Schroders

Weekly market watch

As at Friday November 30, 2018

Equities

Region / Country	Index	Close	Net Change	Performance Year-to-date	Performance 52-week
Asia-Pacific					
Hong Kong	HSI	26,506.75	579.07	-11.41%	-8.83%
India	BSE 30	36,194.30	1,213.28	6.28%	9.19%
Japan	Nikkei	22,351.06	704.51	-1.82%	-2.05%
Singapore	STI	3,117.61	65.12	-8.38%	-9.62%
South Korea	KOSPI	2,096.86	39.38	-15.02%	-15.29%
Taiwan	WSE	9,888.03	220.73	-7.09%	-6.72%
Shanghai	COMPOSITE	2,588.19	8.70	-21.74%	-21.99%
Europe					
France	CAC	5,003.92	56.97	-5.81%	-6.87%
Germany	DAX	11,257.24	64.55	-12.85%	-13.57%
Italy	FTSE MIB	19,188.97	474.07	-12.19%	-14.21%
Russia	RTSI	1,126.14	12.62	-2.45%	-0.48%
UK	FTSE 100	6,980.24	27.38	-9.20%	-4.73%
Americas					
Brazil	IBOV	89,504.03	3,273.81	17.15%	24.36%
Mexico	IPC	41,732.78	588.45	-15.44%	-11.38%
Nasdaq	CCMP	7,330.54	391.55	6.19%	6.64%
US	S&P 500	2,760.17	127.61	3.24%	4.25%
US	DOW	25,538.46	1,252.51	3.31%	5.22%

Bonds

	Close	Yield Week ago	Yield Month ago	Yield Year ago
10 Year Gilt	1.3640	1.3810	1.3990	1.3300
10 Year OAT	0.6840	0.7210	0.7430	0.6820
10 Year Bund	0.3130	0.3400	0.3690	0.3670
10 Year Japan	0.0920	0.1000	0.1220	0.0390
10 Year Treasuries	2.9879	3.0390	3.1227	2.4097

Base lending rates

Prime Rates	Latest	6 months ago	12 months ago
US	5.25	4.75	4.25
Canada	3.95	3.45	3.20
Japan	1.48	1.48	1.48
Britain	0.75	0.50	0.50
ECB	0.00	0.00	0.00
Switzerland	0.50	0.50	0.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50
Hong Kong	5.25	5.25	5.25

% change is for indication only; local currency except where stated.

Equity Markets

US

- US stock prices rose last week on an easing of concerns about the outlook for the U.S. and global economies and comments from Federal Reserve Chairman Jay Powell that the market interpreted as indicating the Fed may slow the pace of its rate hikes next year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.79% on Friday and 5.16% on the week to close at 25,538.46. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.82% on Friday and 4.85% on the week to 2,760.17 while the Nasdaq gained 0.79% on Friday and 5.64% for the week to 7,330.54. Stocks stabilized in November after their rout in October, with the S&P up 1.8%, the Dow gaining 1.7% and the Nasdaq rising 0.3%.
- U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in their meeting on Dec. 1 to a framework for further negotiations to address U.S. complaints at the heart of their bilateral trade conflict. As part of the deal, the US agreed to postpone until April the tariff rate hike to 25% from 10% on $200 billion in Chinese imports that had been scheduled to go into effect on January 1. Further details were not immediately available. PETER, THIS SECTION IS A GUESS, WILL HAVE TO BE UPDATED WHEN WE HEAR MORE ABOUT THE MEETING RESULTS ON SUNDAY.
- General Motors announced that it would cease production at seven plants worldwide and cut 14,000 workers in an effort to streamline production and respond to changing consumer tastes. The plan would save an estimated $6 billion. Investors cheered the move, with share up sharply on Tuesday, but drew a sharp rebuke from President Trump, who threatened to end any subsidies the company received from the government. Four of the factories are in the U.S., including in the key political battleground states of Michigan and Ohio. Trump warned he was studying new tariffs on imported autos as a result of GM's restructuring move.
- Starwood hotels said Friday that that hackers had breached its reservations system and potentially stolen personal data on 500 million guests in one of the biggest corporate data breaches in history. Marriott International, the parent company, said the breach could have exposed credit card and passport data. Marriott said it learned of the breach in September but only informed the public this week. The breach could expose Marriott to sanctions under the European Union's new data law, which requires firms to disclose breaches within 72 hours of learning of them or face fines of up to 4 per cent of global revenue.
- The German cartel office said Friday it would investigate whether e-commerce giant Amazon is abusing its market power. The government watchdog will examine Amazon set illegal contract terms as part of its dual role as retailer and host to third party vendors. Amazon operates the largest on-line marketplace in Germany.
- Uber's plan to buy UK app-based delivery service Deliveroo stalled on sharp disagreement over the price of the acquisition, the Financial Times reported. Uber offered less than half the $4 billion that Deliveroo was asking for. The companies continue to talk, but it is unclear they can bridge the large gap in their expectations. Deliveroo's main investors, which include Fidelity and T. Rowe Price, are seeking an investment or a partnership rather than a sale, the FT reported.
- Investors reacted badly to industrial conglomerate United Technologies' plan announced Monday to break itself into three separate units. The Otis elevator and Carrier air conditioner units would be broken off into separate companies, with the remaining firm, including Pratt and Whitney, concentrating on aircraft engines and airplane parts. Investors are worried the transition to better results would be long and costly, with the stock price falling Tuesday on the news of the break-up plan.
- Parliamentarians from nine countries criticized the decision by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to submit to questioning by an international committee about the social media platforms efforts to fight fake news and disinformation. The joint statement by panel members from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Latvia, Singapore, France, Belgium and the UK raise the prospect of coordinated international regulation of the company. Facebook has faced growing criticism of its internal management practices, weighing on its share price.

