

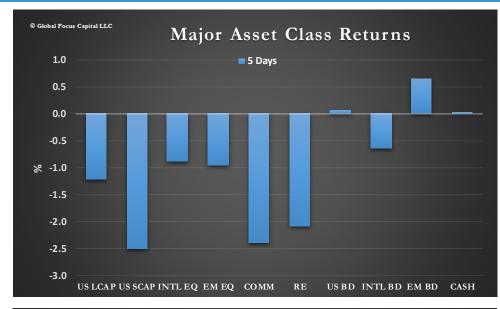
# The Asset Allocation Advisor

Weekly Review - December 16, 2018

Eric J. Weigel

## The Week in Review

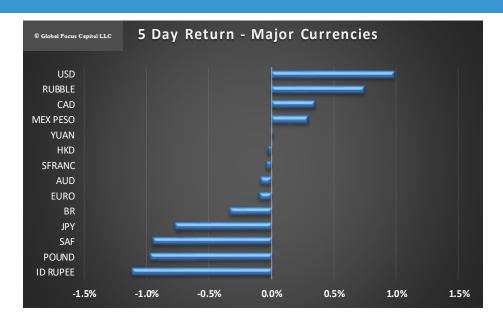
- Another tough week for risky assets with no end in sight
- US small caps take yet another down leg and are now down 7% for the year
- REITS gave back some gains last week but remain our best key asset class for 2018 – up 4.1%
- Commodity indices remain driven by lower oil prices with no sign of resurgent inflation
- Aggressive, domestically focused multiasset class strategies under-performed less risky options
- YTD lower risk asset allocation strategies have outperformed especially if the allocations involved international equities
- Within equities, Growth outperformed Value as Energy and Financials experienced last loses





## Currencies

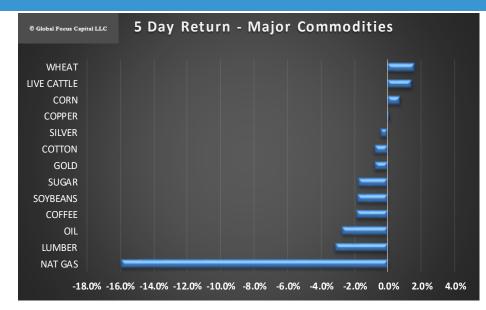
- The USD appreciated yet again last week and remains in a significant Up Trend
- The British Pound continued depreciating due to major uncertainty regarding whether BREXIT will pass Parliament
- The Yen continues in a Down Trend especially in light of lower economic growth in Japan
- In general, FX volatility has increased substantially in the last couple of months



CURRENCY	TECHNICAL STAGE
AUD	IMPROVING
ID RUPEE	IMPROVING
CAD	DOWN TREND
EURO	DOWN TREND
HKD	UP TREND
SAF	IMPROVING
BR	DOWN TREND
SFRANC	DOWN TREND
YUAN	IMPROVING
USD	UP TREND
POUND	DOWN TREND
JPY	DOWN TREND
RUBBLE	DOWN TREND
MEX PESO	DOWN TREND

## Commodities

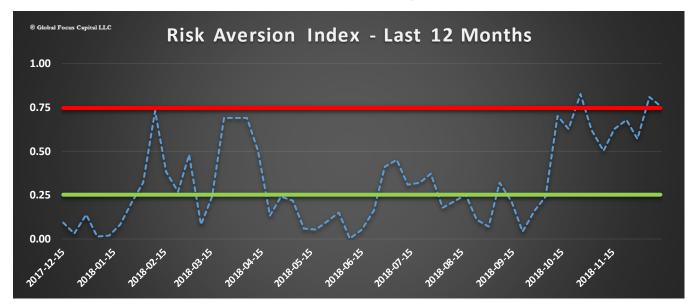
- Commodity indices continue in a Down Trend as oil markets had another down leg
- On the flipside, grain prices have been recovering since the summer but surprisingly soybeans were down despite increased Chinese purchases
- Natural gas prices were down over 16% due to warmer predicted weather and lower levels of fuel switching than anticipated
- Gold and Silver were slightly down last week but their technical have improved recently as risky assets continue cratering
  - We still view US Treasuries as best hedging option for stocks



