



## **Dow futures fall 100 points as Street eyes Fed speakers**

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U.S. stock index futures indicated a lower open on Thursday as traders digested the release of jobs data as well as comments from a range of Federal Reserve speakers.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen will make welcoming remarks at a Fed conference on post-crisis monetary policy in Washington at 9:30 a.m ET, although the official who might make more news is New York Fed President William Dudley.

He will speak on the economic outlook at the New York Economics Club at midday and will be taking questions from the group.

Fed officials have talked up the central bank's intention to raise interest rates in December if economic data are strong enough, and last week's monthly employment report gave them another shot of confidence.

Fed Vice Chair Stanley Fischer also speaks at 6 p.m. ET at the Fed conference on monetary policy. His topic is the transmission of exchange rate changes to output and inflation.

Other Fed speakers on Thursday include St. Louis Fed President James Bullard, who spoke on the economy and policy at the Cato Institute's annual monetary conference. Richmond Fed President Jeffrey Lacker will also speak at Cato at 9:45 a.m. Chicago Fed President Charles Evans speaks at 10:15 a.m. at a National Communities Council conference.

On the data front, initial claims came in unchanged week over week at 276,000, but above the expected 270,000.

On the earnings front, Kohl's and Viacom all reported before the bell.

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Cisco Systems, Petrobras, Applied Materials, Nordstrom, Blue Buffalo and El Pollo Loco are among the companies due to report after the bell.

In oil markets, Brent crude traded at around \$45.18 a barrel, down 1.54 percent, while U.S. crude was at around \$42.30 a barrel, down 1.47 percent.

In Europe, the pan-European Stoxx 600 index was around 0.5 percent lower on Thursday as investors reacted to a speech by Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank.

Draghi paved the way for further monetary easing in December by warning that signs of a sustained turnaround in core inflation had weakened.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei finished flat, while in China the Shanghai Composite closed 0.45 percent lower.