state-owned banks and a surprise rating increase from Moody's Investors Services.

Bonds

The yield on 10-year Treasuries fell one basis point this week to 2.33%.

The gap between short- and long-dated Treasury yields fell to a fresh 10-year low this week, extending the trend that has dominated the world's largest bond market for weeks. One reason the flattening dynamic has room to run is a shift in asset allocation among money managers in favor of long-dated Treasuries, according to a growing chorus of strategists. With the S&P 500 Index hitting another record, and year-end only weeks away, pension funds and investors committed to a balanced portfolio may want to lock in equity gains and add fixed-income, according to Deutsche Bank. Of course, it's not exactly an ideal time to be purchasing 30-year Treasuries either, they yield 2.75%, down from as high as 3.21% in March. But the duration at least serves as a hedge if the stock-market rally comes to an end.

Germany's 10-year bund yielded similar levels as last week at 0.36%.

Britain's 10-year yield fell three basis points to 1.26%.

Commodities

West Texas Intermediate crude increased 1.4% to \$58.83 a barrel, the highest in more than two years. The contract added \$1.19 to \$58.02 on Wednesday. Prices rose 23 cents to \$63.55 on Thursday.

Brent for January settlement climbed to \$63.78 a barrel. The global benchmark crude traded at a premium of \$4.94 to WTI.

Prices are up more than 8% in November, heading for a third monthly gain in what would be their longest winning streak since May last year. The positive sentiment in crude market came as OPEC nears a key meet in Vienna next week where extension of production cuts to the end of next year is widely anticipated. Few concerns related to Russia being hesitant towards an extension eased by Friday as reports emerged that OPEC and Russia have crafted the outline of a deal to extend production cuts.

U.S. crude inventories data also came in support showing a decline about 457.1 million in the week ended Nov. 17, according to the Energy Information Administration. Meanwhile, American production gained for a fifth week to 9.66 million barrels a day. Stockpiles at Cushing, Oklahoma, dropped by 1.83 million barrels to 61.2 million, the largest draw since July. Further adding to speculation crude supply could tighten, TransCanada shut down its Keystone pipeline after a spill in South Dakota. The pipeline carries a large portion of crude into Cushing, Oklahoma, the delivery point for WTI futures, so its

shutdown means fewer barrels going into storage.

Crude prices are currently highly sensitive to the Vienna meeting and if OPEC fails to deliver an extension then prices may see major declines. We expect the group will likely agree to extend output cuts.

Gold declined 0.28% to \$1,290.5 an ounce. Gold began trading higher Tuesday night after Fed Chair Yellen's more dovish speech on raising rates, gained further momentum on Durable Goods and actually topped out following the release of the FOMC Minutes on Wednesday which were interpreted to be dovish.

Iron ore led commodities rally as it climbed to a two-month high, while industrial metals headed for the best weekly gain in six. The most-actively traded iron ore on the Dalian Commodity Exchange closed up 1.5% at 513.50 yuan (\$US78) a ton, after hitting 515.50 yuan intraday, its strongest level since September 14. The contract gained 9.4% this week, the most since end-June.

Copper climbed above \$US7000 a ton and towards a one-month high on Friday, helped by a weaker USD and shrinking supplies, though concerns over demand from top consumer China capped gains.

Chinese steel prices rose 4% this week, supporting prices of steelmaking ingredients nickel and zinc, with strong profit margins encouraging mills to boost output despite official restrictions on sintering to cut pollution this winter.

The information provided is not to be treated as specific advice. It has no regard for the specific investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person or entity. The investments discussed in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should make their own investment decisions based upon their own financial objectives and financial resources and, if in any doubt, should seek advice from an investment advisor. FTIM Safety First Portfolios are a range of investment solutions developed by Frenkel Topping Investment Management to cover a variety of investment needs. Safety First Portfolio solutions are some of the models that sit within this.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management does not make any warranties, express or implied, that the products, securities or services mentioned are available in your jurisdiction. Accordingly, if it is prohibited to advertise or make the products, securities or services available in your jurisdiction, or to you (by reason of nationality, residence or otherwise) such products, securities or services are not directed at you.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Limited - Frenkel House, 15 Carolina Way, Salford, Manchester, M50 2ZY

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Registered in England No: 05010380.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management is a subsidiary of Frenkel Topping Group Plc and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No: 409409.