UK

- The FTSE 100 fell 0.83% on Friday, reducing the weekly gain to 0.39%, with the index closing at 6,980.24, as investors treat water waiting for news on Brexit and trade talks between China and U.S.
- The Bank of England warned that, under a worst-case scenario, UK GDP could fall by more than 10% and housing prices could fall 30% over five years if the UK leaves the European Union without a transition deal. BOE Governor Mark Carney downplayed the chances of the worst-case scenario but admitted the chances could rise with time. The BOE

warning comes as UK Prime Minister Theresa May faces an uphill battle to get Parliament to approve the Brexit transition deal she negotiated with the European Union. A vote on that deal is now expected this month.

- European aerospace firm Airbus said Wednesday that passage of a Brexit transition deal would revive its willingness to invest in the UK. Airbus investment in Britain has been on hold for the last year because of uncertainty over Brexit, a top official said.
- Babcock International won a 10-year, 100-million-pound contract to operate firefighting aircraft from the Canadian province of Manitoba. The Canadian firefighting deal for Britain’s second largest defense contractors is its first outside Europe and is expected to begin in April. The company hopes the deal will help it land additional contracts in North America.
- Travel group Thomas Cook posted a pre-tax loss 163 million pounds in the year to September, compared to profits of 9 million pounds in the previous year, as travel plans were hit by unusually warm weather in Europe. Underlying earnings fell 23% to 250 million pounds, in line with the company’s latest guidance. The company had cut its guidance twice in as many months, with its share price falling 30%. The chance that the UK would exit the European Union without a transition deal caused would-be buyers led by Canadian property investor Brookfield to walk away from a 2.9-billion-pound deal to buy shopping center landlord Intu. The buyers said they could justify the investment given the uncertainty about Brexit. The announcement on Thursday caused Intu’s shares to fall by a third.
- Anglo-Dutch conglomerate Unilever entered into exclusive negotiations to buy GlaxoSmithKline’s $4 billion nutrition business, which includes Horlicks malt drink popular in India, the Financial Times reported Wednesday. Unilever beat out arch rival Nestle for the rights to buy the GSK business unit.

