



**HD** **FED:Review of the week's economic data**

**WC** 566 words

**PD** 21 November 2014

**SN** Australian Associated Press Financial News Wire

**SC** AAPFIN

**LA** English

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**LP**

DATA SYDNEY, Nov 21 AAP - A review of the week's Australian economic data, November 17 to November 21

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS NEW MOTOR VEHICLES SALES

**TD**

Sales fell by a seasonally adjusted 1.6 per cent in October.

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MINUTES OF RBA NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

The central bank repeated its view that the Australian dollar is overvalued.

It also forecast "a period of stability in interest rates" as its "most prudent course".

Despite significant falls in commodity prices since January - a key driver of the exchange rate over the long term - the Australian dollar was higher at the end of October against the currencies of Australia's trading partners, the RBA noted.

"Despite the recent appreciation of the exchange rate, the Australian dollar remained above most estimates of its fundamental value, particularly given the further declines in key commodity prices over the course of the year to date," the RBA said.

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SPEECH BY RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA GOVERNOR GLENN STEVENS TO THE COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIA ANNUAL DINNER

Mr Stevens said interest rates are likely to stay low until non-mining business had the courage to invest again.

Inflation was likely to remain well under control over the next couple of years, he added.

"In such circumstances, monetary policy should be accommodative and, on present indications, is likely to be that way for some time yet," Mr Stevens said.

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ANZ-ROY MORGAN WEEKLY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE SURVEY

The confidence measure declined by 1.6 per cent in the week ending November 16.

The 113 point score, however, was still marginally above the ANZ-Roy Morgan consumer confidence survey's monthly average since 1990.

Deteriorating expectations about household finances for the year ahead was the biggest drag on the index during the past week, following recent gains.

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#### WESTPAC-MELBOURNE INSTITUTE LEADING INDEXES OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The index, which indicates the likely pace of economic activity three to nine months into the future, suggested economic growth will remain below trend into the first half of 2015.

The index remained in negative territory, but it did pick up in October, suggesting the economy could be headed for greener pastures during the June quarter, Westpac chief economist Bill Evans said.

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#### AUSTRALIAN OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (AOFM) TO ISSUE TREASURY BONDS

The Australian government sold \$600 million of April 21, 2029, Treasury bonds.

The AOFM said the bonds were sold for a weighted average yield of 3.5578 per cent.

The sale attracted bids that totalled \$2.720 billion, giving a coverage ratio of 4.533.

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#### SPEECH BY RBA HEAD OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS ALEXANDRA HEATH TO THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY AND SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE

Abundant supply is driving commodity prices lower, but Chinese demand for Australian resources will continue, Dr Heath said.

A dramatic increase in commodity exports from Australia and other countries had increased global supply.

Her comments came after the iron ore spot price this week fell to a fresh five year low of near \$US70 per tonne.

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#### AUSTRALIAN OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE TREASURY BONDS

The Australian government has sold \$600 million of October 21, 2018, Treasury bonds.

The Australian Office of Financial Management said the bonds were sold for a weighted average yield of 2.6500 per cent.

The sale attracted bids that totalled \$3.680 billion, giving a coverage ratio of 6.133.

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AAP saj/bm/dmc

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