

## U.S. FOMC Rate Decision

# Teeing Up a Year-end Rate Rise

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The FOMC policy statement was little changed, with the “*gradual*” approach to rate hikes continuing. The latter has become synonymous with “quarterly”, so the Fed is implicitly signaling a December action – unless something changes materially between now and then (always a risk). There was some tweaking of the economic assessment, acknowledging the fact that the unemployment rate has “*declined*” and business fixed investment has “*moderated from its rapid pace earlier in the year*” (call it a wash).



**Bottom line:** For the fourth December in a row, the Fed is going to raise rates.

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