Europe (ex. UK)

- On the continent, the Eurofirst 300 fell 0.12% on Friday and was virtually unchanged on the week to close at 1,409.60, as investors waiting for news on trade and growth.
- German prosecutors raided the headquarters of Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt on Thursday and Friday in search of evidence of suspected money laundering activity. The questionable activity occurred in the bank’s Frankfurt-based wealth management unit starting in 2013 and continued into this year, according to the Financial Times. The situation is a further blow to Deutsche Bank, with the company’s share price having fallen by half so far this year.
- Shares in Altice SA rose sharply Friday after it announced it had agreed to sell a minority stake in its SFR mobile phone unit for 1.8 billion euros. Investment companies Allianz Capital Partners, Axa Investment Managers and Omers Infrastructure Investment would buy a 49.9% stake in SFR, with the goal of creating France’s leading fiber optic infrastructure firm.
- German pharmaceutical and chemicals group Bayer announced Friday that it would cut 12,000 jobs from its workforce to reduce costs, as the company moves to reassure investors after a series of legal defeats related to its acquisition of Monsanto hammered the stock price. The company also said it would sell various units, including Coppertone sun care and Dr. Scholl’s food products, in an effort to generate about 7 billion euros. The company expects the moves to create annual savings of 2.6 billion euros from 2022 after a one-off charge of 4.4 billion euros.
- Profits at Swedish furniture retailer Ikea fell sharply in the fiscal year to the end of August and are expected to remain at the lower level for the next two years as the company investments in better logistics and digital sales as well as shifting its retail outlets to smaller stores in city centers. IngKa Group, the corporate name for Ikea’s main retailer unit, said profit dropped to 1.47 billion euros, down 40% from 2.47 billion euros in the previous year.
- French insurance group Axa on Wednesday raised its profit target for the year and said it would return more profit to investors over the next two years. The group raised its profit target to 14-16% for the period to 2020 from the previous target of 12-14%. The company’s share price rose slightly on the news but is still down 15% this year.
- US private equity group Bain Capital is considering a $4 billion plus deal to take German lighting manufacturer Osram private, Bloomberg reported. Shares in Osram, which was spun off from Siemens five years ago, rose sharply on the news.

Japan

- Japan's Nikkei 225 Index rose 0.40% on Friday and 3.25% for the week to 22,351.06 on hopes for a trade ceasefire between China and the U.S.
- Softbank set a single indicative price for its 2.4-trillion-yen initial public offerings of its mobile phone unit at 1,500 yen per share, rather than provide a range of prices, suggesting the company is confident that demand will be strong. The company also has set aside 240 billion yen in additional shares for sale if demand is strong. As is, the indicative price values the company at 7.2 trillion yen, or $63 billion. With the additional allotment included, the IPO would rise to about $23 billion, close to the record $25 billion raised by Alibaba in 2014, making it one of the largest IPOs in history.

- Leaders of automakers Nissan, Mitsubishi and Renault pledged their “strong commitment” to their alliance, vowing to work together without a single leader after the departure of disgraced chief executive Carlos Ghosn. Tensions within the alliance had surfaced after Ghosn arrest on allegations of financial misconduct, with Nissan and Mitsubishi quickly removing him as chairman, while Renault continued to support him. Ghosn remains CEO of Renault.
- Shares in message app firm Line rose sharply on Tuesday after the company announced a tie-up with Tencent to provide mobile payment services. The payment service would be available in Japan, Taiwan and Thailand, and would aid Tencent’s push to catch up with Chinese rival Alibaba’s payment service Alipay.

Asia-Pacific (ex. Japan)

- Mainland China China's Shanghai Composite rose 0.81% on Friday, pushing the index up 0.34% for the week to 2,588.19. The market shrugged off weaker PMI sentiment data and focused hopes on a trade breakthrough in talks on Saturday between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.21% on Friday and 2.23% for the week to 26,506.75, on hopes for a trade breakthrough.
- Taiwan's Taiex index rose 0.03% on Friday and 2.28% for the week to end at 9,888.03. The market reacted positively to last weekend’s election victory by the opposition Kuomintang, believe it would promote business with the mainland.
- South Korea's Kospi fell 0.82% on Friday after the Bank of Korea raised interest rates for the first time in a year, as expected. The index still rose 1.91% for the week to close at 2,096.86 on trade breakthrough hopes.
- Singapore Straits Times Index gained 0.26% on Friday and 2.13% on the week to close at 3,117.61 on hopes the China-US trade conflict would ease.