COMMODITY	TECHNICAL STAGE
CORN	BREAK OUT
WHEAT	UP TREND
SOYBEANS	IMPROVING
LIVE CATTLE	UP TREND
COFFEE	DOWN TREND
LUMBER	DOWN TREND
SUGAR	DETERIORATING
COTTON	IMPROVING
NAT GAS	UP TREND
OIL	DOWN TREND
COPPER	DOWN TREND
SILVER	IMPROVING
GOLD	IMPROVING

## **Investor Risk Aversion Environment**

- Fear from the markets seems to have returned our index stands In the Fear Zone after a prolonged period of exuberance
- Investors are now becoming more concerned about geopolitical issues affecting global growth as well the continued "fake/real" news coming out of DC
- We expect our RAI to remain in the Fear Zone and a flipping back and forth indicative of a risk on/off market



# **US Large Cap Equities**

#### Outlook:

▶ Short-Term: Neutral

Long-Term: Neutral

Valuation: Stretched

Growth: Average, could be at risk

▶ Income: Minimal

Risk Profile: Increasing

Of Note: Value is catching up to Growth, sector rotation is starting to take hold



US LARGE CAP (SPY)	LATEST	10 DAYS AGO	20 DAYS AGO	60 DAYS AGO	180 DAYS AGO
20 DAY VOL	21.8%	19.0%	20.4%	5.8%	20.1%
<b>CORR TO US STOCKS</b>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
CORR TO US BONDS	-0.25	-0.06	-0.39	0.11	-0.34
CORR TO COMM	-0.05	-0.12	0.16	0.46	0.31
CORR TO USD	0.19	0.05	-0.02	-0.26	0.02
UP BETA	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
DOWN BETA	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
ST TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	BREAK OUT	BREAK DOWN	UP TREND	DOWN TREND
IT TECHNICALS	BREAK DOWN	BREAK DOWN	BREAK DOWN	UP TREND	DETERIORATING
RSI	57.4	42.9	43.0	57.2	21.2
<b>UP DAY % (LAST 20)</b>	55%	50%	35%	60%	40%

# **US Small Cap Equities**

Outlook:

Short-Term: Negative

Long-Term: Positive

Valuation: Neutral

Growth: Average but at risk

Income: Minimal

Risk Profile: Increasing

Of Note: Expect a continued recovery versus large cap stocks



US SMALL CAP (IWM)	LATEST	10 DAYS AGO	20 DAYS AGO	60 DAYS AGO	180 DAYS AGO
20 DAY VOL	24.8%	21.7%	24.1%	7.5%	19.6%
<b>CORR TO US STOCKS</b>	0.93	0.90	0.93	0.63	0.90
CORR TO US BONDS	-0.27	-0.27	-0.47	0.02	-0.49
CORR TO COMM	-0.05	-0.09	0.26	0.48	0.39
CORR TO USD	0.23	0.02	0.01	-0.29	0.04
UP BETA	1.10	1.09	1.03	0.62	0.74
DOWN BETA	0.96	0.95	0.94	1.60	0.90
ST TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	BREAK OUT	BREAK DOWN	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND
IT TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	BREAK DOWN	UP TREND	DETERIORATING
RSI	36.5	35.9	43.2	42.9	35.9
<b>UP DAY % (LAST 20)</b>	40%	45%	35%	55%	50%

