

## The U.S. economy is surprising as Canada remains stable

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In the U.S., real GDP growth is revised upwards: 3.3% in the second quarter.
- Home sales in the U.S. show signs of stabilizing, but prices are still falling.
- After the tax rebates: the backwash begins in the U.S.
- Canada: Rising prices are inflating the current account balance.
- Canada's real GDP advanced by only 0.3% in the second quarter.

### A LOOK AHEAD

- United States: The ISM indexes should remain fairly stable.
- The deterioration of the U.S. labour market probably continued through August.
- The Bank of Canada should leave its key interest rates unchanged.
- Canada: Employment could inch up in August.

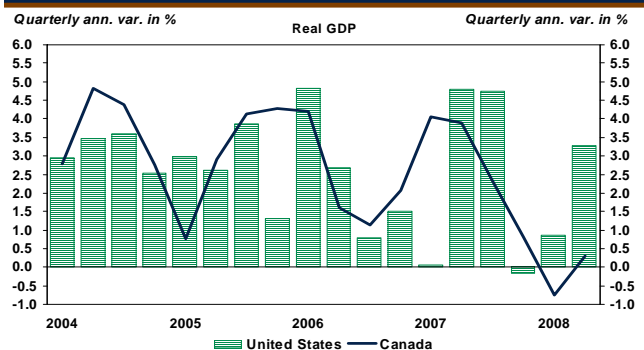
### FINANCIAL MARKETS

- U.S. economic statistics sustain the stock market.
- Canadian bond rates decline while the market expects rate cuts.
- Weak economic growth hurts the Canadian dollar.

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Graph of the week – The U.S. economic growth exceeds that of Canada



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

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## KEY STATISTICS OF THE WEEK

### UNITED STATES

- The real GDP in the second quarter was revised upwards. The new estimate for national accounts saw annualized quarterly growth advance from 1.9% to 3.3%. These changes occurred mainly in the foreign sector and in inventories and there was little change in the growth of domestic demand. This performance could very well be fleeting.
- The positive effects of the distribution of tax rebates (associated with the government's economic stimulus plan) to American households are beginning to fade. If we disregard the increase in prices, real spending declined by 0.4% in July, and disposable income contracted by 1.7%.
- Existing home sales jumped from 4,850,000 units in June to 5,000,000 in July. Homes sales jumped to 515,000 units in July compared to 503,000 in June. As such, we have noted some stabilization in the number of homes sold. The housing market correction seems to be less severe, but troubles still lie ahead. The imbalance remains and prices continue to fall. In fact, The S&P/Case-Shiller index of existing home prices declined once again in June.
- Consumer confidence is up significantly in August based on the Conference Board survey and the final version of the University of Michigan survey. The improvement in consumer confidence stems mainly from the drop in gas prices.
- New orders for durable goods advanced for the third consecutive month in July (1.3%). This is a first since the winter of 2007. It signals that business investment is not really slowing down.

**Francis Généreux**  
Senior Economist

### CANADA

- Canada's real GDP grew by 0.3% (annualized) in the second quarter of 2008. The results for the first quarter of 2008 are revised downwards and the real GDP would have declined by 0.8%. The initial estimate indicated a drop of only 0.3%. Overall, the results for the second quarter are in line with our expectations. Foreign trade once again slammed the breaks on economic growth. This negative contribution was offset, however, by growth in domestic demand and acceleration in inventory variations. If the slight uptick in the real GDP in the second quarter prevents us from confirming that Canada is in a recession, the Canadian economy is not out of the woods yet. Much like the results for the first quarter, the data published this morning could be revised downward once information on the national accounts is published in December.
- The current account balance was \$6.8B in the second quarter of 2008. The surplus of the previous quarter has been revised downwards, from \$5.6B to \$4.5B. The gain of \$2.3B during the quarter is in line with what was expected. That growth of the current account balance is entirely due to an increase in the goods surplus. Do not be fooled, however: the growth does not reflect any improvement in the volume of foreign trade; rather, it is the result of sharp price increases.
- The annual variation in the average weekly wages of Canadian workers posted 2.5% in June vs. 2.7% one month earlier. With a total inflation rate of 3.1% for the same month, the advance made by wages expressed in real terms falls back into negative territory—a first in two years. In other words, consumer spending could benefit from less support in the coming months.

**Benoit P. Durocher**  
Senior Economist

#### The revision stems mainly from the foreign sector and inventory variations

Contribution to real GDP growth in Q2 of 2008

GDP components	First estimate (in percentage points)	Revision (in percentage points)
Personal consumption expenditures	1.08	1.24 +0.16
Residential investment	-0.62	-0.62
Non-residential private investment	0.25	0.25
Government expenditures	0.67	0.76
Exports	1.16	1.65 +0.49
Imports	1.26	1.45 +0.19
Change in inventories	-1.92	-1.44 +0.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Domestic final demand</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis and Desjardins, Economic Studies

# FINANCIAL MARKETS

## The markets remain prudent despite U.S. data

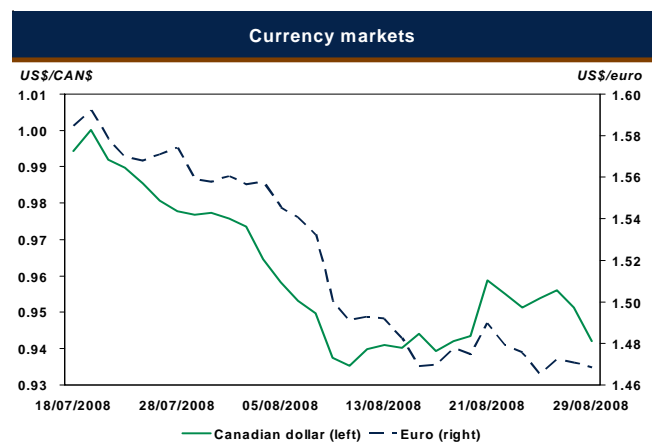
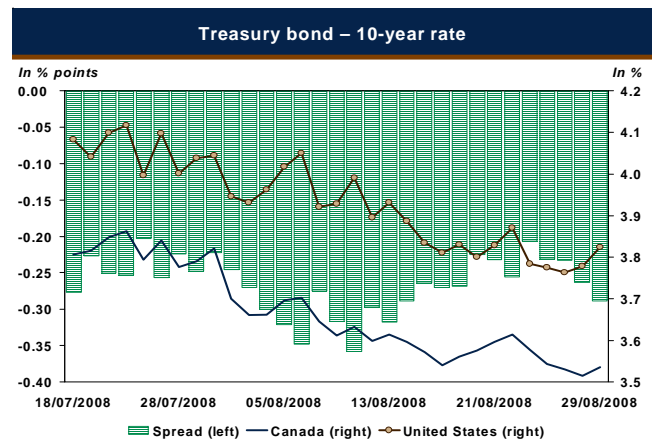
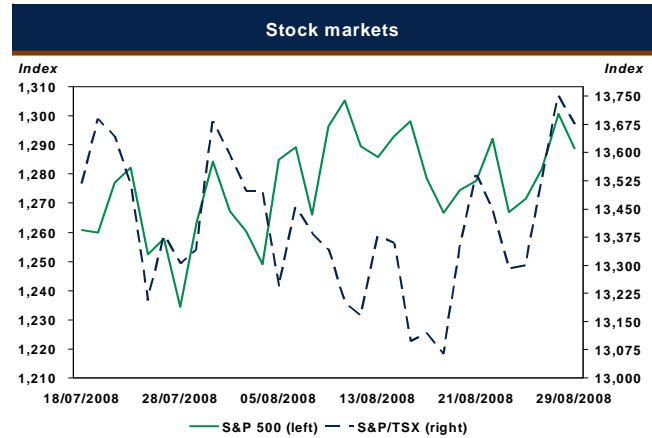
Overall, the news was fairly good this week. Economic growth for the second quarter was sharply revised upward and the data on household confidence and durable goods orders also exceeded expectations. Even the statistics on the housing market indicated that the drop in this sector could be starting to soften. After a difficult start to the week, the U.S. stock markets took advantage of these encouraging statistics and the slight upturn in confidence towards the financial sector to rebound significantly. The disappointing results released by Dell and the decline in U.S. consumption in July had a negative effect on Friday morning however, pushing the U.S. indexes closer to last week's closing levels. Making the most of the rebound in oil prices while Hurricane Gustav is threatening the Gulf of Mexico, and the fairly reassuring results published by Canada's banks, the S&P/TSX index is on its way to a 2% weekly gain.

The bond markets did not suffer too much as a result of the good economic news published in the U.S. and, at the time of writing, the rates for federal securities came very close to the previous week's closing levels. The weak reaction showed by the bond market indicates a certain scepticism—justified in our opinion—about the U.S. economy's positive signs. Canadian bond rates have declined, while many are counting on a cut to key interest rates in Canada by the end of the year. Even if the numbers confirm that we have dodged a recession for the time being, real GDP's weak growth in the second quarter leaves the door open to further monetary easing.

The good news about the U.S. economy allowed the greenback to gain value again, especially against European currencies where the economic situation continues to deteriorate. The pound sterling was the most affected, losing about US\$0.03 this week and dropping under the US\$1.83 mark. In contrast, the Japanese yen took advantage of the publication of a series of encouraging economic indicators to post a slight gain against the U.S. dollar. Lastly, the Canadian dollar was volatile, reaching US\$0.96 briefly on Tuesday only to fall at around US\$0.945 by Friday morning after the release of the economic accounts.

**Martin Lefebvre**  
Senior Economist

**Mathieu D'Anjou**  
Senior Economist



# A LOOK AHEAD



## UNITED STATES

### Tuesday Sep. 2 - 10:00

<b>August</b>	index
Consensus	49.6
Desjardins	50.0
<b>July</b>	<b>50.0</b>

**ISM manufacturing index (August)** – The ISM manufacturing index has been stable for the past few months, hovering at around 50, a level that represents the limit between declining or increasing activity in the manufacturing sector. The index actually reached this level in July and we expect it to remain in this position for August as well. This kind of result sheds very little light on movements within the sector, suggesting instead that activity is stagnating.

