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The Day Ahead: Opening Salvo of Data Fails to Inspire

At the time of this writing, there are still a few econ reports left on deck, but the big ones are out. GDP missed big (1.4 vs 3.0), but largely for non-economic reasons. For instance, the BEA noted an entire 1% of the decline from the 4.4% reading in Q3 was due to the way it counts federal worker labor during the shutdown. Most of the rest is due to late-breaking changes in the trade gap reported yesterday. The more economically indicative metrics (like real sales to domestic purchasers) suggest an uneventful sideways drift. Meanwhile, monthly PCE inflation came in a bit hotter than expected in December. Bonds had no immediate reaction and are currently roughly unchanged.

Ian Overcarsh

Mortgage Banker, First National Bank

www.fnb-online.com/.../overcarshi

M: (704) 650-1922

overcarshi@fnb-corp.com

401 S. Graham Street

Charlotte NC 28202

1065792



Lillian Isaac

NC/SC Broker, Realtor®,

SRES License NC/SC

General Contractor |

Author, Lillian Isaac Realty

LillianIsaacRealty.com

P: (704) 492-8706

lillian@lillianisaacrealty.com

6277 Carolina Commons Dr. #363
Indian Land SC 29707