

FIVE THINGS ON...

# This Week's Economic Calendar

## 1 YELLEN TO TESTIFY TWICE TO CONGRESSIONAL PANELS

Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen will deliver her semiannual testimony on the economic outlook and monetary policy to the House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday and the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday.

Ms. Yellen may decide to weigh in on international developments in Greece and China and how those issues might sway policy, if at all.

The most interesting section is usually the Q&A with lawmakers. House members could grill Ms. Yellen on the investigation into possible leaks of confidential Fed material.

## 2 DID CONSUMERS PULL BACK IN JUNE?

Shoppers have been extremely fickle since late 2014, out spending one month, cutting back in another.

The Commerce Department will report June sales Tuesday, and economists expect the month will see a smaller gain after shoppers went on a spree in May.

The median forecast expects total sales increased 0.3% last month after a 1.2% gain in May. Excluding vehicles, sales are projected to be up 0.5%, after a 1.0 gain.

## 3 JUMP IN HOUSING STARTS EXPECTED TO BE REPORTED

Housing is another sector moving in fits and starts. The Commerce Department will weigh in on June building activity in a report due out on Friday.

Economists expect residential starts bounced back 8.1% in June to an annual rate of 1.12 million, after starts plunged 11.1% in May.

## 4 WILL PUMP PRICES, POULTRY TRY IMPACT INFLATION?

The Labor Department will report three price indexes this week. Import prices are due out on Tuesday, the producer-price Index will be released on Wednesday and the consumer-price index is set for Friday. All are expected to show the effects of rising energy prices.

Economists expect the top-line CPI increased 0.3% in June. In addition to an energy-related 0.4% gain in May.

Another category that should lift the top-line indexes: the jump in egg and poultry prices related to avian flu.

Economists think when food and energy are excluded, the CPI increased just 0.2% in June.

## 5 BEIGE BOOK MAY OFFER CLUES ON WAGE IMPACTS

The Fed will release its latest review of the state of the economy in each of the Fed districts on Wednesday ahead of its July 28-29 policy meeting.

A few points worth looking for in the report, which is commonly known as the beige book:

Did companies lift wages to attract or keep workers? Were complaints about the strong dollar hurting export activity? And are there spillover impacts on manufacturing and consumer spending from the still-sagging energy sector?

—Kathleen Madigan