### Tuesday Sep. 2 - 10:00

<b>July</b>	m/m
Consensus	-0.5%
Desjardins	-0.5%
<b>June</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>

**Construction spending (July)** – The significant drop in housing starts in July opens the door to a sharp decline in construction spending, in the residential sector at least. However, continuing activity for projects that began in June and the surprising resiliency of the non-residential sector could limit this impact. Moreover, job losses in the construction sector softened in July. As such, we expect the monthly change in total construction spending to be similar to the previous month's figures.

### Wednesday Sep. 3

<b>August</b>	ann. rate
Consensus	13.0M
Desjardins	13.0M
<b>July</b>	<b>12.5M</b>

**Automobile sales (August)** – The automobile market continues to crumble in the United States. In July, the monthly drop in sales reached 8.2%. The last time we saw automobile sales increase was in October 2007. However, we expect this market to stabilize somewhat, especially since households have noted that gas prices may have already reached their peak. The increase will be minimal, however, and the forecast calling for 13 million cars to be sold is still 20% less than one year ago.

### Thursday Sep. 4 - 8:30

<b>Q2 revision</b>	ann. rate
Consensus	3.0%
Desjardins	3.8%
<b>Q2</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

**Non-farm labour productivity (Q2 – revision)** – The first estimate of the annual growth for labour productivity was 2.2%. This gain should be even stronger in the second estimate that takes into account the revised GDP figures. As such, non-farming production should add about 1.6 percentage points to the previously announced increase. This strong productivity will see unit labour costs revised downwards, which should decline by 0.3%.

### Thursday Sep. 4 - 10:00

<b>August</b>	index
Consensus	49.5
Desjardins	49.0
<b>July</b>	<b>49.5</b>

**ISM non-manufacturing index (August)** – The ISM non-manufacturing index had retreated sharply in June to come back and make up for some lost ground in July. This index is still under the 50 level. The end of the mass distribution of tax rebate cheques and a probable drop in retail sales and construction should bring the ISM to a slightly lower level, at close to 49,0.

### Friday Sep. 5 - 8:30

<b>August</b>	
Consensus	-71,000
Desjardins	-85,000
<b>July</b>	<b>-51,000</b>

**Job creation according to establishment (August)** – The labour market in the United States continues to deteriorate. However, the number of jobs lost seems to be stabilizing at roughly 50,000 layoffs per month. We are expecting this number to rise for August with about 85,000 layoffs. The confidence indexes, although supported by lower gas prices, show a new decline in the components tied to the labour market. The results of the employment indexes of ISM surveys will also provide more information. After deteriorating substantially in the past few months, the unemployment rate could remain at 5.7%.



## CANADA

**Meeting of the Bank of Canada (September 3)** – Canada’s monetary authorities will be meeting next Wednesday to set the level of interest rates for overnight funds. We expect the target rate to remain at 3.00%. While it is true that the economic conditions have deteriorated these past few months and energy prices have retreated somewhat, two factors bode well for a cut to key interest rates. The uncertainties and the risk of new energy price hikes must still be considered. In addition, the total annual inflation rate will likely remain above the BoC’s upper range until the end of 2008. Under these circumstances, it is better to play it safe by extending the status quo.

**Labour force survey (August)** – Will Canada’s labour market contract for a third consecutive month? It is difficult to say. We can still expect the problems seen recently in the services sector to continue, which should halt the labour market’s progress. The chronic difficulties in manufacturing could also generate another round of significant job losses for the month. The major unknown is the impact of the heavy rainfall in July on that month’s results. If the weak employment picture we saw in July can be explained by unusual seasonal weather, we could very well see a rebound in August given the return to normal conditions. In the end, we are projecting modest job growth in August. As such, the unemployment rate could rise by one tenth of a percentage point to 6.2%.



## OVERSEAS

**Meeting of the Bank of England (September)** – The Bank of England (BoE) should continue to maintain its key interest rate at 5.00% in September. The British monetary authorities have their hands tied by a thrust in inflation, which reached 4.4% in July, and economic troubles that are becoming increasingly serious. As a result, the real GDP stagnated in the second quarter and could post a decline in the second half of the year. Eventually, the risks of a recession will clearly get the upper hand, allowing the BoE to resume softening its monetary policy by the end of 2008.

**Meeting of the European Central Bank (September)** – The leaders of the European Central Bank (ECB) will also opt for maintaining the status quo, keeping the key interest rate at 4.25% in September. The hope that the Euroland economy would be able to dodge any serious trouble due to the global economic slowdown evaporated in the past few months. The real GDP in the euro zone contracted in the second quarter of 2008 (a revision of national accounts is expected on Wednesday) and everything indicates that the difficulties will continue. It will be interesting to see to what extent the ECB will have to revise its economic outlooks downward. Inflation remains a serious concern for the ECB, whose hands may be tied for several more months. The statistics on [retail sales](#) in Euroland for July will be published on Wednesday.

### Wednesday Sep. 3 - 9:00

Consensus	3.00%
Desjardins	3.00%
<b>August</b>	<b>3.00%</b>

### Friday Sep. 5 - 7:00

<b>August</b>	in thousands
Consensus	10.0
Desjardins	5.0
<b>July</b>	<b>-55.2</b>

### Thursday Sep. 4 - 7:00


Consensus	5.00%
Desjardins	5.00%
<b>August</b>	<b>5.00%</b>

### Thursday Sep. 4 - 7:45

Consensus	4.25%
Desjardins	4.25%
<b>August</b>	<b>4.25%</b>

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS


## Week of September 1 to 5, 2008

Day	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
<b>MONDAY 1</b>						
	14:45	Speech of the Kansas City Fed President, T. Hoenig, in Argentina				
	---	Markets closed (Labour Day)				
<b>TUESDAY 2</b>						
	10:00	ISM manufacturing index	August	49.6	50.0	50.0
	10:00	Construction spending (m/m)	July	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.4%
<b>WEDNESDAY 3</b>						
	10:00	New factory orders (m/m)	July	1.0%	1.5%	1.7%
	12:30	Speech of the Boston Fed President, E. Rosengren				
	14:00	Release of the Beige Book				
	N.A.	Total vehicle sales (ann. rate)	August	13.0M	13.0M	12.5M
<b>THURSDAY 4</b>						
	8:30	Nonfarm productivity – final (ann. rate)	Q2	3.0%	3.8%	2.2%
	8:30	Unit labor costs – final (ann. rate)	Q2	0.6%	-0.3%	1.3%
	8:30	Initial unemployment claims	August 25-29	423,000	420,000	425,000
	10:00	ISM non-manufacturing index	August	49.5	49.0	49.5
	13:30	Chain store sales (y/y)	August	n.a.	1.8%	2.6%
	13:40	Speech of the Dallas Fed President, R. Fisher				
	14:30	Speech of the San Francisco Fed President, J. Yellen				
<b>FRIDAY 5</b>						
	8:30	Change in nonfarm payrolls	August	-71,000	-85,000	-51,000
	8:30	Unemployment rate	August	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%
	8:30	Average weekly earnings (m/m)	August	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
	8:30	Weekly worked hours	August	33.6 h	33.6 h	33.6 h
	15:55	Speech of the San Francisco Fed President, J. Yellen				




## CANADA

<b>MONDAY 1</b>						
	---	Markets closed (Labour Day)				
<b>TUESDAY 2</b>						
	---					
<b>WEDNESDAY 3</b>						
	9:00	Interest rate announcement by the Bank of Canada		3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>THURSDAY 4</b>						
	8:15	International reserves (US\$B)	August	n.a.	42.0	42.7
<b>FRIDAY 5</b>						
	7:00	Net change in employment	August	10,000	5,000	-55,200
	7:00	Unemployment rate	August	6.2%	6.2%	6.1%
	10:00	PMI-Ivey index	August	61.5	63.0	65.5

NOTE : Desjardins, Economic Studies are involved every week in the Bloomberg survey for Canada and the United States. Approximately 15 economists are consulted for the Canadian survey and a hundred or so for the United States. The abbreviations m/m, q/q and y/y correspond to monthly, quarterly and yearly variation respectively. (SA): Seasonally adjusted, (NSA): Non seasonally adjusted. The times shown are Eastern Daylight Time (GMT - 4 hours).  Forecast of Desjardins, Economic Studies of the Desjardins Group.

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Week of September 1 to 5, 2008

Country	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data		
				m/m (q/q)	y/y	m/m (q/q)	y/y	
 <b>OVERSEAS</b>								
<b>MONDAY 1</b>								
Germany	2:00	Retail sales	July	-0.3%	-2.2%	-1.4%	-3.9%	
Italy	3:45	PMI manufacturing index	August	46.5		45.3		
France	3:50	PMI manufacturing index	August	45.1		45.1		
Germany	3:55	PMI manufacturing index	August	49.9		49.9		
Euro zone	4:00	PMI manufacturing index	August	47.5		47.5		
UK	4:30	PMI manufacturing index	August	44.0		44.3		
<b>TUESDAY 2</b>								
Australia	0:30	Reserve Bank of Australia meeting		7.00%		7.25%		
UK	4:30	PMI construction index	August	36.0		36.7		
Euro zone	5:00	Producer price index	July	1.2%	9.1%	0.9%	8.0%	
UK	19:01	Consumer confidence	August	49		51		
<b>WEDNESDAY 3</b>								
Italy	3:45	PMI services index	August	46.5		45.6		
France	3:50	PMI services index	August	48.5		48.5		
Germany	3:55	PMI services index	August	50.6		50.6		
Euro zone	4:00	PMI services index	August	48.2		48.2		
Euro zone	4:00	PMI composite index	August	48.0		48.0		
UK	4:30	PMI services index	August	47.0		47.4		
Euro zone	5:00	Retail sales	July	0.1%	-2.1%	-0.6%	-3.1%	
Euro zone	5:00	Real GDP	Q2	-0.2%	1.5%	-0.2%	1.5%	
<b>THURSDAY 4</b>								
Sweden	3:30	Bank of Sweden meeting		4.75%		4.50%		
UK	7:00	Bank of England meeting		5.00%		5.00%		
Euro zone	7:45	European Central Bank meeting		4.25%		4.25%		
<b>FRIDAY 5</b>								
Italy	4:00	Trade balance (€M)	June	-1,000.0		-59.0		
Germany	6:00	Industrial production	July	-0.5%	0.8%	0.2%	1.7%	

**NOTE :** In contrast to the situation in Canada and the United States, disclosure of overseas economic figures is much more approximate. The day of publication is therefore shown for information purposes only. The abbreviations m/m, q/q and y/y correspond to monthly, quarterly and yearly variation respectively. (SA): Seasonally adjusted, (NSA): Non seasonally adjusted. The times shown are Eastern Daylight Time (GMT - 4 hours).