# International Developed Markets

#### Outlook:

Short-Term: Positive

Long-Term: Positive

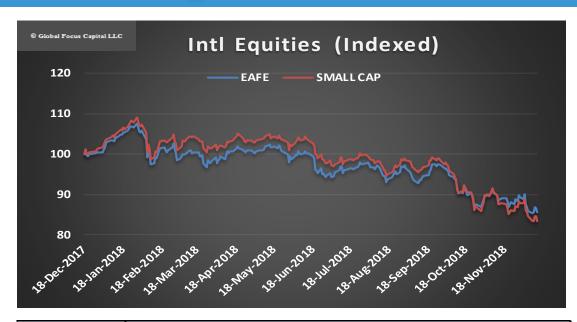
Valuation: Neutral

Growth: Below Average

Income: Superior

Risk Profile: Increasing

Of Note: Int'l assets losing ground to US equities despite superior fundamentals, slowing growth in Europe is a concern, USD strength not expected to last



INTL DEV EQ (EFA)	LATEST	10 DAYS AGO	20 DAYS AGO	60 DAYS AGO	180 DAYS AGO
20 DAY VOL	15.2%	18.2%	16.5%	12.5%	17.2%
<b>CORR TO US STOCKS</b>	0.90	0.94	0.92	0.76	0.92
CORR TO US BONDS	-0.45	-0.48	0.00	-0.27	0.10
CORR TO COMM	0.02	0.41	0.54	0.73	0.55
CORR TO USD	0.02	-0.06	0.17	0.01	-0.02
UP BETA	0.79	0.76	0.77	0.84	0.65
DOWN BETA	0.72	0.71	0.72	1.29	0.90
ST TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	BREAK OUT	BREAK DOWN	BREAK OUT	IMPROVING
IT TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	IMPROVING	DETERIORATING
RSI	36.0	50.2	61.8	57.2	43.0
<b>UP DAY % (LAST 20)</b>	40%	55%	50%	60%	55%

# International Emerging Markets

#### Outlook:

Short-Term: Neutral

Long-Term: Neutral

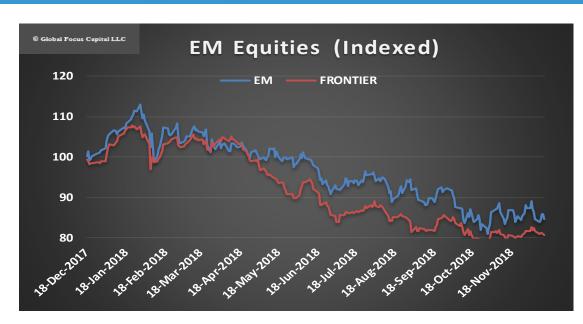
▶ Valuation: Inexpensive

Growth: Average

Income: Neutral

Risk Profile: Increasing

Of Note: trade war fears, currency depreciation, in recovery mode

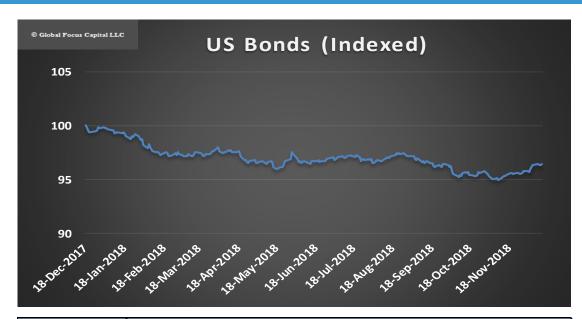


EM EQ (EEM)	LATEST	10 DAYS AGO	20 DAYS AGO	60 DAYS AGO	180 DAYS AGO
20 DAY VOL	27.3%	30.8%	26.9%	20.6%	24.9%
<b>CORR TO US STOCKS</b>	0.81	0.86	0.82	0.77	0.84
CORR TO US BONDS	-0.35	-0.37	0.20	-0.15	0.10
CORR TO COMM	0.01	0.47	0.42	0.78	0.63
CORR TO USD	-0.16	-0.14	0.01	-0.07	0.06
UP BETA	1.23	1.21	1.31	1.27	1.17
DOWN BETA	0.77	0.77	0.78	1.34	0.93
ST TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	UP TREND	DETERIORATING	BREAK OUT	DOWN TREND
IT TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	IMPROVING	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	DETERIORATING
RSI	43.0	57.5	57.5	50.1	43.3
<b>UP DAY % (LAST 20)</b>	45%	60%	55%	55%	60%