WEEKLY INVESTMENT UPDATE

Oil prices up - extension of OPEC production cuts

Other major economies:

Euro area

Economic releases this week bolstered confidence in the strength of the 19-nation currency bloc. Jobs creation is running at the fastest pace in 17 years, as companies step up hiring on growing optimism, particularly French companies. A survey showed business confidence in France surged to the highest in almost a decade, while a gauge for manufacturing in Germany surged to its best reading since early 2011. France is enjoying its best streak of growth in more than six years as President Emmanuel Macron presses ahead with reforms intended to revamp the economy. The expansion is benefiting from tax cuts pushed through by the previous government and a broader recovery in the rest of the 19-nation currency bloc.

In Germany, political tensions resurfaced this week as months of coalition talks collapsed amid disputes over migration and climate change. The impasse has left Merkel stranded even though she won a mandate for a fourth term. This led Angela Merkel announce she'd rather have a repeat election than govern without a stable majority. She later turned to President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and her Christian Democratic Union officials to find a way forward that may result in minority rule. Steinmeier told reporters after their meeting that he's urging all parties to return to the negotiating table and avoid a new election. However, tensions slightly eased by Friday as reports emerged that Social Democrat

leader Martin Schulz is ready to start talks with Merkel and prepared to offer her limited support for a fourth term. Markets have taken the deadlock in stride, with Germany's DAX Index gaining 3.3% since the election on Sept. 24. The euro rose to \$1.1852.

Beside political tensions, Germany continues to reflect economic strength. Data this week indicated German companies are more confident than ever as they tap into the global economic upswing. A measure of the nation's business confidence set a record high in November climbing to 117.5 from a revised 116.80. Companies continued their hiring spree as a growing backlog of unfinished work strained their capacity to the limit. That suggests the economy will sustain its strong momentum from the third quarter, when output was bolstered by exports and investment. Gross domestic product expanded 0.8% in the three months through September, a separate report showed on Thursday. Trade added 0.4 percentage point to economic expansion in the July-September period, with company spending on equipment contributing 0.1 percentage point, the Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden said on Thursday.

A composite Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 57.6 from 56.6 in October, IHS Markit said in a separate report. New orders surged the most in more than 6-1/2 years, leading companies to add jobs at one of the fastest rates in at least two decades.

The euro-area economy is on track for its best annual performance since the financial crisis. Supported by ultra-low interest rates and asset purchases from the European Central Bank, the bloc has seen unemployment drop from a record and is enjoying its most synchronized expansion since before the single currency was founded. Still, minutes from the central bank's last policy meeting showed ECB policy makers argued against putting an end date to its bond-buying program. However, it is believed that ECB is reviewing its corporate-bond buying program. President Mario Draghi said last month that buying of private-sector securities will remain sizable.

Though growing strength of individual nations in the euro area block continues to hit headlines. Their debt level attracted EU warning this week, particularly for France and Italy. Budget plans by Italy, France and four other euro-area countries risk violating the European Union's spending rules, the bloc's executive arm said, while it delivered a warning to Rome about high government debt. For Italy, France and Belgium, debt reduction was also projected to not be in line with the foreseen level.

Australia

Major release that investors awaited from Australia was the Central bank's November meeting minutes. Enough fodder was available to help gauge the RBA's future interest rate hike path. Officials signaled less confidence in the outlook for wages, despite faster full-time hiring, suggesting

The information provided is not to be treated as specific advice. It has no regard for the specific investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person or entity. The investments discussed in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should make their own investment decisions based upon their own financial objectives and financial resources and, if in any doubt, should seek advice from an investment advisor. FTIM Safety First Portfolios are a range of investment solutions developed by Frenkel Topping Investment Management to cover a variety of investment needs. Safety First Portfolio solutions are some of the models that sit within this.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management does not make any warranties, express or implied, that the products, securities or services mentioned are available in your jurisdiction. Accordingly, if it is prohibited to advertise or make the products, securities or services available in your jurisdiction, or to you (by reason of nationality, residence or otherwise) such products, securities or services are not directed at you.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Limited - Frenkel House, 15 Carolina Way, Salford, Manchester, M50 2ZY

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Registered in England No: 05010380.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management is a subsidiary of Frenkel Topping Group Plc and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No: 409409.