## United States: Quarterly economic indicators

	Ref. quart.	Level	Variation (%)			Annual variation (%)			
			Quart.	Ann.	1 year	2006	2005	2004	2003
Gross domestic product (\$B 2000)	2008 Q2	11,740	0.8	3.3	2.1	2.0	2.8	2.9	3.6
Consumption (\$B 2000)	2008 Q2	8,352	0.4	1.7	1.4	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.6
Government spending (\$B 2000)	2008 Q2	2,059	1.0	3.9	2.5	2.1	1.7	0.4	1.4
Residential investment (\$B 2000)	2008 Q2	367	-4.2	-15.8	-28.6	(17.9)	-7.1	6.3	10.0
Non-residential investment (\$B 2000)	2008 Q2	1,431	0.6	2.2	4.0	1.7	7.2	9.3	7.4
Business inventory change (\$B 2000) (1)	2008 Q2	-49	---	---	---	(8.1)	13.1	53.5	57.2
Exportations (\$B 2000)	2008 Q2	1,548	3.2	13.2	10.1	8.4	9.1	7.0	9.7
Importations (\$B 2000)	2008 Q2	1,925	-1.9	-7.5	-2.0	2.2	6.0	5.9	11.3
Final domestic demand (\$B 2000)	2008 Q2	12,160	0.4	1.5	0.8	1.8	2.6	3.1	3.8
GDP deflator (2000 = 100)	2008 Q2	122	0.3	1.2	2.0	2.7	3.2	3.3	2.9
Labor productivity (1992 = 100)	2008 Q2	140	0.5	2.2	2.8	1.4	1.0	1.8	2.8
Unit labor cost (1992 = 100)	2008 Q2	130	0.3	1.3	1.4	2.7	2.8	2.2	0.8
Employment cost index (Dec. 2005 = 100)	2008 Q2	108	0.7	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.7
Current account balance (\$M) (1)	2008 Q1	-176,376	---	---	---	(167,241)	-181,355	-208,223	-178,401
Corporate profits before tax (\$B)	2008 Q2*	1,556	-2.4	-9.2	-7.5	(1.6)	15.2	17.6	24.0

\* New statistic in comparison with last week.

(1) For this indicator, the statistic shows the level at the end of the year of the column except for the reference quarter column (---).

## United States: Monthly economic indicators

	Ref. month	Level	Variation (%)				Annualized variation (%)		
			Ref. month	-1 month	-2 months	-3 months	3 months	6 months	1 year
Leading indicator (1996 = 100)	July	101.2	-0.7	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-3.1	-1.8	-3.3
ISM manufacturing index (1)	July	50.0	---	50.2	49.6	48.6	48.6	50.7	52.3
ISM non-manufacturing index (1)	July	49.6	---	49.9	53.6	50.9	50.9	41.9	55.9
Cons. confid. C.B. (1985 = 100) (1)	Aug.*	56.9	---	51.9	51.0	58.1	58.1	76.4	105.6
Cons. confid. Mich. (1966 = 100) (1)	Aug.	63.0	---	61.2	56.4	59.8	59.8	70.8	83.4
Pers. cons. expenditure (\$B 2000)	July*	8,322.5	-0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.1	-0.7	0.1	0.7
Disposable pers. income (\$B 2000)	July*	8,748.3	-1.7	-2.6	5.2	0.1	3.1	2.0	1.2
Consumer credit (\$B)	June	2,586.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.5	5.0	5.0	5.6
Retail sales (\$M)	July	384,631	-0.1	0.3	0.8	0.2	4.1	2.4	2.6
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	July	316,704	0.4	0.9	1.2	1.0	10.3	8.3	6.0
Industrial production (2002 = 100)	July	111.8	0.2	0.4	-0.2	-0.6	1.8	-1.3	-0.1
Prod. capacity utilization rate (%) (1)	July	79.9	---	79.8	79.6	79.8	79.8	81.0	81.4
New machinery orders (\$M)	June	457,630	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.5	16.8	5.3	7.1
New durable good orders (\$M)	July*	219,258	1.3	1.3	0.1	-1.0	11.3	5.3	-4.5
Business inventories (\$M)	June	1,489,543	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	6.2	6.4	5.6
Housing starts (k) (1)	July	965	---	1,084	982	1,004	1,004	1,064	1,371
Building permits (k) (1)	July	937	---	1,138	978	982	982	1,052	1,386
New home sales (k) (1)	July*	515	---	503	514	542	542	597	796
Existing home sales (k) (1)	July*	5,000	---	4,850	4,990	4,890	4,890	4,890	5,760
Construction spending (\$B)	June	1,081.9	-0.4	0.0	-0.5	1.4	-3.1	-2.1	-5.9
Commercial surplus (\$M) (1)	June	-56,772	---	-59,204	-60,498	-56,491	-56,491	-57,578	-59,125
Nonfarm employment (k) (2)	July	137,615	-51	-51	-47	-67	-0.4	-0.6	-0.0
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	July	5.7	---	5.5	5.5	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7
Consumer price (1982-1984 = 100)	July	219.2	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.2	10.6	6.4	5.5
Excluding food and energy	July	216.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	3.5	2.3	2.5
Pers. cons. expenditure deflator**	July*	123.1	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.2	7.5	5.1	4.5
Excluding food and energy	July*	117.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	2.8	2.4	2.4
Producer price (1982 = 100)	July	183.9	1.2	1.8	1.4	0.3	18.9	12.5	9.8
Excluding food and energy	July	167.8	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.6	4.7	4.7	3.6
Export prices (2000 = 100)	July	127.9	1.4	1.0	0.3	0.5	11.7	12.3	10.2
Import prices (2000 = 100)	July	147.8	1.7	2.9	2.8	2.8	34.3	30.9	21.6

\* New statistic in comparison with last week; \*\* 2000 = 100.

(1) For this indicator, the statistic shows the level of the month of the column except for the reference month column (---); (2) For this indicator, the statistic shows the average monthly variation since the reference month.

## Canada: Quarterly economic indicators

	Ref. quart.	Level	Variation (%)			Annual variation (%)			
			Quart.	Ann.	1 year	2006	2005	2004	2003
Gross domestic product (\$M 2002)	2008 Q2*	1,327,118	0.1	0.3	0.7	2.7	3.1	2.9	3.1
Consumption (\$M 2002)	2008 Q2*	816,948	0.6	2.4	4.1	4.5	4.3	3.7	3.3
Government spending (\$M 2002)	2008 Q2*	311,147	1.1	4.5	5.0	4.2	4.1	2.7	2.5
Residential investment (\$M 2002)	2008 Q2*	79,661	-1.0	-3.9	-1.3	3.0	2.2	3.4	7.5
Non-residential investment (\$M 2002)	2008 Q2*	197,009	-0.4	-1.4	2.7	3.5	9.9	12.1	8.2
Business inventory change (\$M 2002) (1)	2008 Q2*	8,395	---	---	---	20,565	1,510	10,290	21,466
Exportations (\$M 2002)	2008 Q2*	488,478	-1.5	-5.9	-4.9	1.0	0.6	1.8	5.0
Importations (\$M 2002)	2008 Q2*	583,004	0.6	2.3	4.9	5.5	4.6	7.1	8.0
Final domestic demand (\$M 2002)	2008 Q2*	1,401,132	0.5	2.0	3.7	4.2	4.8	4.4	3.9
GDP deflator (2002 = 100)	2008 Q2*	121.8	2.5	10.5	4.3	3.1	2.5	3.4	3.2
Labour productivity (1997 = 100)	2008 Q1	103.9	-0.3	-1.1	-0.8	0.6	1.6	2.1	0.2
Unit labour cost (1997 = 100)	2008 Q1	119.6	1.6	6.6	3.9	3.6	3.5	2.3	3.2
Current account balance (\$M) (1)	2008 Q2*	6,758	---	---	---	778	6,523	12,278	6,963
Corporate profits before tax (\$M)	2008 Q2*	226,964	8.3	37.5	10.7	3.3	5.8	10.5	16.4
Production capacity utilization rate (%) (1)	2008 Q1	79.8	---	---	---	81.8	82.5	85.7	84.7
Prod. outlook of manufac. business (1) (2)	2008 Q1	-14	---	---	---	0	-6	1	11

\* New statistic in comparison with last week.

(1) For this indicator, the statistic shows the level at the end of the year of the column except for the reference quarter column (---); (2) Diffusion index equal to the percentage of business that believe output will increase less the percentage of business that believe output will fall.