Emerging Markets

- Brazil's Bovispa headed into the weekend with a drop of 0.23% on Friday from Thursday record high, but still posted a gain of 3.80% for the week, with the index closing at 88,504.03 on positive economic news. The economy grew by 0.8% in the third quarter compared to the previous quarter, in line with expectations and the strongest quarterly growth rate since the first quarter of 2017.
- Mexico's IPC fell 0.43% on Friday but rose 1.43% on the week, with the index finishing at 41,732. The market shrugged off concerns about the populist policies of new President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who was inaugurated Saturday, and were cheers by Federal Reserve comments suggesting a slower pace of rate hikes.
- India's BSE 30 rose 0.07% on Friday, pushing the index up 3.47% for the week to 36,194.30, as a stronger rupee and lower oil prices allowed investors toignored the slowdown in growth in the third quarter. Indian growth decelerated in the July-September quarter to 7.1% compared to a year earlier, down from 8.2% in the previous quarter and expectations for a 7.5% gain, due to higher oil prices and interest rates.
- Russia's RSTI fell 1.33% on Friday, as oil prices, Russia’s largest export, fell Friday on worries about a global supply glut. But the index still rose 1.13% on the week to close at 1,126.14.

Alternative Assets

- U.S. oil prices fell Friday on concerned about a global oil supply glut, though prices recovered later in the day on suggests OPEC might cut output at its meeting this month. Oil futures were down 22% in November, the biggest percentage drop in a decade. January West Texas Intermediate crude fell 1% Friday to $50.93 per barrel but was up about 1% for the week. January Brent crude on London’s ICE Futures Exchange closed the trading period at $58.71 a barrel, down 1.3% on Friday and was down 0.2%on the week.
- Gold futures fell Friday as the US dollar strengthened. December gold futures were down 0.4% on the day and 0.3% on the week to close at $1.226.00 per troy ounce. However, gold rose 0.9% in November, its second straight monthly gain.

Fixed Income

US

- The yield on benchmark 10-year Treasuries fell below the key 3% level last week, dropping to 2.9879 last Friday from 3.0390% at the end of the previous week as investors continued to seek the safe haven of bonds.
- Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell reiterated Wednesday that gradual tightening remains the best approach as interest rates enter neutral territory and the U.S. economy continues to perform above potential. In a highly-anticipated

speech, Powell gave no hint that the Fed was reevaluating its outlook for policy or considering an imminent pause in planned rate increases. He also did not respond to overnight criticism from President Donald Trump blaming stock market declines and factory closures on rate hikes. "We know that moving too fast would risk shortening the expansion. We also know that moving too slowly -- keeping interest rates too low for too long -- could risk other distortions in the form of higher inflation or destabilizing financial imbalances," he told the Economic Club of New York. "Our path of gradual increases has been designed to balance these two risks, both of which we must take seriously." He highlighted both the uncertainty of the economic outlook and the effects of interest rate increases, saying the latter "may take a year or more to be fully realized." Rates "remain just below the broad range of estimates of the level that would be neutral for the economy," and the FOMC will be "paying very close attention to what incoming economic and financial data are telling us" in formulating next steps, he said.