WEEKLY INVESTMENT UPDATE

Oil prices up - extension of OPEC production cuts

lower for longer approach in terms of interest rate hike. The minutes suggest the Reserve Bank of Australia is increasingly concerned the local labor market is headed for a similar malaise to that gripping the U.S., U.K., Germany and Japan, where low unemployment isn't translating into wage gains. The difference is that Australians are also heavily indebted raising a risk to the outlook for consumption that accounts for half of gross domestic product. This being the reason for following a slower rate hike path. The Reserve Bank of Australia has already kept rates unchanged for 15 months now as it aims to support business investment and household spending, while using macroprudential measures to cool home-lending and the property market.

However, this comes as a negative for Australian assets. The Aussie has slumped 1.5% this month to 75.43 cents Tuesday, the worst-performing major currency. Swaps traders have been pushing back expectations for when the Reserve Bank of Australia will tighten. They now predict a move in September, instead of the first half of 2018, after recent economic data including inflation fell short of forecasts. The extra yield on Australia's 10-year bonds over similar-maturity Treasuries was at 19 basis points Tuesday, after falling to a 16-year low of 15 basis points in June. The last time the spread was consistently this narrow was in 2001, when the Aussie slid to 47.76 cents, the weakest since being allowed to float freely in 1983.

Turkey

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Turkish president, triggered a slump in lira assets this week by reviving his long-standing criticism of conventional central banking: namely, that policy makers should cut interest rates, rather than raise them, to stem soaring inflation. Similar attempt by him in January 2014 failed when the central bank eventually had to more than double borrowing costs to stem a flight of foreign cash. While traders are used to Erdogan's unorthodox economic views, they received his latest remarks with alarm because they're worried he now has more power to stomp on central bank independence after he centralized political authority in his office. Among things that investors are contending with are Turkey's diplomatic rows with the U.S. and Europe, one of the widest current-account deficits in the developing world, double-digit inflation and fragile government finances dependent on foreign investment.

Policy makers have steadily increased the weighted-average cost of the funds they lend to banks by more than three percentage points this year to 12%. The lira dropped as much as 1.2% against the dollar before recouping some losses after the central bank pushed lenders to use a window that makes borrowing more expensive from this week. The move effectively amounted to a 25 basis-point interest rate increase and came a few hours before the Treasury sold five-year bonds. The regulator will likely continue drive borrowing costs higher with measured hikes

to the late liquidity window before its next scheduled meeting on Dec. 14.

South Africa

South Africa's central bank held its repurchase rate at 6.75% in a unanimous decision matching estimates. Earlier in July, the Monetary Policy Committee cut the rate for the first time in five years to support an economy that was in its second recession in almost a decade in the first quarter. Inflation has been inside the central bank's target range for seven months, but the rand, which has depreciated on concerns about higher public debt and political turbulence before the African National Congress's leadership vote, has countered the slowdown.

S&P Global Ratings cut South Africa's local-currency debt score to junk on Friday, while Moody's opted to keep both readings on Baa3, its lowest investment grade, but put them on review for possible downgrade, raising the risk of a selloff from global indexes. The downgrade by S&P comes after Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba shocked markets on Oct. 25 by flagging sharply weaker growth expectations, a wider budget deficit and rising government debt.

A Moody's downgrade would trigger the exit of South Africa's local currency debt from important global bond indices and this could spark outflows of as much as 100 billion rand (\$7 billion), Citigroup economist Gina Schoeman said ahead of the rating company announcements. A selloff of rand

The information provided is not to be treated as specific advice. It has no regard for the specific investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person or entity. The investments discussed in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should make their own investment decisions based upon their own financial objectives and financial resources and, if in any doubt, should seek advice from an investment advisor. FTIM Safety First Portfolios are a range of investment solutions developed by Frenkel Topping Investment Management to cover a variety of investment needs. Safety First Portfolio solutions are some of the models that sit within this.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management does not make any warranties, express or implied, that the products, securities or services mentioned are available in your jurisdiction. Accordingly, if it is prohibited to advertise or make the products, securities or services available in your jurisdiction, or to you (by reason of nationality, residence or otherwise) such products, securities or services are not directed at you.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Limited - Frenkel House, 15 Carolina Way, Salford, Manchester, M50 2ZY

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Registered in England No: 05010380.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management is a subsidiary of Frenkel Topping Group Plc and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No: 409409.