## Canada: Monthly economic indicators

	Ref. month	Level	Variation (%)				Annualized variation (%)		
			Ref. month	-1 month	-2 months	-3 months	3 months	6 months	1 year
Leading comp. index (1992 = 100)	July	228.3	0.0	-0.0	0.2	0.1	0.5	-0.3	0.2
Gross domestic product (\$M 1997)	June*	1,230,832	0.1	-0.1	0.4	-0.2	1.4	0.9	0.3
Industrial production (\$M 1997)	June*	261,753	-0.3	-0.7	0.6	-1.4	-1.7	-4.1	-5.9
Manufacturing shipments (\$M)	June	52,492	2.1	2.2	2.7	-1.4	31.5	16.1	2.3
Housing starts (k) (1)	July	186.5	---	215.9	225.8	219.3	219.3	216.0	221.6
Building permits (\$M)	June	6,318	-5.3	2.0	17.0	-4.6	63.1	9.8	-9.2
New housing price (1997 = 100)	June	158.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	2.3	3.5
Retail sales (\$M)	June	35,951	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.1	6.0	4.0	4.0
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	June	28,269	1.4	0.6	1.3	0.2	13.9	8.6	6.8
Wholesale trade sales (\$M)	June	45,151	2.0	1.5	1.6	0.8	22.8	12.5	5.0
New motor vehicle sales (units)	June	143,270	-1.0	1.0	-2.6	-0.9	-10.2	2.3	-0.4
Commercial surplus (\$M) (1)	June	5,763	---	5,219	4,827	5,811	5,811	2,097	4,199
Exports (\$M)	June	43,161	3.1	4.3	0.9	0.8	38.2	41.6	12.3
Imports (\$M)	June	37,398	2.0	3.8	3.9	-2.2	46.4	19.7	9.3
Labour force (k)	July	18,189	-0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	-1.1	0.9	1.4
Employment (k) (2)	July	17,084	-55.2	-5.0	8.4	19.2	-17.3	4.2	18.9
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	July	6.1	---	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.8	6.0
Average weekly earnings (\$)	June*	789.23	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.1	0.9	2.2	2.5
Consumer price index (2002 = 100)	July	115.8	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.8	8.4	7.3	3.4
Excluding food and energy	July	110.4	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.3	1.8	2.6	1.2
Excluding the eight volatile items	July	111.7	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.8	2.9	1.5
Industrial prod. price (1997 = 100)	July*	123.6	0.4	1.6	0.9	1.7	12.2	14.1	6.8
Raw materials price (1997 = 100)	July*	233.8	1.4	4.3	3.2	5.1	42.2	51.7	28.9
Money supply M1 (\$M)	July	445,124	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.2	9.8	7.5	6.6

\* New statistic in comparison with last week.

(1) For this indicator, the statistic shows the level of the month of the column except for the reference month column (---); (2) For this indicator, the statistic shows the average monthly variation since the reference month.

## United States: Financial indicators

	Week of... (%)		Previous data (%)				Last 52 weeks (%)		
	Aug. 25	Aug. 18	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
Federal funds	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	5.25	5.25	3.23	2.00
Discount	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	3.50	5.75	5.75	3.61	2.25
Prime	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	8.25	8.25	6.23	5.00
Commercial paper – 30 days	2.41	2.46	2.42	2.23	3.06	5.35	5.48	3.52	2.23
– 90 days	2.87	2.92	2.88	2.70	3.02	5.36	5.52	3.68	2.62
Treasury bill – 4 weeks	1.57	1.73	1.72	1.95	2.31	4.18	4.01	2.31	0.31
– 90 days	1.73	1.70	1.69	1.86	2.17	4.13	4.15	2.41	0.55
– 180 days	1.95	1.98	1.89	1.93	2.09	4.24	4.27	2.61	1.18
Treasury bonds – 2 years	2.40	2.40	2.66	2.45	1.95	4.27	4.18	2.75	1.49
– 5 years	3.12	3.13	3.40	3.15	2.76	4.41	4.38	3.32	2.37
– 10 years	3.82	3.87	4.06	3.85	3.74	4.63	4.66	3.98	3.37
– 30 years	4.42	4.49	4.65	4.58	4.54	4.90	4.91	4.56	4.19
Gold price (US\$/ounce)	833.2	822.9	920.6	927.5	944.3	662.4	1,003.9	856.8	671.9
CRB – Future markets (1967 = 100)	397.19	400.61	410.29	432.56	397.05	303.93	472.36	384.47	309.92
Crude oil price (WTI*, US\$)	118.07	118.67	123.43	132.83	98.15	70.71	146.66	105.74	74.15

\* West Texas Intermediate.

Note: Financial indicators table for the current day at 11h.

## Canada: Financial indicators

	Week of... (%)		Previous data (%)				Last 52 weeks (%)		
	Aug. 25	Aug. 18	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
Overnight	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	4.50	4.50	3.74	3.00
Discount	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	4.25	4.75	4.75	3.99	3.25
Prime	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	5.75	6.25	6.25	5.49	4.75
Bankers accept. – 30 days	3.12	3.12	3.14	3.14	3.94	4.90	5.05	3.92	2.99
– 90 days	3.27	3.27	3.30	3.15	3.93	4.90	5.08	3.98	3.00
Commercial paper – 30 days	3.13	3.10	3.15	3.20	3.90	5.10	5.40	4.00	3.05
Treasury bill – 30 days	2.22	2.17	2.30	2.42	3.21	3.85	4.00	3.02	1.70
– 91 days	2.40	2.46	2.41	2.68	3.25	3.85	4.06	3.10	1.72
– 182 days	2.64	2.69	2.79	2.70	3.28	4.16	4.28	3.31	2.20
– 365 days	2.67	2.75	3.03	2.80	3.20	4.22	4.40	3.39	2.38
Treasury bonds – 2 years	2.72	2.92	3.13	3.01	3.09	4.23	4.36	3.33	2.44
– 5 years	3.03	3.17	3.40	3.28	3.42	4.30	4.41	3.56	2.85
– 10 years	3.54	3.62	3.81	3.64	3.84	4.38	4.50	3.88	3.47
– 30 years	4.02	4.05	4.15	4.09	4.20	4.44	4.53	4.18	3.96
<b>Spread with the U.S. rate (% points)</b>									
Overnight – Federal funds	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-0.75	1.25	0.51	-0.75
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.67	0.76	0.72	0.82	1.08	-0.28	1.35	0.69	-0.20
– 6 months	0.69	0.71	0.90	0.77	1.20	-0.08	1.25	0.70	-0.02
Treasury bonds – 5 years	-0.10	0.04	0.00	0.13	0.67	-0.11	0.76	0.24	-0.11
– 10 years	-0.29	-0.26	-0.25	-0.21	0.10	-0.25	0.29	-0.10	-0.34
– 30 years	-0.40	-0.43	-0.51	-0.49	-0.34	-0.46	-0.15	-0.38	-0.59
<b>Spread with the Canada rate – Bond 10 years (% points)</b>									
Québec	0.87	0.85	0.71	0.81	0.73	0.48	0.95	0.69	0.36
Ontario	0.89	0.86	0.68	0.76	0.68	0.41	0.89	0.62	0.28
Alberta	0.78	0.77	0.63	0.73	0.60	0.33	0.78	0.57	0.22
British Columbia	0.82	0.80	0.61	0.72	0.59	0.35	0.82	0.57	0.24

Note: Financial indicators table for the current day at 11h.

## Overseas: Economic indicators

	Ref. month	Level	Monthly variation (%)				Annualized variation (%)		
			Ref. month	-1 month	-2 months	-3 months	3 months	6 months	1 year
<b>Euro zone</b>									
Industrial production (2000 = 100)	June	111.5	-0.2	-1.9	0.9	-0.6	-4.4	-1.9	-0.5
Retail sales (2000 = 100)	June	107.9	-0.7	0.7	0.9	-0.6	-0.9	-1.5	-1.8
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	July*	7.3	---	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.4
Commercial surplus (US\$M) (1)	June	-186	---	-6,111	4,027	-2,212	-2,212	-5,428	10,980
Consumer price index (2005 = 100)	July	108.5	-0.2	0.4	0.6	0.3	3.5	5.1	4.0
Producer price index (2005 = 100)	June	128.3	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.7	12.9	11.2	8.0
Money supply M3 (€B)	July*	9,105	0.5	0.2	1.0	1.0	6.7	7.6	10.0
<b>United Kingdom</b>									
Industrial production (2003 = 100)	June	98.2	-0.2	-0.8	0.0	-0.4	-4.0	-2.6	-1.6
Retail sales (2000 = 100)	July	139.5	0.8	-4.3	4.0	-0.4	1.2	0.4	2.0
ILO unemployment rate (%) (1)	May	5.4	---	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.4
Commercial surplus (US\$M) (1)	June	-8,781	---	-8,103	-8,232	-7,781	-7,781	-9,673	-7,442
Consumer price index (2005 = 100)	July	109.0	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.8	5.3	6.7	4.4
Producer price index (2005 = 100)	July	124.3	0.4	0.9	2.0	1.5	14.0	13.6	10.2
Money supply M4 (£B)	June	1,766	1.8	0.4	0.6	0.8	11.7	11.6	11.2
<b>Japan</b>									
Industrial production (1995 = 100)	July*	107.9	0.9	-2.2	2.8	-0.2	6.2	-1.1	0.8
Retail sales	July*	11,554	5.2	-0.6	-1.2	-8.4	13.9	7.6	1.9
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	July*	4.0	---	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.6
Commercial surplus (US\$B) (1)	June	2.4	---	5.0	5.9	11.9	11.9	9.3	11.5
Consumer price index (2000 = 100)	July*	102.4	0.2	0.5	0.8	-0.1	6.1	3.4	2.3
Producer price index (1995 = 100)	Oct.	103.9	0.3	-0.1	0.0	0.7	0.8	3.0	2.4
Money supply M2+CD (¥B)	July	738	0.0	0.5	-0.0	0.6	1.9	2.1	2.1

\* New statistic in comparison with last week.

(1) For this indicator, the statistic shows the level of the month of the column except for the reference month column (---).

## Overseas: Financial indicators

	Week of... (%)		Previous data (%)				Last 52 weeks (%)		
	Aug. 25	Aug. 18	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
<b>Intervention rate by the central banks</b>									
Euro zone – Overnight	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.25	3.04	3.00
– Refinancing	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.25	4.04	4.00
– Marginal lending	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.25	5.04	5.00
United Kingdom – Base	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.25	5.75	5.75	5.33	5.00
Japan – Overnight	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.50	0.50	0.70	0.50	0.25
– Discount	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
<b>Short-term interest rate – 3 months</b>									
Euro zone (euro euro)	4.96	4.95	4.96	4.86	4.38	4.74	4.96	4.75	4.33
United Kingdom (euro pound)	5.75	5.76	5.80	5.86	5.68	6.61	6.89	6.02	5.56
Japan (euro yen)	0.88	0.87	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.99	1.03	0.93	0.87
<b>Long-term interest rate – 10 years</b>									
Germany	4.18	4.22	4.58	4.26	4.00	4.26	4.64	4.19	3.73
Spread with the U.S.*	0.35	0.35	0.52	0.41	0.26	-0.37	0.58	0.21	-0.30
United Kingdom	4.48	4.62	4.96	4.92	4.69	5.08	5.24	4.73	4.30
Spread with the U.S.*	0.66	0.74	0.90	1.07	0.94	0.45	1.07	0.75	0.32
Japan	1.42	1.45	1.58	1.74	1.46	1.60	1.87	1.54	1.28
Spread with the U.S.*	-2.41	-2.42	-2.48	-2.11	-2.28	-3.03	-2.07	-2.44	-2.97

\* Data are in % points.