- At its meeting on November 7-8, the Federal Reserve's policymaking Open Market Committee stayed on track to hike next month as the economy evolved as expected, according to the minutes of that meeting released Thursday. Officials noted that another rate increase was likely to be warranted "fairly soon" if incoming data continues to meet or exceed expectations. "Almost all" officials reaffirmed the outlook for further rate hikes. A few officials "expressed uncertainty about the timing" of further rate increases, despite viewing them as appropriate. Only a couple of officials noted that the fed funds rate "might currently be near its neutral level" and that further hikes could slow the economic expansion and put downward pressure on inflation and inflation expectations.
- Third quarter GDP growth was unrevised at a 3.5% annual rate, compared with expectations for a small upward revision to 3.6%, data released Wednesday by the Bureau of Economic Analysis showed. Upward revisions to nonresidential fixed investment, residential investment, and inventories growth were offset by slower personal consumption spending and government spending growth and a wider net export gap.
- The MNI Chicago Business Barometer surged to an 11-month high of 66.4 in November, up 8.0 points from October's 58.4. Business activity recorded its most impressive performance so far this year in November, ending a three-month run of declines. Although broad-based, with increases across all five of the Barometer's subcomponents, resurgent orders, solid output and higher unfinished orders were the month's key drivers. This month's result means the Barometer has signaled expansion, sitting above the neutral 50-mark, for 33 consecutive months. Moreover, the headline index has registered above-60 for all but three of the past 15 months. Compared to a year ago, when export-driven growth spurred global activity, the Barometer is up 1.2%, returning to growth after two months of decline.
- Nominal PCE rose 0.6% in October, stronger than expected, while core personal consumption expenditure prices were up 0.1% for the month, slowing the year/year rate to 1.8% after rounding, according to data released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis Thursday morning. The 1.8% year/year rate for core PCE prices, the lowest since March, follows downward revisions after rounding to the previous two months to 1.9%, and results partially from base effects due to a larger month/month rise a year earlier. The rate sits moderately below Fed's inflation target.
- A 0.6% gain in current dollar personal consumption was above the 0.5% median expectation in an MNI survey and followed a 0.2% gain in September. Spending on durable goods was up 0.5% in the month, while nondurable goods spending rose 0.6% on a 2.4% increase in energy prices. Services spending was up 0.7%. Real PCE was up 0.4% in October, as the overall PCE price index was up 0.2%. The overall PCE price index was up 2.0% year/year, unchanged from September, but down from the levels seen in the summer. After inflation adjustment, durable goods PCE was up 0.4%, while real nondurable goods PCE was up 0.3% and real services PCE was up 0.5%.
- New single-family home sales fell by 8.9% to a 544,000-annual rate in October, led by a decrease in sales in the Midwest and Northeast regions, data released by the Commerce Department Wednesday showed. The new home sales pace was well below the 576,000-rate expected, based on an MNI survey of economists, and followed upward revisions to the previous two months. As a result, market participants are likely to see the data as a negative factor. The sales pace was below its year ago level, down 14.3% unadjusted from October 2017. Given the sales pace for October, the fourth quarter sales pace averaged 544,000, down from 598,000 in the third quarter.

UK

- The yield on 10-year Gilts fell to 1.3640% at the end of last week from 1.3810% the week before as worries about turbulent stocks and weaker growth caused a flight to the safety.
- The Bank of England published the results of its bank Stress Tests and its Brexit scenario analysis. It highlighted how hard the economy would be hit by a disorderly Brexit but judged that banks were well placed to withstand even this worst-case Brexit scenario. The BOE Financial Policy Committee concluded that the major UK banks "have levels of capital and liquidity to withstand even a severe economic shock that could be associated with a disorderly Brexit." A disorderly Brexit is defined as one with no deal and no transition period, where UK/EU trade stalls with disruption at the border. -Crucially for monetary policy, the BOE assumes that Brexit in any form is primarily a supply shock, which brings in its wake a hit to demand. In all scenarios Bank Rate is assumed to rise from its current 0.75% level, only gently in a relatively benign Brexit while peaking at 5.5% in the disorderly scenario.

- UK consumer confidence deteriorated for a third straight month in November, with GfK's long-running Consumer Confidence Index down three points to -13, data published Thursday showed. The slide in November's GfK Consumer Confidence Index was driven by deteriorations across all five sub-components, including a marked seven-point decline in the Major Purchases Index -- alarming for retailers in the run up to the festive season. November's result left the headline index at its lowest level since December last year, and, more alarmingly, it was last lower five-and-half years ago.
- UK retailers reported accelerating retail sales volume growth in November, after an October cooling off, a CBI survey published Tuesday showed. The reported sales volume balance rose to +19 in November, up 14 points from October and 2 points above the volume of sales retailers expected for month when asked back in October. The number also rose above the three-month moving average of +16.0. Adding to the positive reading was the finding that retailers expect the sales volume balance to rise further in December to +22. However, it is worth noting that given the time of the year, sales were reported to be poor, but the effect of this was muted in comparison to October.
- The number of mortgages approved rose to the highest level since January while average rates on "shop window" mortgages edged higher, Bank of England data published Thursday showed. The number of mortgage approvals rose to 67,086 in October from 65,726 in September, the highest reading since the 67,264 registered in January. Mortgage approvals are a reliable indicator of housing market activity in the months ahead, and these data point to an uptick in house purchases. Borrowing is set to become more expensive. The most common UK mortgages are 2- and 3-year fixed rates at around a 75% loan-to-value (LTV) ratio and the data showed these higher by 8 basis points and 4 basis points, respectively, in October.
- UK house prices edged higher in November, although annual growth remains close recent lows, the latest Nationwide House Price Index showed. On month, the Index rose 0.3% in November, beating the flat reading seen in October. The annual rate was 1.9%, bouncing from the 1.6% seen in October -- a 5-year low. Annual house price growth in the Nationwide series had registered between 2-3% since May 2017 but dipped below that in October.

