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November 21, 2022 – Economic Commentary

The Atlanta Fed GDPNow "real time" forecast for fourth quarter US GDP is now 4.4 percent. This estimated pace of economic growth is quite amazing in light of the string of Federal Reserve rate hikes, as well as economic problems in Europe and China; consumer demand, supported by strong employment, continues to push the economy forward. However, household savings appear to be dwindling and the Michigan Survey of Consumer Sentiment indicates a growing reluctance to commit to "big ticket" expenditures. Another Fed rate increase in December, following on the recent 75 bps increases, which have probably yet to have a full impact on the economy, may be sufficient to establish a different pace of growth – and a different, lower outlook for inflation—as soon as the first quarter of 2023. Numerous layoffs have been announced of late, primarily in the tech sector but also, quietly, in finance, law and other business services being affected by a global slowdown in business activity, and it is likely that these layoffs will have an increasingly negative influence on consumer spending.

Data to Watch:

- 1. Richmond Federal Reserve Manufacturing and Services Index for November, released Tuesday, November 22
- 2. US Durable Goods Orders for October, released Wednesday, November 23
- 3. S&P Global Preliminary Composite PMI for Manufacturing and Services in November, released Wednesday, November 23
- 4. FOMC Minutes, released Wednesday, November 23

Suggested Reading:

TSMC planning advanced chip production in Arizona, says company's founder

Inside a Crypto Nemesis' Campaign to Rein the Industry

ECB Warns on Soaring Government Debt

Railroad Unions Split Over Labor Contract

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