Note: Financial indicators table for the current day at 11h.

## North American bond markets

	Yield (%)					Spread with the Federal Treasury bond (in % points)				
	Aug. 28	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Aug. 28	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year
<b>Canada</b>										
Bond indices										
Overall universe	4.15	4.35	4.29	4.17	4.65	0.80	0.72	0.67	0.60	0.35
Overall short-term	3.67	3.96	3.91	3.75	4.46	0.56	0.51	0.49	0.40	0.19
Overall medium-term	4.40	4.58	4.39	4.31	4.70	1.04	0.93	0.80	0.75	0.43
Overall long-term	4.80	4.87	4.81	4.72	4.91	0.74	0.68	0.67	0.62	0.52
Federal										
Overall universe	3.35	3.64	3.62	3.56	4.30	---	---	---	---	---
Overall short-term	3.11	3.45	3.42	3.35	4.27	---	---	---	---	---
Overall medium-term	3.35	3.64	3.59	3.56	4.28	---	---	---	---	---
Overall long-term	4.06	4.19	4.14	4.10	4.39	---	---	---	---	---
Provincial										
Overall universe	4.26	4.40	4.37	4.28	4.69	0.91	0.77	0.75	0.72	0.39
Overall short-term	3.40	3.68	3.64	3.55	4.38	0.29	0.23	0.22	0.21	0.12
Overall medium-term	4.03	4.23	4.17	4.10	4.56	0.68	0.59	0.58	0.54	0.28
Overall long-term	4.75	4.80	4.78	4.71	4.89	0.68	0.61	0.65	0.61	0.50
Municipal										
Overall universe	4.27	4.46	4.32	4.17	4.62	0.92	0.83	0.69	0.61	0.33
All corporate universe										
Overall universe	5.20	5.32	5.18	4.93	5.15	1.85	1.68	1.55	1.37	0.85
Corporate AA	4.87	4.99	4.86	4.64	4.92	1.52	1.36	1.24	1.07	0.63
Corporate A	5.33	5.42	5.28	5.00	5.25	1.98	1.79	1.66	1.44	0.95
Corporate BBB	5.94	6.10	5.87	5.64	5.50	2.59	2.46	2.25	2.07	1.21
<b>United States*</b>										
Bond indices	4.93	5.11	4.85	4.47	5.33	1.79	1.73	1.44	1.54	0.89
Federal	3.14	3.38	3.40	2.93	4.44	---	---	---	---	---
Municipal	4.34	4.44	4.27	4.58	4.59	1.21	1.06	0.87	1.65	0.15
All corporate universe										
Corporate AAA	4.99	5.14	5.10	4.51	5.31	1.85	1.76	1.69	1.58	0.87
Corporate AA	5.91	6.02	5.63	5.02	5.55	2.77	2.64	2.23	2.10	1.10
Corporate A	6.71	6.77	6.23	5.61	5.87	3.58	3.39	2.82	2.68	1.42
Corporate BBB	6.91	6.99	6.65	6.31	6.29	3.78	3.61	3.25	3.39	1.84

\* American indices are all of "overall universe" form.

Note: "Overall universe" indices combine bonds of short-, medium- and long-term maturities.

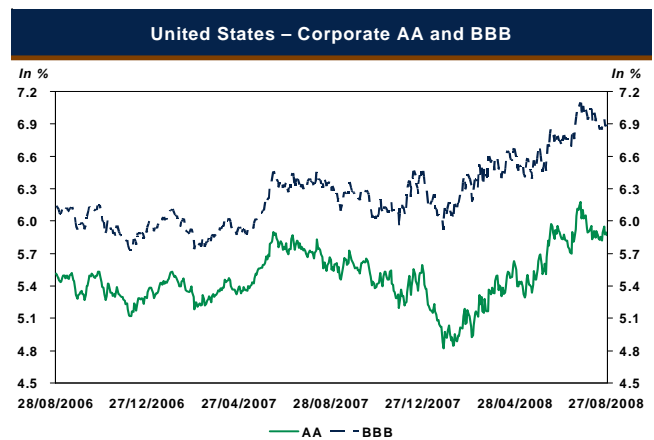
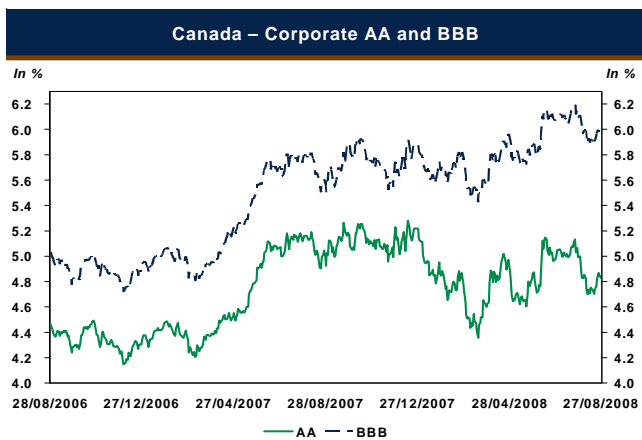
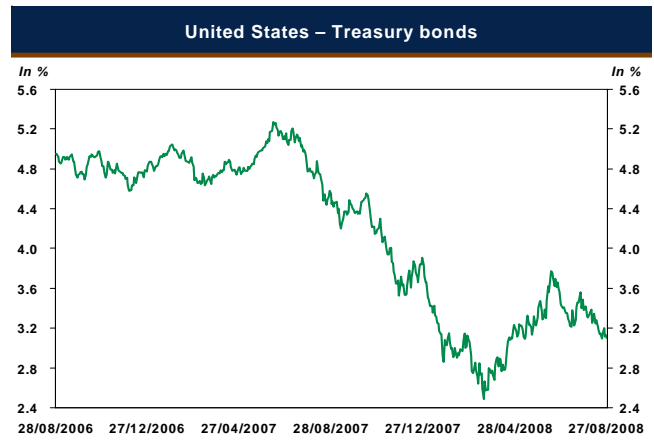
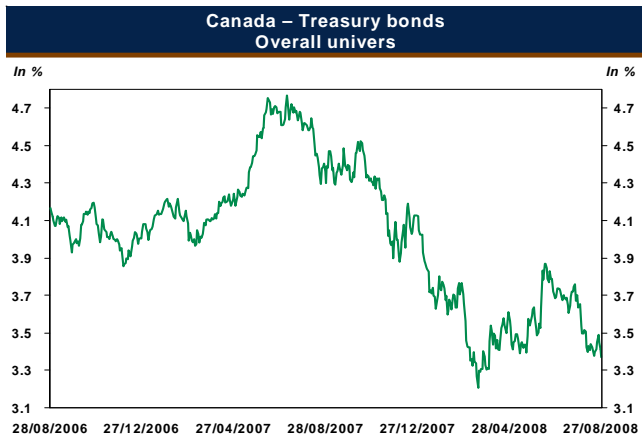
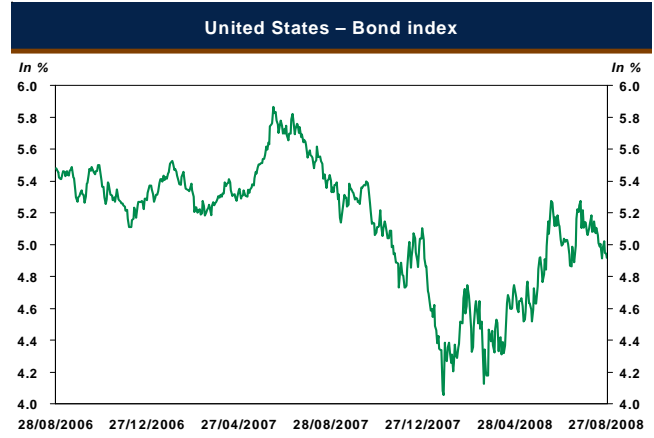
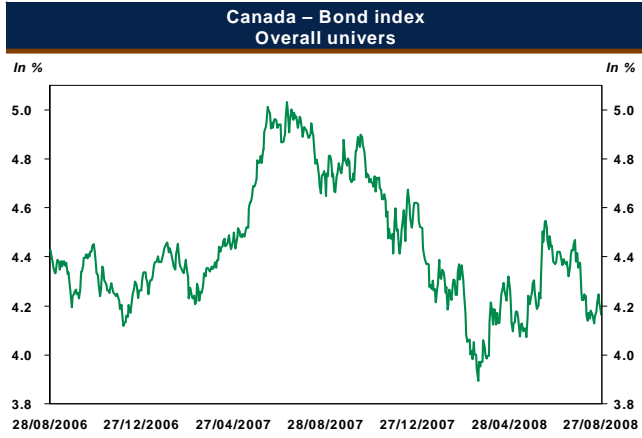
## J.P. Morgan bond indices

Spread against (in % points)

	Yield (%)	World	United States	Canada	Euro zone	Germany	France	United Kingdom	Japan	Australia
<b>August 28, 2008</b>										
World	3.87	---	0.21	0.16	(0.75)	(0.46)	(0.58)	(0.61)	2.39	(1.86)
United States	3.67	(0.21)	---	(0.05)	(0.96)	(0.67)	(0.78)	(0.82)	2.18	(2.07)
Canada	3.72	(0.16)	0.05	---	(0.90)	(0.62)	(0.73)	(0.77)	2.24	(2.02)
Euro zone	4.62	0.75	0.96	0.90	---	0.29	0.17	0.14	3.14	(1.11)
Germany	4.34	0.46	0.67	0.62	(0.29)	---	(0.11)	(0.15)	2.85	(1.40)
France	4.45	0.58	0.78	0.73	(0.17)	0.11	---	(0.04)	2.97	(1.29)
United Kingdom	4.49	0.61	0.82	0.77	(0.14)	0.15	0.04	---	3.00	(1.25)
Japan	1.48	(2.39)	(2.18)	(2.24)	(3.14)	(2.85)	(2.97)	(3.00)	---	(4.25)
Australia	5.73	1.86	2.07	2.02	1.11	1.40	1.29	1.25	4.25	---

Note : These local currency indices combine federal bonds with maturities of one year and over.