WEEKLY INVESTMENT UPDATE

Oil prices up - extension of OPEC production cuts

bonds, which comprise about 90% of South Africa's outstanding liabilities, would raise borrowing costs for the nation as it sells more debt to plug a widening budget gap. The rand fell as much as 2% to 14.1585 per dollar Friday, and has lost 7.5% of its value since the middle of the year.

Saudi Arabia-Iran worsening relations

After ratcheting up strict measures relating to the anti-corruption drive, the shock and awe prompted concern in Iran. The Shia Muslim led region is speculating that the U.S. and Israel will unite with the kingdom to take the fight against Iran. This week Saudi Arabia's crown prince has called Iran's supreme leader "the new Hitler of the Middle East", amid heightened tensions between the two countries. Earlier this month, he accused Iran of what he said was tantamount to an act of war, blaming it for a missile attack aimed at the Saudi capital, Riyadh, by rebels in neighboring Yemen.

The Saudis accuse Iran of aiding Shia Houthi rebels in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition has been fighting a war since 2015. Iran and the rebels have denied the charge. Saudi Arabia has been widely blamed for exacerbating Yemen's humanitarian crisis, which the UN has described as the worst in the world. Saudi Arabia has also warned against Iran's growing influence in Iraq, where its proxy militias have played a key role in defeating so-called Islamic State, and in Syria, where it has militarily helped President Bashar al-Assad gain the upper hand in the civil war.

Both countries have also accused one another of trying to destabilize Lebanon, where the pro-Saudi prime minister leads a coalition including the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement.

Canada

Canadian Retail Sales data for the month of September disappointed rising just 0.1% during the month, adding to evidence consumers are paring back in the second half of this year. The Canadian dollar fell as much as 0.2% to C\$1.2723 per U.S. dollar after the retail report. This release forms a last major piece of output data ahead of third quarter gross domestic product numbers next week, and is the second release this week that showed unexpected weakness in activity. Statistics Canada reported Tuesday that wholesale sales fell 1.2% in September.

The latest headlines from the NAFTA discussions suggests that negotiators remain far apart on a number of key issues. Canada and Mexico are holding firm in their resistance to addressing America's most contentious proposed changes to Nafta in the latest talks, with the parties making some slow progress on areas of greater consensus. Many American lawmakers have also been speaking out in support of Nafta, and Canada and Mexico are holding out hope that domestic pressure will lead U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to back off controversial demands. Those include requiring cars to have 50% U.S. content, imposing a sunset clause on the deal, killing the Chapter 19

dispute panels and dismantling Canada's dairy sector, which relies on a system of quotas and tariffs that Canadian officials argue prevents oversupply.

UK

Major data releases this week include U.K. Consumer Confidence that hit a level last seen after Brexit Vote. YouGov and the Centre for Economics and Business Research said optimism suffered its biggest monthly decline since the month after the referendum, with all eight measures that make up the index falling. The score for household financial situations in the past 30 days dropped to its lowest since January 2014, and a gauge of home owners' expectations for values over the next 12 months slid to the least in a year following the Bank of England's rate increase on Nov. 2.

The holiday season served as an opportunity for British retailers facing favorable environment including strong consumer confidence and low unemployment with Black Friday being the season's traditional starting point. While sales were strong online, fewer shoppers hit the high street than last year, continuing a long-term change in habits.

UK GDP data met estimates and rose 0.4%, up from 0.3% in the previous three months on the back of strong consumer spending however, there were signs Brexit appears to be taking a toll on business investment. The figures came after Chancellor Philip Hammond said in his Autumn Budget on Wednesday that the

The information provided is not to be treated as specific advice. It has no regard for the specific investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person or entity. The investments discussed in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should make their own investment decisions based upon their own financial objectives and financial resources and, if in any doubt, should seek advice from an investment advisor. FTIM Safety First Portfolios are a range of investment solutions developed by Frenkel Topping Investment Management to cover a variety of investment needs. Safety First Portfolio solutions are some of the models that sit within this.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management does not make any warranties, express or implied, that the products, securities or services mentioned are available in your jurisdiction. Accordingly, if it is prohibited to advertise or make the products, securities or services available in your jurisdiction, or to you (by reason of nationality, residence or otherwise) such products, securities or services are not directed at you.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Limited - Frenkel House, 15 Carolina Way, Salford, Manchester, M50 2ZY

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Registered in England No: 05010380.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management is a subsidiary of Frenkel Topping Group Plc and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No: 409409.