Europe (ex. UK)

- The yield on benchmark 10-year Bunds fell to 0.3130% last Friday from 0.3400% the previous week on renewed worries about the Eurozone economic outlook on weaker sentiment data.
- The Eurozone harmonized consumer inflation rate decelerated to 2.0% in November from 2.2% in October, Eurostat reported Friday. The result was below expectations for a decline to 2.1%. The core inflation rate also fell, to 1.0% from 1.1% the month before, against expectations for no change.
- The Eurozone unemployment rate stayed steady at 8.1% in October, the Eurostat reported Friday. Analysts had expected the rate to fall to 8.0%.
- The Eurozone economic sentiment index fell in November for the 11th consecutive month to 109.5 from a downwardly revised 109.7 in October, remaining at the lowest level since May 2017. The drop was led by a decline in consumer sentiment to -3.9 from -2.7. Sentiment in the service (13.3) and construction (7.9) sectors were unchan0ged in November, while sentiment improved in the manufacturing (3.4 from 3.0) and retail (-0.6 from -0.8) sectors.

Japan

- The yield on 10-year Japanese Government Bonds fell over the past week to 0.0920% from 0.100% the previous week on worries about the economic outlook and U.S.-China trade dispute.
- The Bank of Japan said Wednesday that it posted a net profit of Y827.9 billion in the first half of fiscal year 2018, improving from a net profit of Y550.2 billion a year earlier, as the weaker yen pushed up the value of its foreign currency assets. The net gain came mainly from profits on foreign-exchange transactions, the BOJ said, which totaled Y409.6 billion in the six-month period, due to the depreciation of the yen, up from a profit of Y128.8 billion in the same period last year. Assets held by the BOJ at the end of September totaled Y545.7 trillion, up Y32.2 trillion, or 6.3%, from Y513.4 trillion a year before. The value of BOJ assets was also equal to the nation’s nominal GDP of Y464 trillion in 2017.
- Retail sales posted a 12th straight year-on-year rise in October, boosted by higher energy costs and strong demand for medicines and toiletry goods, preliminary data released Thursday by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) showed. Retail sales rose 3.5% on year in October, beating the median economist forecast for a gain of 2.7%. The pace of growth accelerated from the 2.2% rise in September.
- Tokyo's annual consumer inflation rate, a leading indicator of the national average, was the same in November as October's rate, with energy and processed food prices higher, data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications released Friday showed. The Tokyo core consumer price index (excluding fresh food) rose 1.0% on year in November, in line with the median economist forecast. It was the 19th straight y/y rise since the +0.1% in May 2017. Energy costs accelerated to +7.8% in November from +7.4% in October. The core CPI was supported by accommodation costs, which rose 1.4% y/y in November, after dropping 0.3% in October. The core-core CPI (excluding

fresh food and energy) -- a key indicator of the underlying trend of inflation -- rose 0.6% on year in November in Tokyo, unchanged from October.

- Japan's industrial production picked up modestly in October, beating analysts' expectations, preliminary data released Friday by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry showed. Industrial production rose 2.9% from September versus the forecast for a 1.2% gain; production fell 1.1% in September. Output in 13 out of 15 industries rose month-on-month. Industrial production may rise 0.6% on month in November (revised up from -0.8% in the previous forecast) and increase by 2.2% in December, METI predicted, based on its survey. Shipments rebounded to 5.4% m/m from -3.0% m/m in September, a 2018 low, pushed by increased iron and steel and non-ferrous metal output, along with increased communication equipment shipments. Inventories decreased by 1.4%, falling from last month's 2.3% gain.
- Japan's consumer confidence index hit a near two-year low in November, falling 0.1 point to 42.9 on a seasonally adjusted basis, the second straight month-on-month drop, according to the Consumer Confidence Survey released by the Cabinet Office Friday. November's 42.9 is the lowest level since December 2016 when it stood at 42.8. The fall came on concerns over a worsening of the economy, with ongoing global trade friction and the labor market situation cited as factors, the survey suggested. Consumers were more optimistic about two of the four key aspects that affect income gains and whether it would be a good time to buy durable goods over the next six months.

Source: Market News International