ECOWEEK

No. 17-42, 17 November 2017

The UK: darker horizons

■ The UK's economic environment is deteriorating ■ Even so, the Bank of England raised its key rate ■ Could it be preparing for a future rate cut?

There are no happy solutions for Brexit. Since 29 March, when the UK triggered the procedure to exit the European Union (EU), the UK economy has not been running very smoothly. Briefly lifted by the drop-off in Sterling and monetary injections, it is now showing increasing signs of weakness. The upturn in inflation is eroding household purchasing power and curbing consumer spending. With little choice but to adopt a wait-and-see attitude, numerous business leaders have been cancelling or postponing investments. In October, the Confederation of British Industry warned that the business climate was deteriorating, in stark contrast with global trends. Migrant flows have come to a virtual standstill due to uncertainty over the situation for expatriates, and as a result construction has stalled, too. Real prices per square metre are falling, which is never good news for an economy that has been traditionally highly dependent on the real-estate cycle (see chart).

In this case, how should we interpret the Bank of England's key rate increase in early November? The press release issued along with the decision provides no clear explanation. Although the committee reacted in text book fashion to higher inflation figures, monetary policy committee members also explained that Brexit might lower the potential growth rate, i.e. "the level at which the economy can grow without generating inflation." The central bank is



Sources: Halifax, national accounts

responding to the shift in the supply curve, even though it is supposed to act on demand. Committee members also pointed out that any further tightening was bound to be "gradual and limited", although they said they were worried by the "considerable" downside risks to economic prospects. It looks as though the UK authorities are anticipating difficult times ahead, and are striving rebuild manoeuvring room today to be in a better position to support the economy in the near future.

Jean-Luc Proutat

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ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



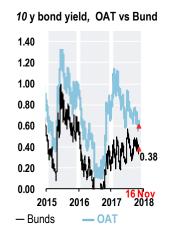
The bank for a changing world



Markets overview

The essentials

Week 10-11 17 > 16-11-17 **凶** CAC 40 5 381 **5 336** -0.8 **对 S&P 500** 2 582 **2 586** +0.1 → Volatility (VIX) 11.3 ▶ 11.8 +0.5 pb **↗** Euribor 3M (%) -0.33 ▶ -0.33 +0.0 bp **↗** Libor \$ 3M (%) 1.41 ▶ 1.42 +0.9 ad ≥ OAT 10y (%) 0.64 0.60 -4.9 bp ≥ Bund 10y (%) 0.41 0.38 -3.5 bp ≥ US Tr. 10y (%) 2.41 2.38 -3.5 bp +0.9 % 7 Euro vs dollar 1.17 ▶ 1.18 → Gold (ounce, \$) 1 276 **1** 280 +0.3 % → Oil (Brent, \$) 64.2 ▶ 61.9 **-3.6** %





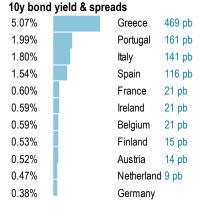


Money & Bond Markets

Interest Rates	i	high	nest' 17	lowest' 17		
€ ECB	ECB 0.00		at 02/01	0.00	at 02/01	
Eonia	-0.36	-0.33	at 02/06	-0.37	at 05/06	
Euribor 3M	-0.33	-0.32	at 02/01	-0.33	at 10/04	
Euribor 12M	-0.19	-0.08	at 02/01	-0.19	at 15/11	
\$ FED	1.25	1.25	at 15/06	0.75	at 02/01	
Libor 3M	1.42	1.42	at 15/11	1.00	at 02/01	
Libor 12M	1.89	1.89	at 14/11	1.68	at 06/01	
£ BoE	0.50	0.50	at 02/11	0.25	at 02/01	
Libor 3M	0.53	0.53	at 13/11	0.28	at 01/09	
Libor 12M	0.78	0.79	at 02/11	0.59	at 06/09	

At 16-11-17

Yield (%) highest' 17 € AVG 5-7y **0.33** 0.68 at 17/03 0.18 at 21/06 -0.60 at 27/06 -0.96 at 24/02 Bund 2y -0.75 Bund 10y 0.38 0.57 at 06/07 0.18 OAT 10y 0.60 1.14 at 06/02 0.56 Corp. BBB 1.18 1.65 at 01/02 1.06 at 07/11 \$ Treas. 2y 1.70 at 16/11 1.14 at 24/02 Treas. 10y 2.38 2.61 at 13/03 2.05 at 08/09 Corp. BBB 3.59 3.90 at 14/03 3.38 at 05/09 £ Treas. 2y 0.45 at 13/11 0.01 at 28/02 Treas. 10y **1.35** 1.51 at 26/01 0.87 at 14/06 At 16-11-17