WEEKLY INVESTMENT UPDATE

Oil prices up - extension of OPEC production cuts

Office for Budget Responsibility had slashed its growth forecasts. The pound edged lower towards \$1.32, reversing earlier gains of as much as 0.2% and two-year gilts yielded 0.46 % after the cut in growth forecast. Annual rate of CPI inflation is forecast to fall from peak of 3% towards 2% target later this year.

In his budget, Hammond also announced the abolition of stamp duty for first-time buyers on all properties up to 300,000 pounds. In London, where property is more expensive, it will apply to the first 300,000 pounds of any first home purchase. 95% of all first-time buyers will benefit, with 80% not paying stamp duty.

Other key highlights include

- The government will provide a £44bn capital investment to boost the housing market by targeting building 300,000 new homes a year by the middle of the next decade.
- Councils given powers to charge 100% council tax premium on empty properties
- The National Living Wage is to rise by 4.4% to £7.83 an hour from next April, up from £7.50 today.
- The basic-rate income tax threshold will rise to £11,850 in April next year, up from £11,501 today, while the higher rate threshold will rise to £46,350, up from £45,001 today.
- From next April, diesel cars that don't meet air quality standards will be hit by additional tax. Hammond also unveiled extra funds and tax incentives for

electric car drivers, including a new £400m charging infrastructure fund.

- Hammond announced a plan to raise over £20bn of new investment in innovative UK businesses over 10 years. That plan includes doubling the amount that can be invested in certain companies through the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), a venture capital scheme that provides tax relief to investors to help small and medium sized companies grow.
- The government also committed to invest over £500m in a host of technological initiatives from artificial intelligence to 5G and full fibre broadband, and announced more support for driverless vehicles.

Prime Minister Theresa May's under-fire government acknowledged the U.K. economic outlook is deteriorating and unexpectedly set aside an extra £3 billion (\$4 billion) to prepare for all Brexit outcomes. The downgrade is at odds with strength elsewhere in the world economy and led the OBR to estimate the U.K. will need to borrow an extra £29 billion by 2022. Taking into account technical changes, the increase in borrowing amounts to £53 billion.

The Budget coincided with a particularly delicate time in the Brexit talks as efforts from UK side to achieve sufficient progress on issues blocking a breakthrough in Brexit talks next month continued. Regarding Brexit bill, Theresa May won the backing of cabinet colleagues to offer more money to

move talks forward. The two sides have also made progress on the rights of EU citizens. May is said to offer to allow the European Court of Justice to have a role in guaranteeing the rights of EU citizens in the U.K. after Brexit, ITV political editor Robert Peston said in a social media post. The reported concession on the ECJ would also be an important olive branch to the EU as May has previously held steadfastly to her commitment to cut all ties with the court, which became a lightning rod for opposition to Britain's membership in the bloc.

However, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, made clear that without a solution to the question of the Irish border, money alone may not break the deadlock. After the U.K. leaves the union, Ireland's 310-mile (500-kilometer) border running from near Derry in the north to Dundalk in the south will form the EU's land border with Britain. By Friday, some progress on Irish border issue involved suggestion by British officials that Ireland could effectively maintain an open-ended veto over Brexit that would mean the Irish government could block any final deal if it's unhappy with how the border issue is handled and maintain the leverage it currently has. European officials said while such an approach could eventually be part of the solution, it won't be enough to break the logjam next month.

Requesting similar efforts from the EU side, Prime Minister Theresa May said both sides must step forward together at a security summit in Brussels. The chances of a Brexit breakthrough at a crunch summit in

The information provided is not to be treated as specific advice. It has no regard for the specific investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person or entity. The investments discussed in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should make their own investment decisions based upon their own financial objectives and financial resources and, if in any doubt, should seek advice from an investment advisor. FTIM Safety First Portfolios are a range of investment solutions developed by Frenkel Topping Investment Management to cover a variety of investment needs. Safety First Portfolio solutions are some of the models that sit within this.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management does not make any warranties, express or implied, that the products, securities or services mentioned are available in your jurisdiction. Accordingly, if it is prohibited to advertise or make the products, securities or services available in your jurisdiction, or to you (by reason of nationality, residence or otherwise) such products, securities or services are not directed at you.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Limited - Frenkel House, 15 Carolina Way, Salford, Manchester, M50 2ZY

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Registered in England No: 05010380.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management is a subsidiary of Frenkel Topping Group Plc and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No: 409409.

