

## Despite disappointing growth, yields move up

### HIGHLIGHTS

- United States: The Federal Reserve remains optimistic despite a gloomier view of economic conditions.
- Anaemic growth of U.S. real GDP in the first quarter.
- United States: April's manufacturing ISM is stable but low.
- Canada: Real GDP by industry is flat in February.

### A LOOK AHEAD

- United States: The hopes are for better job growth after March's disappointing results.
- Canada: Modest job creation is expected for April.
- Canada's trade balance could erode in March.
- Canada: Housing starts should come down somewhat.

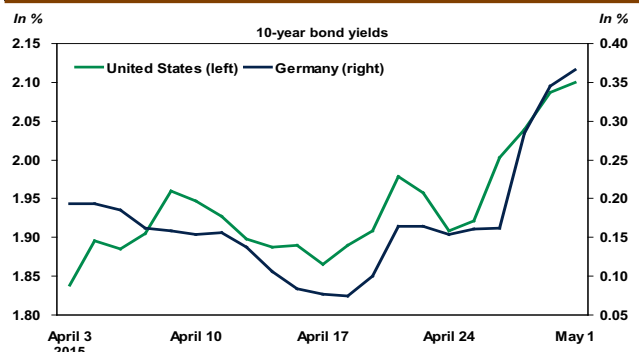
### FINANCIAL MARKETS

- Canadian oil revenue takes a hit.
- Bond yields rise sharply.
- The U.S. dollar slides against several currencies.

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Graph of the week – Bond yields take off in the United States and Europe



Sources: Bloomberg and Desjardins, Economic Studies

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NOTE TO READERS: The letters K, M and B are used in texts and tables to refer to thousands, millions and billions respectively.

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## KEY STATISTICS OF THE WEEK

### UNITED STATES

- The decision had already been made: members of the Federal Reserve (Fed) monetary policy committee would not opt to raise key rates at the meeting ended April 29. The March press release clearly indicated that that possibility had been unanimously ruled out. The development of the U.S. economy has done nothing to make them regret that decision, and the main changes in the Fed's press release compared with that of the March meeting mostly reflect gloomier economic conditions.
- Real GDP only added an annualized 0.2% in the first quarter of 2015, according to the first estimate of national accounts. This represents a slowdown compared with a gain of 2.2% in the fall. Real consumption increased 1.9%. Business investment contracted 3.4%. This first drop since winter 2011 stems from a 23.1% dive in non-residential construction. Investment in equipment was up slightly, at 0.1%. The change in inventories contributed to the increase in real GDP. Real exports tumbled 7.2% while imports rose 1.8%. Government expenditures contracted 0.8% this winter.
- The ISM manufacturing index is flat at 51.5 in April. Five of its ten components advanced, however, including current production (+2.2 points), new orders (+1.7 points) and exports (+4.0 points). The main dips occurred in employment (which dropped -1.7 points to 48.3, its lowest point since September 2009) and inventories.
- According to the Conference Board survey, consumer confidence eroded in April, against all expectations. The 6.2-point drop takes the index from 101.4 to 95.2, its lowest level in 2015. The decline primarily stems from the consumer expectations component, which fell 8.5 points; the current situation component only retreated 2.7 points.
- As in the three previous months, the S&P/Case-Shiller index of existing home prices in the 20 largest cities rose 0.9% in February. Prices went up in all 20 cities, with San Francisco and Denver posting the strongest monthly growth. The index's annual change accelerated from 4.5% to 5.0%.

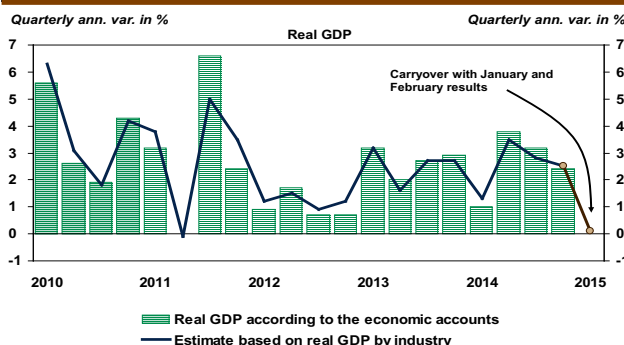
**Francis Généreux**  
Senior Economist

### CANADA

- Real GDP growth by industry was practically zero in February. Combined with the 0.2% decrease recorded in January, practically non-existent growth for real GDP by industry in February is painting a picture of an economy with stalling growth. As such, even if growth in real GDP by industry returns to positive territory in March, everything suggests that growth for the first quarter of 2015 will be between 0.0% and 0.5%.
- According to the business survey, the number of employees increased by 4,500 in February, after January's 45,100-position gain. These results are a little better than the results for the household survey (excluding the self-employed). Annual growth in average weekly earnings rose 2.7% in February, ahead of inflation (1.0%). The increase in earnings in real terms is, of course, favourable to growth in consumer spending.
- The industrial product price index increased 0.3% in March. The upswing in energy prices was largely offset by a drop in prices for metal products, lumber and meat.