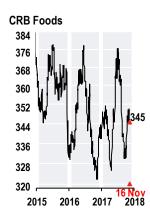
Commodities

Spot price in o	low	est'	17	7 2017(€)		
Oil, Brent	61.9	45.5	at	26/06	-2.3%	
Gold (ounce)	1 280	1 156	at	03/01	-0.9%	
Metals, LMEX	3 186	2 639	at	03/01	+7.3%	
Copper (ton)	6 703	5 462	at	08/05	+8.7%	
CRB Foods	345	325	at	24/04	-8.9%	
w heat (ton)	159	143	at	02/10	-2.8%	
Corn (ton)	122	120	at	18/09	-17.6%	
At 16-11-17 Variations						









Exchange Rates

1€ =		hiah	est' 17	low	2017		
USD	1.18		at 29/08	1.04	at	03/01	+11.6%
GBP	0.89	0.93	at 29/08	0.84	at	19/04	+4.5%
CHF	1.17	1.17	at 16/11	1.06	at	08/02	+9.1%
JPY	132.80	134.25	at 25/10	115.57	at	17/04	+7.9%
AUD	1.55	1.56	at 15/11	1.37	at	23/02	+6.4%
CNY	7.81	7.99	at 03/08	7.22	at	03/01	+6.5%
BRL	3.86	3.91	at 15/11	3.24	at	15/02	+12.5%
RUB	70.24	71.97	at 02/08	59.66	at	17/04	+9.1%
INR	76.84	77.55	at 22/09	68.18	at	07/04	+7.3%
At 16-	11-17					Var	riations

Equity indices

	Index	high	est	' 17	low	est'	17	2017	2017(€)
CAC 40	5 336	5 518	at	03/11	4 749	at	31/01	+9.8%	+9.8%
S&P500	2 586	2 594	at	08/11	2 239	at	02/01	+15.5%	+3.5%
DAX	13 047	13 479	at	03/11	11 510	at	06/02	+13.6%	+13.6%
Nikkei	22 351	22 938	at	07/11	18 336	at	14/04	+16.9%	+8.3%
China*	88	89	at	09/11	59	at	02/01	+51.4%	+34.9%
India*	574	596	at	06/11	445	at	03/01	+23.6%	+15.2%
Brazil*	1 958	2 168	at	05/10	1 639	at	21/06	+18.0%	+5.0%
Russia*	587	622	at	03/01	497	at	22/06	-4.2%	-12.7%
At 16-11-17 Variations									

* MSCI index

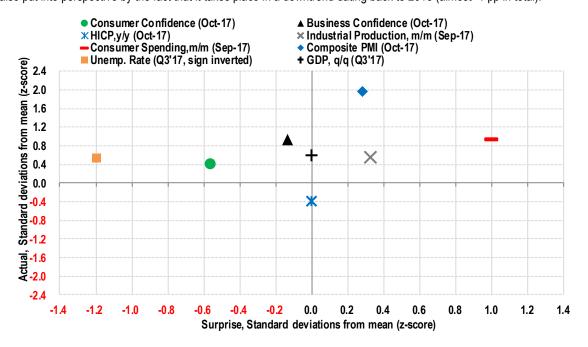




Pulse

France: The positives outweigh the negatives

Among the eight indicators of our economic barometer, three of them surprised on the upside (composite PMI, industrial production, household consumption expenditure on goods), three on the downside (INSEE business confidence index, consumer confidence, unemployment rate) and two were in line with expectations (inflation and growth). However, favorable changes, especially the rate of growth that maintained its healthy pace of 2% in annualized terms in Q3, prevail over the unfavorable ones, in particular the increase in Q3 unemployment rate, from 9.5% to 9.7%. This rise is also put into perspective by the fact that it takes place in a downtrend dating back to 2015 (almost -1 pp in total).



Note: z-score is a score which indicates how many standard deviations an observation is from the mean: $z=(x-\mu)/\sigma$ where x: observation, μ : mean, σ : standard deviation. On the X-axis, x corresponds at the last known surprise for each indictor represented on the graph, μ and σ corresponds respectively to the mean and the standard deviation of the last 24 value for monthly data and the last 8 quarters for quarterly data. On the Y-axis, x corresponds at the last known value of indicator, μ and σ corresponds respectively to the mean and the standard deviation for this indicator since 2000.

Sources: Bloomberg, Markit, BNP Paribas calculations

Indicators preview

A busy week ahead with on the economic policy front the Autumn Statement in the UK, the FOMC minutes and ECB account of the monetary policy meeting. In terms of data, highlights of the week are the PMI in several countries, the IFO index in Germany, business confidence in France, eurozone consumer confidence and the University of Michigan sentiment index.