## **US Bonds**

- Outlook:
  - ► Short-Term: Neutral
  - ▶ Long-Term: Negative
- Valuation: Stretched
- Income: Minimal
- Risk Profile: Increasing
- Of Note: Tight spread in 10-2 year notes, blowing out credit spreads, lower inflationary expectations



US BONDS (AGG)	LATEST	10 DAYS AGO	20 DAYS AGO	60 DAYS AGO	180 DAYS AGO
20 DAY VOL	3.0%	2.6%	2.4%	2.1%	2.2%
<b>CORR TO US STOCKS</b>	-0.19	-0.03	0.18	-0.10	-0.31
CORR TO US BONDS	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
CORR TO COMM	-0.12	0.07	0.11	0.48	0.11
CORR TO USD	0.05	-0.05	-0.09	0.21	0.13
UP BETA	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.11	-0.06
DOWN BETA	-0.06	-0.07	-0.08	0.03	-0.24
ST TECHNICALS	UP TREND	UP TREND	IMPROVING	DOWN TREND	UP TREND
IT TECHNICALS	IMPROVING	IMPROVING	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND
RSI	71.5	71.4	57.1	38.5	61.6
<b>UP DAY % (LAST 20)</b>	65%	65%	50%	35%	50%

# International Developed Bonds

#### Outlook:

► Short-Term: Negative

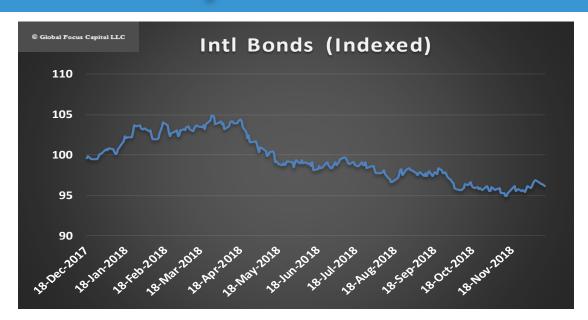
Long-Term: Negative

Valuation: Stretched

Income: Minimal

Risk Profile: Increasing

Of Note: Really just a <u>currency</u> play at the moment given super low yields, not expecting USD lo lose significant ground anytime soon



INTL BONDS (IGOV)	LATEST	10 DAYS AGO	20 DAYS AGO	60 DAYS AGO	180 DAYS AGO
20 DAY VOL	5.6%	5.9%	6.2%	5.5%	6.1%
<b>CORR TO US STOCKS</b>	-0.31	0.09	0.31	0.03	-0.26
CORR TO US BONDS	0.62	0.54	0.52	0.36	0.36
CORR TO COMM	-0.19	-0.03	0.24	0.45	0.32
CORR TO USD	0.01	0.14	0.03	0.10	-0.22
UP BETA	0.24	0.18	0.09	0.06	0.07
DOWN BETA	-0.05	-0.03	-0.07	0.17	-0.04
ST TECHNICALS	DETERIORATING	UP TREND	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	UP TREND
IT TECHNICALS	IMPROVING	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	UP TREND
RSI	57.2	69.3	50.0	42.9	64.3
<b>UP DAY % (LAST 20)</b>	60%	60%	40%	50%	60%

