



**Financial Forecast** 

# **Alan Bush**

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## **STOCK INDEX FUTURES**

U.S. stock index futures are mixed after four consecutive days of higher prices.

The U.S. third-quarter corporate earnings reporting season kicks off today with several large U.S. banks reporting this morning.

Many analysts believe earnings will continue to rebound, but the pace of improvement will be slow.

The National Federation of Independent Business optimism index increased 3.8 points to 104.0 in September, which is the highest level since February. The median estimate was 100.9. The NFIB is a monthly assessment of small businesses in the U.S., which account for almost half of the private sector jobs.

The September consumer price index was up 0.2%, as anticipated.

Stock index futures have recently performed well on the news, and the technical situation has improved.

#### **CURRENCY FUTURES**

The euro currency is lower after a report showed German economic expectations fell in October after going up in the last two months, according to the ZEW economic research institute.

The measure of economic expectations fell to 56.1 in October from 77.4 in September when economists' forecast the index would be 74.0.

German consumer prices fell 0.2% in September, as predicted.

Informal negotiations on Brexit continue in Brussels, as both the U.K. and the E.U. pledged to reach an agreement on their future relationship by October 15.

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The Japanese yen is lower despite news that the BoJ's latest "tankan" survey for October showed the manufacturers' sentiment index increased to -26 points from September's -29, while the service-sector index improved to -16 from -18.

# **INTEREST RATE MARKET FUTURES**

Futures are mostly higher despite the better than predicted National Federation of Independent Business optimism index.

Federal Reserve speakers today are Thomas Barkin at 11:25 and Mary Daly at 7:00 p.m.

Financial futures markets are predicting there is a 97.7% probability that the Federal Open Market Committee will keep its fed funds rate unchanged at the November 4-5 policy meeting.

# **SUPPORT & RESISTANCE**

#### December 20 S&P 500

Support 3506.00 Resistance 3540.00

#### **December 20 U.S. Dollar Index**

Support 93.000 Resistance 93.320

## **December 20 Euro Currency**

Support 1.17800 Resistance 1.18350

## **December 20 Japanese Yen**

Support .94760 Resistance .95100

#### **December 20 Canadian Dollar**

Support .76040 Resistance .76400

### **December 20 Australian Dollar**

Support .7160 Resistance .7218

#### **December 20 Thirty-Year Treasury Bonds**

Support 174<sup>4</sup> Resistance 174<sup>3</sup>0

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## **December 20 Gold**

Support 1902.0 Resistance 1933.0

**December 20 Copper** 

Support 3.0200 Resistance 3.0700

**December 20 Crude Oil** 

Support 39.65 Resistance 40.78

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