Date	Country	Event	Period	Surv(M)	Prior
11/22/17	United Kingdom	U.K. Chancellor Hammond Makes Autumn Statement to Parliament			
11/22/17	United States	Durables Ex Transportation	Oct		0.7%
11/22/17	Eurozone	Consumer Confidence	Nov		-1.0
11/22/17	United States	University of Michigan Sentiment	Nov		
11/22/17	United States	University of Michigan 5-10 year inflation	Nov		
11/22/17	United States	FOMC Meeting Minutes	Nov		
11/23/17	Germany	GDP SA QoQ	3Q		
11/23/17	France	Business Confidence	Nov		109
11/23/17	France	Markit France Composite PMI	Nov		57.4
11/23/17	Germany	Markit/BME Germany Composite PMI	Nov		56.6
11/23/17	Eurozone	Markit Eurozone Composite PMI	Nov		56.0
11/23/17	Eurozone	ECB account of the monetary policy meeting			
11/24/17	Germany	IFO Business Climate	Nov		116.7
				O	DND Dariba

Sources: Bloomberg, BNP Paribas





Economic scenario

UNITED STATES

- GDP growth keeps on a decent 2% pace and picked-up a bit in Q2. However the fiscal outlook remains uncertain. A fiscal stimulus still is possible, but it would not be implemented before end-2017. Potential effects are thus uncertain.
- The labour market is as buoyant as ever. Still, the support to households' disposable income is not as strong as it looks as wage inflation remains limited.
- With inflation relatively muted at this stage of the cycle, the Fed is in no rush to increase rates. We forecast the Fed Funds target rates to come at 1.25% by year-end, 2.00% by mid-2018.

CHINA

- After a period of stabilisation and slight recovery since Q2 2016, economic growth is expected to slow down moderately in the coming quarters.
- Exports should continue to rebound and infrastructure projects will continue to drive investment. However, downside risks are high due to the reduction in excess production capacity in the industry and given risks of a downturn in the property market and financial instability.
- The authorities will maintain an expansionist fiscal policy while the central bank should continue to tighten monetary conditions cautiously, especially to foster a deleveraging of financial institutions.

EUROZONE

- The recovery is getting stronger and broader: the dispersion of economic performances among member states is receding.
- Despite the cyclical recovery, core inflation still shows no sign of a convincing upward trend. For the recovery to enter its inflationary phase the economy has to improve further, until the point at which wages will tend to increase.

The level of slack remains uncertain though. Broader measures of labor underutilization reach 18%, double the level of the current unemployment rate. The ECB is expected to remain cautious.

FRANCE

- A clear growth acceleration is underway. Higher rates of growth should resume. Households' consumption is supported by the jobs recovery but restrained by the upturn in inflation. Investment and exports dynamics are favourable. Risks lie slightly on the upside.
- We expect the output gap to slowly narrow and the unemployment rate to progressively decline, containing the rise in inflation.

Fiscal policy should continue to combine growth supportive measures and consolidation ones. The fiscal deficit should not be a lot more reduced but it should remain below the 3% threshold.

SUMMARY

	GI	OP Growt	h	Inflation				
%	2017 e	2018 e	2019 e	2017 e	2018 e	2019 e		
Advanced	2.0	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.9		
United-States	2.1	2.7	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.5		
Japan	1.4	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5		
United-Kingdom	1.6	1.0	2.0	2.7	2.7	2.4		
Euro Area	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.6		
Germany	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9		
France	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.4		
Italy	1.4	1.0	0.6	1.4	1.1	1.4		
Spain	3.2	2.6	1.9	2.0	1.3	1.6		
Belgium	1.6	1.6	1.5	2.1	1.9	1.9		
Emerging	4.7	4.9	4.9	3.0	3.3	3.6		
China	6.6	6.4	6.5	1.6	2.3	2.5		
India	7.1	7.0	7.6	4.5	3.4	4.5		
Brazil	1.0	3.0	2.5	3.5	3.8	4.1		
Russia	1.8	1.8	1.5	4.5	4.8	4.8		

Source: BNP Paribas Group Economic Research (e: Estimates & forecasts,)

INTEREST RATES & FX RATES

Intere	st rates, %	2017	2018					
End of	period	Q4e	Q1e	Q2e	Q3e	Q4e	2017e	2018e
US	Fed Funds	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.00	1.25	2.00
	Libor 3m \$	1.50	1.55	1.70	1.80	1.85	1.50	1.85
	T-Notes 10y	2.25	2.35	2.50	2.65	2.75	2.25	2.75
Ezone	ECB Refi Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Euribor 3m	-0.32	-0.32	-0.32	-0.32	-0.05	-0.32	-0.05
	Bund 10y	0.70	0.80	1.00	1.10	1.25	0.70	1.25
	OAT 10y	1.15	1.25	1.45	1.60	1.65	1.15	1.65
UK	Base rate	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.25	0.50
	Gilts 10y	1.20	1.35	1.50	1.75	1.95	1.20	1.95
Japan	BoJ Rate	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10
	JGB 10y	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.05	0.04	0.05