# Evolution of major bond indices

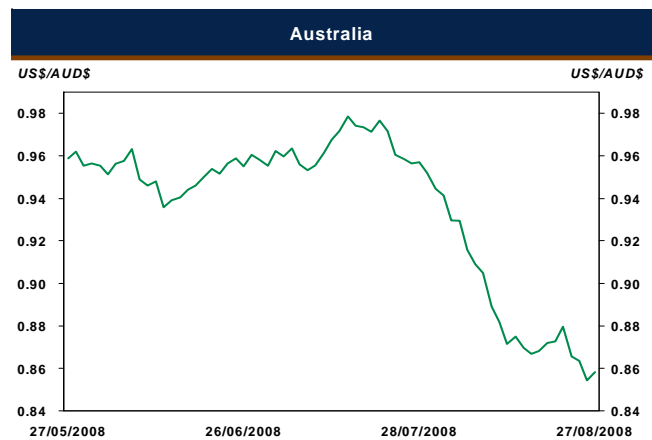
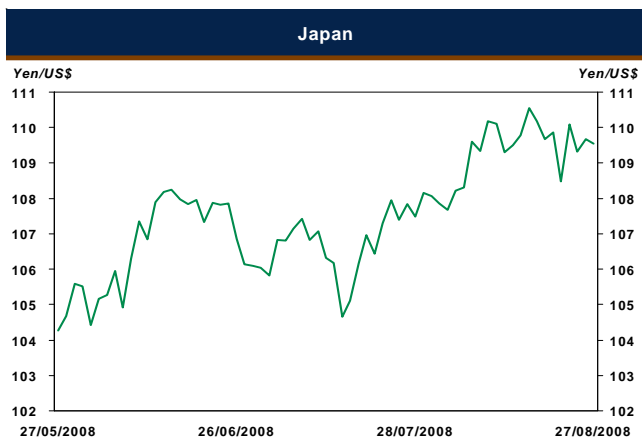
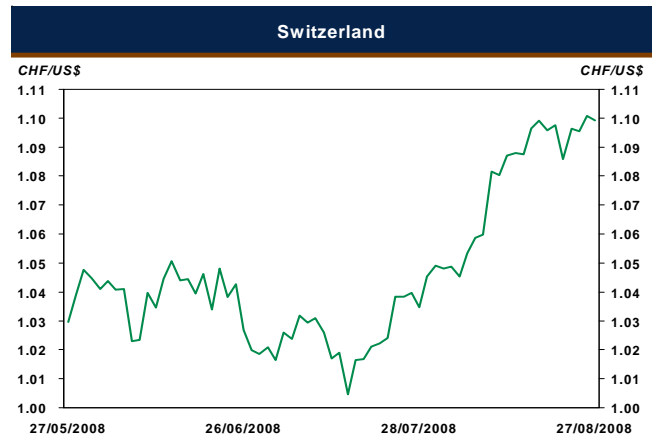
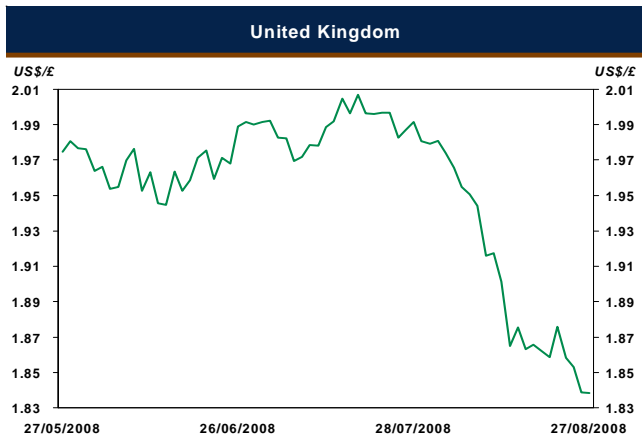
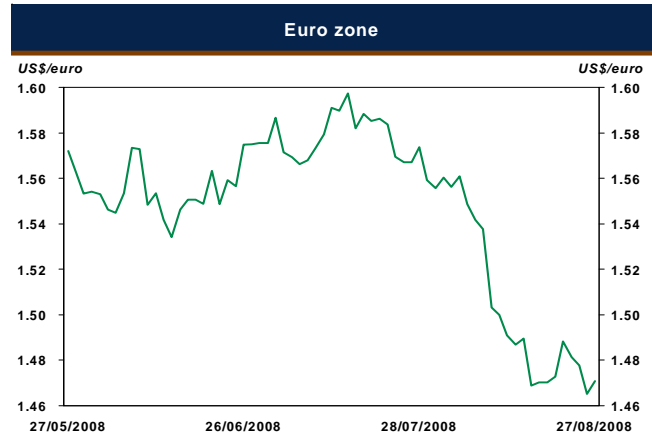
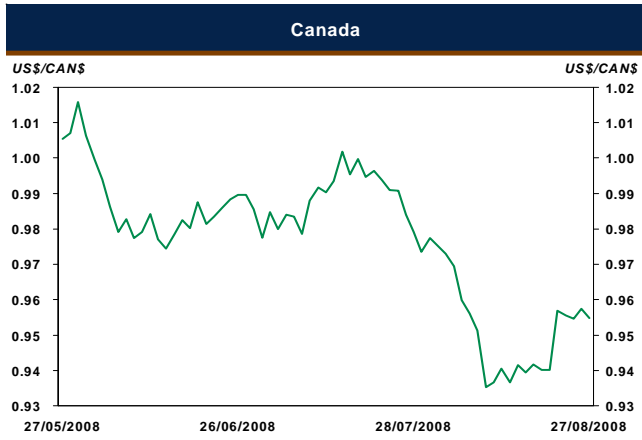


## Currency market

Country – Currency*	Week of...		Previous data				Last 52 weeks		
	Aug. 25	Aug. 18	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
<b>North America</b>									
Canada – dollar	1.0519	1.0451	1.0214	0.9929	0.9737	1.0603	1.0693	1.0070	0.9161
Canada – US\$/CAN\$	0.9507	0.9569	0.9790	1.0072	1.0270	0.9432	1.0916	0.9931	0.9352
Mexico – peso	10.1605	10.1028	10.0769	10.3445	10.6661	11.0906	11.1482	10.6402	9.9169
<b>South America</b>									
Argentina – peso	3.0273	3.0263	3.0163	3.1190	3.1588	3.1688	3.1838	3.1223	3.0130
Bolivia – boliviano	7.0600	7.0600	7.0900	7.2600	7.5400	7.7600	7.7600	7.4622	7.0600
Brazil – real	1.6220	1.6129	1.5743	1.6659	1.6733	1.9785	1.9872	1.7232	1.5590
Chile – peso	516.43	519.35	493.75	479.85	455.82	525.95	528.25	487.22	432.15
Columbia – peso	1,907.9	1,861.6	1,757.0	1,766.9	1,841.4	2,146.6	2,195.6	1,904.8	1,651.0
Guadeloupe – FRF**	4.4555	4.4076	4.1681	4.1975	4.3216	4.8082	4.8277	4.3866	4.1053
Peru – nuevo sol	2.9540	2.8890	2.8325	2.8610	2.8915	3.1645	3.1655	2.9173	2.6928
Venezuela – bolivar	2.1473	2.1473	2.1473	2.1473	2.1473	2.1473	2.1473	2.1473	2.1473
<b>Africa and Middle-East</b>									
Algeria – dinar	60.9300	60.8050	61.2356	62.9500	66.0950	69.4332	69.5708	65.3921	60.8050
Egypt – pound	5.3750	5.3613	5.3108	5.3550	5.4863	5.6550	5.6675	5.4598	5.3025
FAC zone – FAC***	93.564	92.559	87.530	88.148	90.754	100.972	101.381	92.118	86.210
Israel – shekel	3.5868	3.4988	3.4696	3.2898	3.6160	4.1263	4.1355	3.6693	3.2150
Lebanon – pound	1,503.5	1,509.5	1,509.5	1,514.0	1,514.0	1,509.5	1,515.5	1,512.3	1,503.5
Morocco – dirham	7.7150	7.6460	7.2952	7.3387	7.5260	8.2142	8.2443	7.6148	7.2023
Saudi Arabia – riyal	3.7505	3.7506	3.7505	3.7506	3.7506	3.7507	3.7543	3.7467	3.7053
South Africa – rand	7.7083	7.6909	7.5185	7.6848	7.5292	7.2618	8.2123	7.3821	6.4710
Tunisia – dinar	1.2273	1.2190	1.1675	1.1698	1.1918	1.2793	1.2827	1.2048	1.1456
Turkey – lira	1.1865	1.1897	1.2056	1.2275	1.1790	1.3289	1.3360	1.2197	1.1475
United Arab Emirates – dirham	3.6732	3.6734	3.6735	3.6730	3.6727	3.6730	3.6748	3.6725	3.6559
<b>Asia</b>									
China – yuan renminbi	6.8301	6.8452	6.8385	6.9454	7.1135	7.5565	7.5565	7.1620	6.8119
Hong Kong – dollar	7.8065	7.8065	7.7991	7.8055	7.7828	7.7990	7.8146	7.7920	7.7507
India – rupee	43.7375	43.4255	42.5185	42.6405	39.8455	40.9805	43.8065	40.6605	39.0755
Indonesia – rupiah	9,152	9,148	9,129	9,298	9,072	9,420	9,470	9,240	9,049
Japan – yen	109.475	108.475	107.495	104.675	105.305	114.155	117.575	108.451	97.385
Malaysia – ringgit	3.3888	3.3435	3.2680	3.2425	3.2050	3.4965	3.5170	3.2902	3.1345
Pakistan – rupee	75.3500	76.1000	70.9900	67.9100	62.5000	60.8200	76.2500	64.4991	60.5900
Singapore – dollar	1.4179	1.4047	1.3629	1.3642	1.3939	1.5283	1.5283	1.4147	1.3479
South Korea – won	1,081.8	1,054.9	1,006.0	1,037.0	936.4	939.9	1,089.5	972.4	900.7
Taiwan – dollar	31.5560	31.2870	30.4070	30.5320	30.8980	33.1115	33.2180	31.5357	30.0010
Thailand – baht	34.1050	33.9450	33.4650	32.3250	29.9000	32.8050	34.2500	31.8872	29.5050
<b>Europe</b>									
Denmark – krona	5.0756	5.0076	4.7412	4.7673	4.9061	5.4731	5.4738	4.9849	4.6644
Euro zone – US\$/€	1.4723	1.4883	1.5738	1.5628	1.5179	1.3642	1.5979	1.4981	1.3587
Hungary – forint	162.53	157.01	146.68	155.37	171.22	189.88	189.88	167.34	143.64
Iceland – krona	82.495	81.905	82.425	73.665	65.615	64.285	84.885	69.849	58.695
North Ireland – pound	0.5360	0.5287	0.5004	0.5033	0.5185	0.5790	0.5790	0.5265	0.4923
Norway – kroner	5.3892	5.3208	5.1335	5.0343	5.1754	5.8533	5.8533	5.3034	4.9583
Poland – zloty	2.2824	2.2129	2.0380	2.1684	2.3125	2.8211	2.8211	2.3595	2.0234
Russia – ruble	24.6246	24.3032	23.3458	23.6328	24.0094	25.7042	25.7042	24.2158	23.1169
Sweden – krona	6.4122	6.2814	6.0144	5.9732	6.1641	6.9029	6.9063	6.2549	5.8368
Switzerland – swiss franc	1.0960	1.0860	1.0348	1.0388	1.0530	1.1997	1.2129	1.0878	0.9860
United Kingdom – US\$/£	1.8293	1.8759	1.9914	1.9808	1.9898	2.0097	2.1082	1.9906	1.8293
<b>South Pacific</b>									
Australia – US\$/AUD\$	0.8617	0.8796	0.9569	0.9620	0.9478	0.8136	0.9786	0.9069	0.8136
New Zealand – US\$/NZ\$	0.7017	0.7207	0.7448	0.7854	0.8136	0.6960	0.8175	0.7628	0.6875