# International Emerging Bonds

#### Outlook:

► Short-Term: Neutral

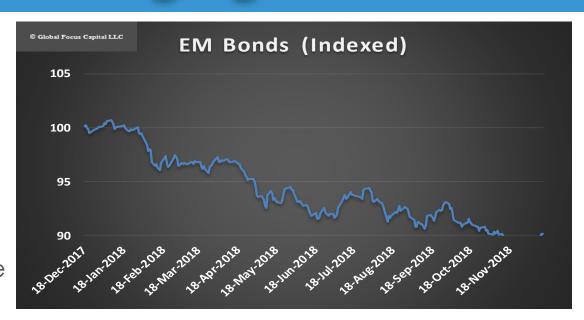
Long-Term: Neutral

Valuation: Neutral

Income: Above Average

Risk Profile: Stable

Of Note: Highly affected by USD and direction of 10 yr US note, attractive yields, indices are long duration

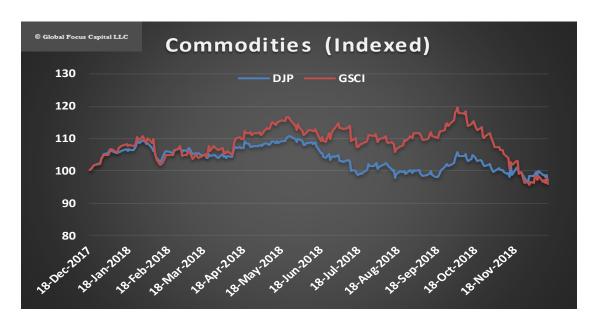


EM BONDS (EMB)	LATEST	10 DAYS AGO	20 DAYS AGO	60 DAYS AGO	180 DAYS AGO
20 DAY VOL	6.3%	6.0%	6.8%	5.1%	2.8%
CORR TO US STOCKS	0.36	0.57	0.55	0.01	0.00
CORR TO US BONDS	0.48	0.05	0.04	0.22	0.00
CORR TO COMM	0.15	0.54	0.66	0.17	0.00
CORR TO USD	-0.13	-0.34	-0.46	0.53	0.00
UP BETA	0.26	0.26	0.17	0.52	0.15
DOWN BETA	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.10	0.05
ST TECHNICALS	UP TREND	IMPROVING	DOWN TREND	BREAK OUT	BREAK OUT
IT TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND
RSI	77.1	43.0	50.1	42.9	42.9
<b>UP DAY % (LAST 20)</b>	60%	45%	45%	45%	50%

## Commodities

- Outlook:
  - ► Short-Term: Negative
  - ► Long-Term: Positive
- Valuation: Neutral

- Risk Profile: Increasing
- Of Note: Indices are dominated by oil, expect further volatility due to Saudi Arabia/Iran issues, slowing growth?



COMMODITIES (DJP)	LATEST	10 DAYS AGO	20 DAYS AGO	60 DAYS AGO	180 DAYS AGO
20 DAY VOL	11.5%	12.9%	11.3%	10.7%	13.5%
<b>CORR TO US STOCKS</b>	0.33	0.56	0.32	0.59	0.50
CORR TO US BONDS	-0.01	-0.15	-0.31	0.20	-0.08
CORR TO COMM	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
CORR TO USD	0.01	-0.02	0.24	0.07	0.16
UP BETA	-0.09	-0.22	-0.21	0.48	0.09
DOWN BETA	0.18	0.30	0.24	0.90	0.31
ST TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	BREAK OUT	BREAK OUT	BREAK OUT
IT TECHNICALS	DOWN TREND	DOWN TREND	IMPROVING	DOWN TREND	DETERIORATING
RSI	43.1	50.5	43.1	43.0	50.1
<b>UP DAY % (LAST 20)</b>	45%	50%	35%	50%	50%