**Benoit P. Durocher**  
Senior Economist

Canada – Toward practically zero growth in the first quarter of 2015



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

# FINANCIAL MARKETS

## U.S. stock markets, bonds and the greenback retreat in unison

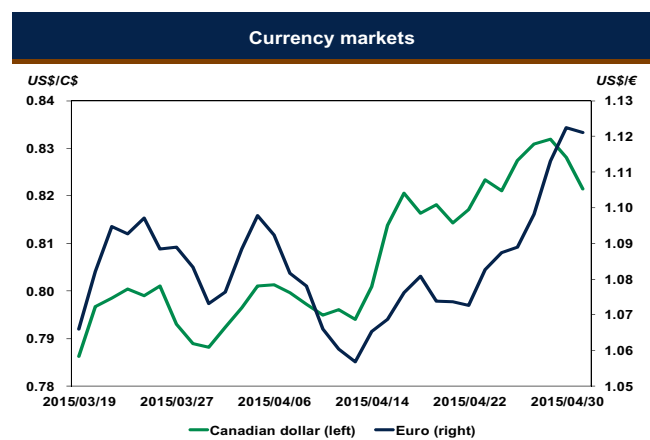
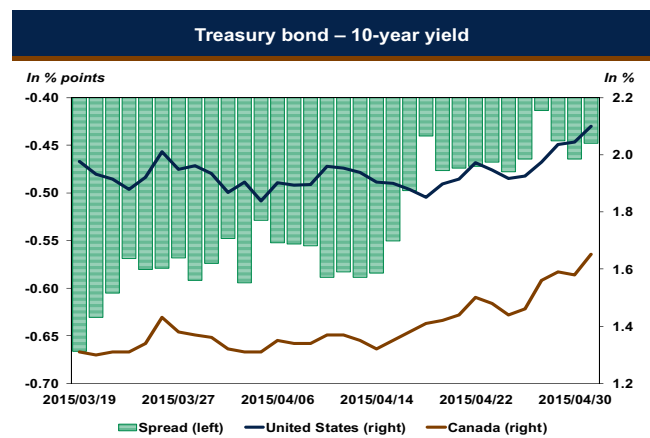
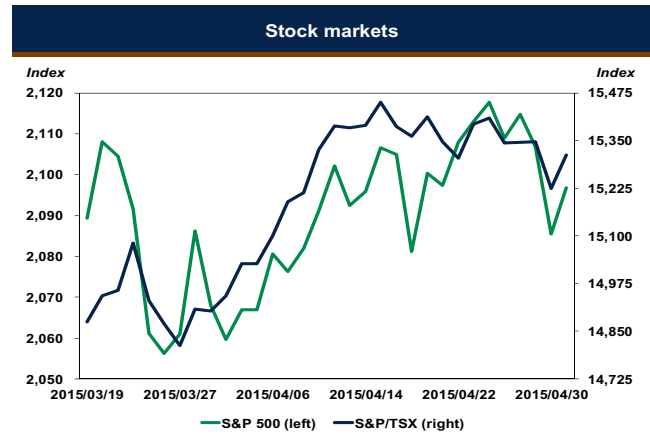
The S&P 500 backed away from its 2,126-point peak of Monday, and was oscillating around 2,100 on Friday morning, on mixed corporate reports. Apple and AIG delivered solid performances but UPS's revenue missed analysts' median target, while Ford imitated competitor General Motors', announcing both revenue and earnings well below expectations. April's plunge in consumer confidence (according to the Conference Board survey) and disappointing first-quarter growth in the United States also hurt the S&P 500. The S&P/TSX did not do much better. Oil companies Suncor, Imperial Oil and Cenovus Energy all reported revenue below expectations, preventing the energy sector from capitalizing on the surge in oil prices.

It was a big week for both sovereign and corporate bond issues, but investor appetite has started to wane. Germany's inability to issue its target amount of debt at a 5-year bond auction drove German yields up sharply on Wednesday. Canadian and U.S. yields followed the trend. The U.S. 10-year yield was oscillating just above 2.10% on Friday morning, while its Canadian counterpart was closing in on 1.70%. The Federal Reserve statement, which stressed the temporary nature of the first quarter's economic weakness, had no lasting impact on the bond markets.