24 November 2017



**frenkel
topping**
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

WEEKLY INVESTMENT UPDATE

Oil prices up - extension of OPEC production cuts

December are as high as 70%, according to an influential think tank. While there's still skepticism of a breakthrough in December, there will be some solid progress on the three key issues ahead of the summit.

Upcoming events

Speeches by prospective Fed Chair Jerome Powell and current Fed Chair Janet Yellen

PMI Manufacturing data for the US

US Debt Ceiling on Dec 6, if not lifted, haven assets may rally while USD and equities may falter

14/15th December Brexit - EU summit forms the major source of volatility in the coming days.

Jason Granite

Chief Investment Officer

24 November 2017

The information provided is not to be treated as specific advice. It has no regard for the specific investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person or entity. The investments discussed in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should make their own investment decisions based upon their own financial objectives and financial resources and, if in any doubt, should seek advice from an investment advisor. FTIM Safety First Portfolios are a range of investment solutions developed by Frenkel Topping Investment Management to cover a variety of investment needs. Safety First Portfolio solutions are some of the models that sit within this.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management does not make any warranties, express or implied, that the products, securities or services mentioned are available in your jurisdiction. Accordingly, if it is prohibited to advertise or make the products, securities or services available in your jurisdiction, or to you (by reason of nationality, residence or otherwise) such products, securities or services are not directed at you.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Limited - Frenkel House, 15 Carolina Way, Salford, Manchester, M50 2ZY

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Registered in England No: 05010380.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management is a subsidiary of Frenkel Topping Group Plc and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No: 409409.



WEEKLY INVESTMENT UPDATE
**Oil prices up - extension of OPEC
production cuts**

**Frenkel Topping Investment
Management's ("FTIM's") Safety First
performance**

| | 2016 Performance | 2016 Volatility | 2017 Performance | 2017 Volatility | Volatility since inception *04.01.16 |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| FTIM Safety First 2 | 1.53% | 1.42% | 2.25% | 3.43% | 2.37% |
| FTIM Safety First 3 | 3.26% | 1.91% | 2.86% | 3.55% | 2.62% |
| FTIM Safety First 4 | 4.38% | 2.93% | 3.61% | 4.02% | 3.31% |
| FTIM Safety First 5 | 5.63% | 3.23% | 4.52% | 4.45% | 3.64% |
| FTIM Safety First 6 | 10.10% | 5.04% | 6.13% | 5.09% | 4.91% |

Date: 20 November 2017
Source: FTIM / FE Analytics

Safety First Portfolio strategies were launched on 29/04/16. All figures are on a bid - bid, total return basis and are quoted net of underlying fund charges, our DFM fee of 0.6% including VAT and a platform fee of 0.2%. Advice charges would depend on the charges made by your independent financial adviser. The deduction of these charges would reduce the performance shown. Actual Past Performance Data is from 29/4/16 only as the models only launched on this date and therefore 5-year performance data is not available and 12-month performance figures are not able to be shown. Pre - launch performance from 4/1/16 – 29/4/16 is Simulated Past Performance. The figures represent performance of a model portfolio; individual account performance may differ if your account does not follow the model. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Investment values can go down as well as up and may be affected by exchange rate variations.

*Volatility is a measure of the movement in the price of an asset around its average return. The higher the volatility the more risk involved in the investment.

The information provided is not to be treated as specific advice. It has no regard for the specific investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person or entity. The investments discussed in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should make their own investment decisions based upon their own financial objectives and financial resources and, if in any doubt, should seek advice from an investment advisor. FTIM Safety First Portfolios are a range of investment solutions developed by Frenkel Topping Investment Management to cover a variety of investment needs. Safety First Portfolio solutions are some of the models that sit within this.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management does not make any warranties, express or implied, that the products, securities or services mentioned are available in your jurisdiction. Accordingly, if it is prohibited to advertise or make the products, securities or services available in your jurisdiction, or to you (by reason of nationality, residence or otherwise) such products, securities or services are not directed at you.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Limited - Frenkel House, 15 Carolina Way, Salford, Manchester, M50 2ZY

Frenkel Topping Investment Management Registered in England No: 05010380.

Frenkel Topping Investment Management is a subsidiary of Frenkel Topping Group Plc and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No: 409409.