\* In comparison with the U.S. dollar, unless otherwise indicated; \*\* French Franc; \*\*\* Financial African Community: 100 CFA = 1 FRF and 0.655957 FRF = 1 euro.  
 Note: Currency table base on previous day closure.

# Evolution of major currencies



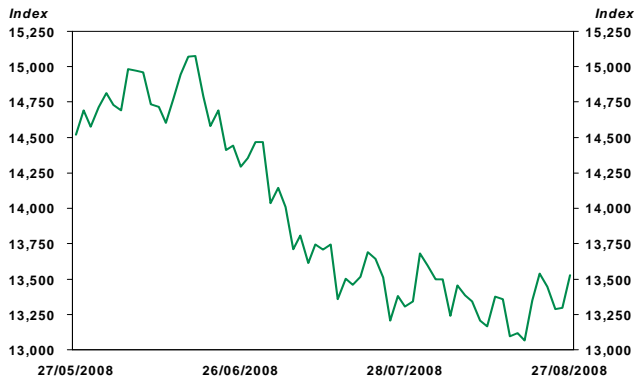
## World stock markets indices

Country – World stocks	Week of...		Previous data				Last 52 weeks		
	Aug. 25	Aug. 18	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
<b>World</b>									
World – FT/S&P	388.26	382.85	389.47	439.94	431.32	436.56	486.96	433.55	379.08
World – MSCI	1,347.3	1,327.6	1,345.8	1,515.1	1,485.4	1,520.9	1,682.4	1,498.9	1,314.4
<b>Asia</b>									
Pacific Basin – MSCI	2,170.3	2,180.1	2,349.0	2,560.4	2,547.3	2,638.2	2,895.1	2,543.3	2,147.3
China – SHANG	2,350.1	2,431.7	2,903.0	3,459.0	4,299.5	5,194.7	6,092.1	4,207.8	2,319.9
Hong Kong – HANG SENG	20,972	20,392	22,687	24,250	24,592	23,364	31,638	24,920	20,392
Indonesia – JAKARTA	2,144.8	2,088.3	2,275.7	2,433.8	2,756.3	2,159.6	2,830.3	2,459.2	2,042.5
Japan – NIKKEI 225	12,768	12,752	13,354	13,709	13,926	16,287	17,459	14,356	11,788
Malaysia – KUALA LUMPUR	1,070.5	1,071.4	1,154.1	1,260.6	1,368.3	1,279.0	1,516.2	1,296.9	1,067.7
Singapore – STI	2,691.0	2,713.5	2,910.4	3,132.8	3,074.2	3,279.3	3,831.2	3,195.4	2,691.0
South Korea – KOSPI	1,474.2	1,512.6	1,598.3	1,805.6	1,736.2	1,829.3	2,064.9	1,776.7	1,474.2
Taiwan – WI	7,033.4	6,918.5	7,233.6	8,665.7	8,462.1	8,727.6	9,809.9	8,364.7	6,710.6
Thailand – THAI SET 50	484.08	476.22	482.02	597.84	611.21	563.87	681.82	582.25	464.87
<b>Western Europe</b>									
Europe – STOXX 50	3,359.4	3,248.9	3,313.4	3,743.2	3,784.3	4,170.7	4,489.8	3,888.9	3,142.7
Europe 15 of UE – MSCI	1,681.9	1,648.7	1,745.8	1,992.2	1,952.4	1,976.0	2,235.4	1,965.3	1,636.1
Euro zone – MSCI	1,269.5	1,242.8	1,334.3	1,522.7	1,488.7	1,475.9	1,691.2	1,500.3	1,240.0
Austria – ATX	3,570.8	3,481.2	3,562.8	4,388.8	3,897.3	4,497.2	4,871.7	4,144.0	3,386.8
Belgium – BEL 20	3,091.8	2,970.9	2,999.8	3,710.9	3,762.7	4,186.2	4,534.9	3,796.6	2,863.4
Denmark – KAX	388.90	378.81	374.18	422.56	415.60	476.12	504.82	425.02	359.29
Finland – HEX GENERAL	8,540	8,360	8,389	9,644	10,918	11,080	12,657	10,352	8,102
France – CAC 40	4,461.5	4,304.6	4,324.5	4,971.1	4,865.2	5,474.2	5,862.8	5,052.4	4,061.2
Germany – DAX 30	6,420.5	6,237.0	6,351.2	7,033.8	6,862.5	7,430.2	8,076.1	7,116.6	6,081.7
Ireland – OVERALL	4,495.0	4,203.6	4,619.2	6,120.6	6,519.1	8,195.6	8,515.0	6,425.3	4,089.6
Italy – MIB 30	29,440	28,577	29,238	33,769	34,556	39,358	41,635	35,118	28,062
Netherlands – AEX	411.1	400.2	393.0	481.7	452.9	508.0	559.1	472.0	383.7
Norway – OBX	342.01	335.98	326.42	395.48	350.63	361.62	422.79	367.57	305.03
Portugal – PSI-20	8,555	8,360	8,496	10,641	10,968	12,592	13,324	11,139	8,012
Spain – IBEX 35	11,663	11,217	11,485	13,499	13,272	14,125	15,946	13,708	11,152
Sweden – AFGX	271.888	261.892	262.547	312.976	310.578	376.236	396.490	318.377	252.640
Switzerland – SMI	7,190.4	7,000.5	6,968.9	7,474.5	7,663.0	8,714.7	9,218.3	7,838.5	6,562.0
United Kingdom – FTSE 100	5,601.2	5,370.2	5,312.6	6,069.6	5,965.7	6,102.2	6,730.7	6,014.8	5,150.6
<b>North America</b>									
North America – MSCI	1,387.4	1,364.4	1,323.9	1,491.6	1,456.5	1,497.7	1,646.5	1,476.5	1,310.0
Canada – S&P/TSX	13,750	13,539	13,304	14,689	13,874	13,265	15,073	13,793	12,131
– S&P/TSX 60	821.21	810.14	794.38	876.69	814.02	769.63	900.93	811.83	710.46
– S&P/TSX VENTURE	1,963.9	1,949.7	2,186.5	2,648.3	2,809.5	2,562.9	3,173.6	2,617.9	1,901.7
United States – S&P 500	1,300.7	1,277.7	1,234.4	1,390.8	1,367.7	1,432.4	1,565.2	1,391.5	1,214.9
– DJIA	11,715	11,430	11,131	12,594	12,582	13,042	14,165	12,643	10,963
– NASDAQ	2,411.6	2,380.4	2,264.2	2,486.7	2,331.6	2,500.6	2,859.1	2,475.5	2,169.3
– RUSSELL 2000	747.79	725.25	696.11	738.46	705.72	767.83	845.72	737.44	643.97
– WHILSHIRE 5000	13,289	13,038	12,613	14,131	13,817	14,426	15,807	14,076	12,390
Mexico – BOLSA	26,444	26,535	26,733	31,647	30,130	29,327	32,836	29,658	25,285
<b>Central and South America</b>									
Amérique latine – MSCI	4,032.7	4,027.4	4,146.7	5,121.6	4,687.1	3,482.7	5,195.4	4,367.0	3,482.7
Argentine – MERVAL	1,777.1	1,746.1	1,922.7	2,233.4	2,199.1	1,985.9	2,351.4	2,095.7	1,696.6
Brésil – BOVESPA	56,382	55,934	56,869	73,153	65,555	51,645	73,516	62,115	51,645
<b>Other countries</b>									
Emerging countries – MSCI	957.0	957.1	1,024.4	1,195.5	1,192.0	1,050.4	1,338.5	1,150.4	938.5
Australia – S&P/ASX 100	4,107.4	3,956.4	3,982.9	4,562.7	4,563.4	4,989.9	5,513.3	4,684.4	3,890.5
New Zealand – NZSE 50	2,401.1	2,406.5	2,352.2	2,573.2	2,646.4	3,099.4	3,242.1	2,745.2	2,196.5
Russia – RSI	53,210	54,756	58,015	73,589	67,738	61,837	76,075	67,203	50,701
South Africa – FTSE/JSE 40	25,922	25,044	25,453	30,263	27,796	24,835	31,315	27,264	22,778