## Real Estate

#### Outlook:

► Short-Term: Positive

Long-Term: Positive

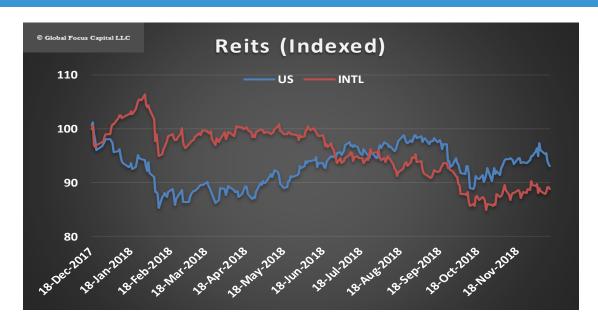
Valuation: Stretched

Growth: Slowing

Income: Average

Risk Profile: Increasing

Of Note: Keeps recovering as correlations to both stocks and binds have dropped, increase in diversification potential



US REITS (VNQ)	LATEST	10 DAYS AGO	20 DAYS AGO	60 DAYS AGO	180 DAYS AGO
20 DAY VOL	20.9%	20.5%	15.4%	11.5%	22.4%
<b>CORR TO US STOCKS</b>	0.52	0.56	0.33	0.26	0.71
CORR TO US BONDS	-0.14	0.05	0.39	0.23	0.18
CORR TO COMM	-0.05	0.20	-0.03	0.08	0.11
CORR TO USD	-0.08	0.03	-0.09	0.10	-0.01
UP BETA	0.63	0.53	0.62	0.41	0.10
DOWN BETA	0.38	0.26	0.25	0.04	0.60
ST TECHNICALS	BREAK DOWN	UP TREND	UP TREND	DOWN TREND	BREAK OUT
IT TECHNICALS	DETERIORATING	UP TREND	UP TREND	DETERIORATING	DOWN TREND
RSI	57.4	57.3	57.3	50.2	50.1
<b>UP DAY % (LAST 20)</b>	55%	65%	60%	50%	60%

# This Coming Week

- The year of risk-off continues with little to offer us hope that risky assets will recover soon
- While not comfortable, US investors should allocate more money to non-US stocks due to their lower valuations
- The strong USD will not persist much stronger as the FED appears close to the end in terms of interest rate hikes
- The Value/Growth discussion is being overshadowed by sector rotation but on a risk-adjusted basis we believe that higher allocations to Value are warranted
- We are also watching out for any jump in inflationary expectations (which have been trending down)
  - Tariffs are inflationary and will be reflected in higher consumer prices eventually
- EM equities in particular are recovering but will end up in the red this year
  - We still believe that an allocation is warranted
- Our biggest concerns revolve around blowing out interest rate spreads and a slowing global economy
- Leverage on the balance sheet of companies should be crosschecked for sustainability
- We still see a risk on/off market next year making it difficult for short-term investors – probably best to extend horizons

