

[21151001]

[21151013]

Auto makers reported that mid-October sales were running at an annual rate of about 5.8 million units , far less than the 6.6 million units analysts had expected .

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Taken together , the auto-sales and durable-goods reports confirmed perceptions that the economy is bogging down .

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Although analysts do n't expect the Federal Reserve to ease credit policy soon , reports like those yesterday help build the case for lower rates .

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Now bond investors are looking toward next week 's report from national purchasing managers and the government 's October employment report as potentially prompting the Fed to lower rates .

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The stock market 's precipitous drop frightened foreign investors , who quickly bid the dollar lower .

[21151018]

But as stock prices recovered some of the early losses , so did the U.S. currency .

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In major market activity : Bond prices rose

[21151021]

The Treasury 's benchmark 30-year bond gained nearly half a point , or about \$ 5 for each \$ 1,000 face amount .

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The yield on the issue slipped to 7.89 % .

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The dollar retreated .

[21151024]

In late New York trading the currency was quoted at 1.8355 marks and 141.45 yen , compared with 1.8470 marks and 141.90 yen Monday .