Exch	ange Rates	2017	2018					
End of	period	Q4e	Q1e	Q2e	Q3e	Q4e	2017e	2018e
USD	EUR / USD	1.17	1.15	1.16	1.19	1.23	1.17	1.23
	USD / JPY	112	115	115	111	109	112	109
	GBP / USD	1.29	1.25	1.29	1.34	1.40	1.29	1.40
	USD / CHF	0.98	1.01	1.01	0.99	0.97	0.98	0.97
EUR	EUR / GBP	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.89	0.88	0.91	0.88
	EUR / CHF	1.15	1.16	1.17	1.18	1.19	1.15	1.19
	EUR / JPY	131	132	133	132	134	131	134

Source : BNP Paribas Group Economic Research / GlobalMarkets (e: forecasts)



GROUP ECONOMIC RESEARCH

William DE VIJLDER Chief Economist	+33(0)1 55 77 47 31	william.devijlder@bnpparibas.com
ADVANCED ECONOMIES AND STATISTICS		
■ Jean-Luc PROUTAT Head	+33.(0)1.58.16.73.32	jean-luc.proutat@bnpparibas.com
■ Alexandra ESTIOT	+33.(0)1.58.16.81.69	alexandra.estiot@bnpparibas.com
Works coordination - United States - United Kingdom - Globalisation Hélène BAUDCHON	+33.(0)1.58.16.03.63	helene.baudchon@bnpparibas.com
France (short-term outlook and forecasts) - Labour markets Frédérique CERISIER	+33.(0)1.43.16.95.52	frederique.cerisier@bnpparibas.com
Euro Area (European governance and public finances), Spain, Portugal Thibault MERCIER	+33.(0)1.57.43.02.91	thibault.mercier@bnpparibas.com
Euro Area (short-term outlook and monetary policy), France (structural reforms) Catherine STEPHAN	+33.(0)1.55.77.71.89	catherine.stephan@bnpparibas.com
Nordic countries - World trade - Education, health, social conditions Raymond VAN DER PUTTEN	+33.(0)1.42.98.53.99	raymond.vanderputten@bnpparibas.com
Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland - Energy, climate - Long-term projections Tarik RHARRAB Statistics and Modelling	+33.(0)1.43.16.95.56	tarik.rharrab@bnpparibas.com
BANKING ECONOMICS Laurent QUIGNON	+33.(0)1.42.98.56.54	laurent.quignon@bnpparibas.com
Head Céline CHOULET	+33.(0)1.43.16.95.54	celine.choulet@bnpparibas.com
■ Thomas HUMBLOT	+33.(0)1.40.14.30.77	thomas.humblot@bnpparibas.com
EMERGING ECONOMIES AND COUNTRY RISK		
■ François FAURE	+33.(0)1 42 98 79 82	francois.faure@bnpparibas.com
Head - Argentina Christine PELTIER	+33.(0)1.42.98.56.27	christine.peltier@bnpparibas.com
Deputy Head - Greater China, Vietnam, other North Asian countries, South Africa Stéphane ALBY	+33.(0)1.42.98.02.04	stephane.alby@bnpparibas.com
Africa (French-speaking countries) Sylvain BELLEFONTAINE	+33.(0)1.42.98.26.77	sylvain.bellefontaine@bnpparibas.com
Turkey, Latin America Sara CONFALONIERI	+33.(0)1.42.98.43.86	sara.confalonieri@bnpparibas.com
Africa (Portuguese & English-speaking countries) Pascal DEVAUX	+33.(0)1.43.16.95.51	pascal.devaux@bnpparibas.com
Middle East, Balkan countries Anna DORBEC	+33.(0)1.42.98.48.45	anna.dorbec@bnpparibas.com
CIS, Central European countries Hélène DROUOT	+33.(0)1.42.98.33.00	helene.drouot@bnpparibas.com
Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Andean countries Johanna MELKA India, South Asia, Russia	+33.(0)1.58.16.05.84	johanna.melka@bnpparibas.com
■ Michel BERNARDINI Contact Média	+33.(0)1.42.98.05.71	michel.bernardini@bnpparibas.com



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Registered Office: 16 boulevard des Italiens - 75009 PARIS

Tel: +33 (0) 1.42.98.12.34 - Internet:

www.group.bnpparibas.com

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