DateTime	Name	Country	Ţ	Volatilit -1	Actu: ▼	Previou -	Consensu
12/18/2018	IFO - Business Climate	Germany		2	0	102	101.7
12/18/2018	IFO - Expectations	Germany		2	0	98.7	98.2
12/18/2018	IFO - Current Assessment	Germany		2	0	105.4	104.9
12/18/2018	Housing Starts (MoM)	United States		2	0	1.228	1.234
12/18/2018	Building Permits (MoM)	United States		2	0	1.263	1.265
12/18/2018	Adjusted Merchandise Trade Balance	Japan		2	0	-302.7	0
12/18/2018	Exports (YoY)	Japan		2	0	8.2	1.8
12/18/2018	Imports (YoY)	Japan		2	0	19.9	11.5
12/18/2018	Merchandise Trade Balance Total	Japan		2	0	-449.3	-600.3
12/19/2018	Retail Price Index (MoM)	United Kingdom		2	0	0.1	0.1
12/19/2018	Retail Price Index (YoY)	United Kingdom		2	0	3.3	3.3
12/19/2018	Consumer Price Index (YoY)	United Kingdom		2	0	2.4	2.3
12/19/2018	Core Consumer Price Index (YoY)	United Kingdom		2	0	1.9	1.9
12/19/2018	Consumer Price Index (MoM)	United Kingdom		2	0	0.1	0.2
12/19/2018	Existing Home Sales (MoM)	United States		2	0	5.22	5.15
12/19/2018	FOM C Economic Projections	United States		3	0	0	0
12/19/2018	Fed's Monetary Policy Statement	United States		3	0	0	0
12/19/2018	Fed Interest Rate Decision	United States		3	0	2.25	0
12/19/2018	FOMC Press conference	United States		3	0	0	0
12/19/2018	Foreign bond investment	Japan		2	0	1241.4	0
12/19/2018	Foreign investment in Japan stocks	Japan		2	0	-446.6	0
12/20/2018	Bol Monetary Policy Statement	Japan		3	0	0	0
12/20/2018	Bol Interest Rate Decision	Japan		3	0	-0.1	-0.1
12/20/2018	BoJ Press Conference	Japan		3	0	0	0
12/20/2018	All Industry Activity Index (MoM)	Japan		2	0	-0.9	0
12/20/2018	Retail Sales ex-Fuel (MoM)	United Kingdom		2	0	-0.4	0.2
12/20/2018	Retail Sales (YoY)	United Kingdom		2	0	2.2	1.9
12/20/2018	Retail Sales (MoM)	United Kingdom		2	0	-0.5	0.3
12/20/2018	Retail Sales ex-Fuel (YoY)	United Kingdom		2	0	2.7	2.3
12/20/2018	BoE Asset Purchase Facility	United Kingdom		3	0	435	435
12/20/2018	BoE Interest Rate Decision	United Kingdom		3	0	0.75	433
12/20/2018	Monetary Policy Summary	United Kingdom		3	0	0.75	0
12/20/2018	BoE MPC Vote Cut	United Kingdom		3	0	0	0
	BoE MPC Vote Unchanged			3	0	9	9
12/20/2018		United Kingdom		3	0	0	0
12/20/2018	BoE MPC Vote Hike Bank of England Minutes	United Kingdom United Kingdom		3	0	0	0
12/20/2018	Continuing Jobless Claims	United States		2	0	1.661	1.65
12/20/2018	Initial Jobless Claims	United States		-		206	
12/20/2018	Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Surve			2	0	12.9	12
12/20/2018	National CPI Ex-Fresh Food (YoY)	Japan		2	0	1	1
12/20/2018	National Consumer Price Index (YoY)	Japan		2	0	1.4	0
12/20/2018	National CPI Ex Food, Energy (YoY)	Japan		2	0	0.4	0
12/21/2018	Gfk Consumer Confidence	United Kingdom		2	0	-13	-14
12/21/2018	Gfk Consumer Confidence Survey	Germany		2	0	10.4	10.4
12/21/2018	Gross Domestic Product (YoY)	United Kingdom		2	0	1.5	0

## Contact & Subscription Information

Eric J. Weigel <a href="mailto:eweigel@gf-cap.com">eweigel@gf-cap.com</a>

<u>Website: https://gf-cap.com</u>

### Publications - <u>Sign Up Here</u>

Weekly Asset Allocation Review - Free
Weekly Equity Themes Review - Free
The Equity Observer (Monthly) – Subscription Required
The Asset Allocation Advisor (Monthly) – Subscription Required

Disclaimer: NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS INVESTMENT ADVICE, A RECOMMENDATION OR SOLICITATION TO BUY OR SELL ANY SECURITY.

PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT PREDICT OR GUARANTEE FUTURE SIMILAR RESULTS.

SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN INVESTMENT MANAGER, LAWYER AND ACCOUNTANT BEFORE YOU INVEST.

DON'T RELY ON ANYTHING HEREIN. DO YOUR OWN HOMEWORK.

THIS IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT CONSIDER THE INVESTMENT NEEDS OR SUITABILITY OF ANY INDIVIDUAL.

THERE IS NO PROMISE TO CORRECT ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS OR NOTIFY THE READER OF ANY SUCH ERRORS