

### ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- GDP Price Index strengthened 2.2% (1.8% Y/Y), the quickest increase in five quarters
- Average mortgage loan size declined to \$283,000, up 2.1% Y/Y
- Total Housing Starts declined 4.7% (+6.1% Y/Y) during September to 1.127 million units from 1.183 million in August
- Nondefense Capital Goods orders strengthened 6.1% (14.6% Y/Y) due to increase in civilian aircraft orders
- Unemployment Rate unexpectedly fell to 4.2% in September 2017 from 4.4 % in August
- Private Non-Farm Payrolls increased 235,000 (2.1% Y/Y) during October
- Personal Income increased 0.4% (3.0% Y/Y) during September following an unrevised 0.2% August rise
- Consumer Confidence surged 4.4% during October (24.9% Y/Y) to 125.9
- WTI crude oil prices rose to \$52.59 per barrel last week (6.3% Y/Y) from \$51.74 last week
- National average for Regular gasoline is \$2.49 per gallon (11.6% Y/Y)
- Natural gas prices last week were \$2.89/mmbtu (7.6% Y/Y)

### POLYETHYLENE

- PE producers raised prices \$.03/lb on October 15th
- A total of \$.10/lb in increases have been implemented since Hurricane Harvey
- Inventory levels across all PE grades stands around normal at 38 days of supply

### OUTLOOK

- November prices are forecast to remain flat
- By year end, or in early 2018, it is anticipated that the "Harvey" price increases will begin to come out of the market
- Most forecasts expect 2018 prices to be lower based upon the continued addition of new PE production capacity