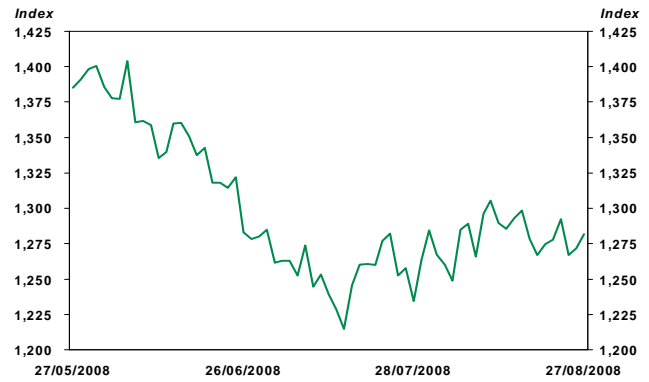
Note: Currency table base on previous day closure

# Evolution of major stock market indices

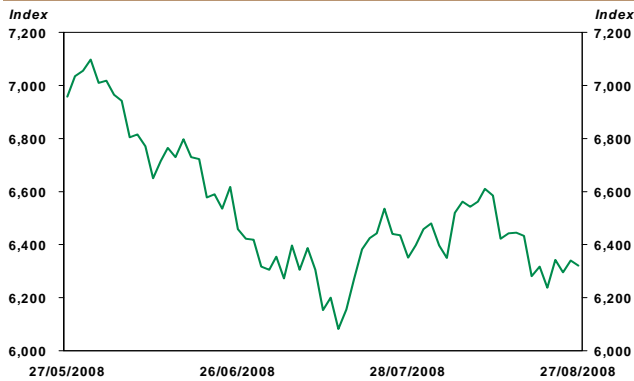
Canada – S&P/TSX



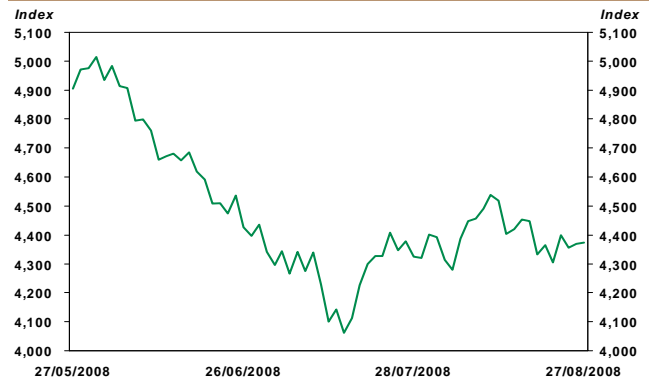
United States – S&P 500



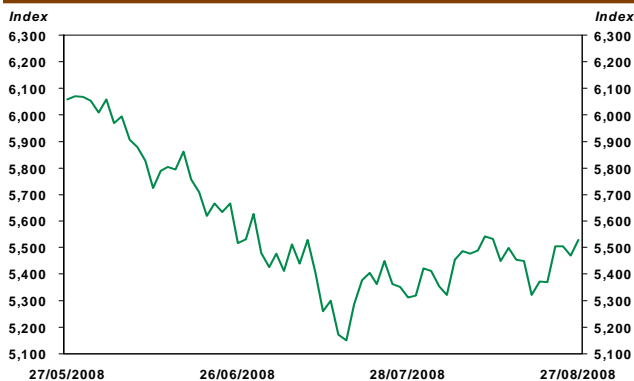
Germany – DAX 30



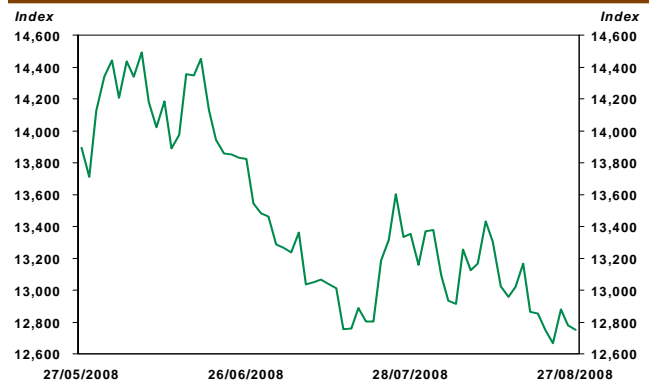
France – CAC 40



United Kingdom – FTSE 100



Japan – NIKKEI 225



## Stock markets (sector indices)

	Week of...		Change since (%)				Last 52 weeks		
	Aug. 25	Aug. 18	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
<b>Canada: S&amp;P/TSX</b>									
Composite index	13,750.48	13,539.22	3.36	-6.39	-0.89	3.66	15,073.13	13,793.16	12,131.48
Materials	3,178.54	3,221.88	-6.28	-9.46	-12.03	20.12	3,902.40	3,265.96	2,646.13
Industrials	1,318.58	1,262.16	5.45	-3.85	2.40	1.83	1,395.30	1,277.63	1,077.46
Consumer staples	1,485.21	1,478.62	6.08	-2.63	3.33	-12.03	1,751.23	1,537.55	1,345.98
Cons. discretionary	1,034.26	1,004.01	9.07	-3.59	-7.99	-22.09	1,409.30	1,165.00	895.39
Energy	3,670.79	3,664.48	4.72	-9.49	6.94	18.60	4,239.41	3,462.12	2,895.85
Health care	337.29	328.23	5.99	-7.80	-8.61	-21.17	438.23	374.95	312.04
Information techno.	435.70	447.35	13.39	-2.81	18.07	37.24	489.65	390.33	313.11
Telecom. services	927.91	899.13	5.37	1.02	2.07	-9.23	1,067.88	941.98	841.78
Utilities	1,924.39	1,898.70	2.03	-1.40	-0.12	5.41	2,053.74	1,917.52	1,752.96
Financials	1,674.36	1,593.59	5.09	-3.97	-4.33	-12.61	2,019.51	1,771.53	1,451.25
<b>United States: S&amp;P 500</b>									
Composite index	1,300.68	1,277.72	5.37	-6.48	-4.90	-9.19	1,565.15	1,391.84	1,214.91
Materials	245.90	244.81	1.93	-11.54	-6.52	5.11	285.91	256.32	229.36
Industrials	317.59	309.42	5.23	-7.16	-5.52	-8.46	381.16	339.57	290.53
Consumer staples	293.62	292.44	5.60	1.02	2.07	6.94	306.61	289.10	273.87
Cons. discretionary	242.80	236.34	11.08	-4.13	-4.10	-13.76	299.99	255.88	210.18
Energy	563.58	568.51	1.67	-12.85	-4.58	9.30	668.81	581.57	512.79
Health care	383.01	382.52	3.95	4.72	-0.59	-2.56	426.06	387.50	349.06
Information techno.	368.01	364.59	6.70	-5.14	4.09	-3.35	441.36	380.13	337.81
Telecom. services	132.92	128.44	5.32	-12.52	-6.47	-20.58	180.06	151.89	125.12
Utilities	193.78	190.75	1.37	-6.71	-1.27	0.90	223.91	203.88	185.05
Financials	287.27	268.74	7.45	-13.01	-20.11	-35.12	482.01	364.14	232.15
<b>Euro zone: FTSEurofirst 300</b>									
Composite index	1,317.48	1,275.09	1.97	-11.65	-11.78	-20.23	1,782.24	1,532.65	1,229.26
Ressources	1,734.19	1,721.52	0.46	-13.61	-4.65	-8.34	2,088.03	1,878.25	1,641.98
Basic industries	2,546.69	2,503.00	-0.16	-12.58	-0.59	-4.50	2,979.03	2,688.63	2,273.64
General industries	1,469.99	1,418.50	3.49	-14.73	-16.04	-23.77	2,071.62	1,752.37	1,347.10
Cyclical cons. goods	1,493.27	1,460.58	2.50	-9.64	-9.82	-18.15	2,062.10	1,711.70	1,316.15
Cyclical services	1,301.39	1,248.08	-2.32	-2.58	-6.88	-17.06	1,722.08	1,450.66	1,204.17
Non-cyclical goods*	875.73	857.48	3.21	-10.21	-13.29	-23.99	1,207.02	1,029.44	792.11
Non-cyclical services	773.95	745.92	5.26	-0.91	-14.11	-20.83	1,089.35	874.59	661.19
Information techno.	782.93	752.73	4.39	-6.17	-14.17	-14.10	1,083.98	910.78	750.00
Utilities	2,354.52	2,293.59	1.52	-10.48	-9.47	-7.47	3,001.33	2,628.69	2,269.43
Financials	1,118.46	1,063.03	1.45	-15.07	-15.70	-30.94	1,728.92	1,392.06	1,013.62
<b>United Kingdom: FTSE – All share</b>									
Composite index	2,848.60	2,734.79	5.50	-7.81	-6.76	-9.61	3,454.53	3,072.58	2,614.61
Ressources	8,235.30	8,081.00	2.94	-11.71	0.73	8.66	9,880.03	8,424.94	7,340.17
Basic industries	7,042.61	6,961.52	3.07	-16.39	-10.25	22.18	9,323.39	7,327.97	5,764.21
General industries	2,548.70	2,448.55	8.88	-3.88	-4.47	-13.10	3,106.53	2,689.43	2,229.47
Cyclical cons. goods	6,081.83	5,799.86	14.21	16.34	17.25	2.03	6,246.90	5,536.95	4,699.07
Cyclical services	2,287.57	2,160.44	5.94	-12.74	-12.75	-14.47	3,231.31	2,692.54	2,149.20
Non-cyclical goods*	7,936.31	7,685.44	5.24	-7.02	-7.60	-7.53	9,422.34	8,560.76	7,127.31
Non-cyclical services	2,896.66	2,769.36	5.87	-8.83	-11.75	-26.14	4,157.06	3,365.81	2,536.04
Information techno.	422.59	409.13	8.60	3.35	9.00	-9.02	501.48	415.65	352.67
Utilities	6,864.90	6,684.78	4.83	0.09	2.63	5.51	7,390.66	6,822.53	6,378.77
Financials	4,866.57	4,537.80	4.98	-8.01	-14.87	-25.50	6,977.98	5,667.62	4,151.61

\* Consumer goods.