The sharp slowdown by U.S. economic growth dragged the greenback down. The euro was one of the currencies that benefited the most. Europe's currency was trading around US\$1.12 on Friday, up nearly four cents over the week. The pound moved in various directions this week. First, it rose to US\$1.55, then turned around and started to slide as of Thursday. Note that the United Kingdom's latest economic figures have been more mixed and the looming general election is adding a layer of uncertainty. Once again boosted by oil prices, the Canadian dollar did well in the first half of the week, closing in on US\$0.84 on Wednesday. The economic figures published in Canada hurt the loonie on Thursday, however.

**Jimmy Jean**  
Senior Economist

**Hendrix Vachon**  
Senior Economist



# A LOOK AHEAD



## UNITED STATES

### Tuesday May 5 - 8:30

<b>March</b>	US\$B	
Consensus		-40.1
Desjardins		-41.4
<b>February</b>		<b>-35.4</b>

**Trade balance (March)** – The trade balance improved substantially in February in current dollars, thanks to a big 4.4% drop in the value of imports. The trade deficit even improved in real terms, as exports declined 2.3% and imports fell 3.8%. The labour conflict that ran from December until the end of February probably had a big influence on these depressed figures. A reversal likely happened in March; we expect imports to jump 6%, with exports rising 3.5%. As price movements were small in March, the change in current dollars will be relatively similar. We expect the deficit to go from US\$35.4B to US\$41.4B. The Bureau of Economic Analysis had called for the trade balance to erode even more in its first estimate of the GDP for the first quarter. If, as anticipated, the deficit is less than about US\$46B, we can expect the revision to the GDP to make a better contribution to foreign trade.

### Tuesday May 5 - 10:00

<b>April</b>		
Consensus		56.2
Desjardins		56.5
<b>March</b>		<b>56.5</b>

**ISM non-manufacturing index (April)** – While the manufacturing ISM has been trending down for several months now, the non-manufacturing ISM is fairly stable. It has been oscillating around 56.5 since December. There is little to suggest that changed in April. On one hand, retail sales and the housing sector are showing stronger growth. On the other, the confidence indexes continue to be mixed and the oil sector is still contracting. We expect the ISM to stay at 56.5.

### Thursday May 7 - 15:00

<b>March</b>	US\$B	
Consensus		16.00
Desjardins		17.00
<b>February</b>		<b>15.52</b>

**Consumer credit (March)** – Growth in consumer credit was stronger than anticipated in March. The monthly gain went from US\$10.8B to US\$15.5B and should not have flagged in March. On the contrary, the jump in auto sales and better upswing in retail sales should lead to more extensive credit growth. March's drop in the savings rate is another positive sign. The weekly figures on bank lending also point to a stronger monthly rise in credit. We expect the gain to go to US\$17B.

### Friday May 8 - 8:30

<b>April</b>		
Consensus		230,000
Desjardins		210,000
<b>March</b>		<b>126,000</b>

**Job creation according to the establishment survey (April)** – March's weak job creation (126,000) was a disappointing surprise when it came out on Good Friday. The underperformance was well below the most pessimistic forecast in the Bloomberg consensus. Few signs pointed to a result this poor, so we should see some rebounding as of April. Jobless claims have been relatively low, staying under the 300,000 mark for the entire month, even excluding the 262,000 low in the last full week of April. For its part, the Conference Board consumer confidence survey suggests that some concern persists about the job market's strength, but does this reflect the data already released for March or indicate further weakness in April? In April, however, the manufacturing ISM's employment component dropped to its lowest level since fall 2009, which is not a good sign. All in all, we think that a return to the 200,000 job mark is plausible. The unemployment rate should stay at 5.5%.


**CANADA**

**International merchandise trade (March)** – After plunging in February, Canadian exports of automotive products should rebound in March, according to the results for U.S. auto sector production. That being said, seasonally adjusted commodity prices expressed in Canadian dollars fell 3.8% during the month. Moreover, the U.S. economy’s winter weakness, especially in non-residential investment, should slow growth by overall Canadian exports. All in all, total exports should retreat for the month. Even factoring in the slight downtrend in imports, the merchandise trade balance should erode in February.

**Housing starts (April)** – Housing starts rebounded in March on a surge in multi-unit housing. However, multi-unit housing is now well above its trend, paving the way for a pullback in April. Total housing starts should therefore slide to around 177,500 units.

**Labour Force Survey (April)** – Following March’s relatively sustained employment growth, the labour market’s pace should be more moderate in April. Note that the economy has been growing more slowly for the last few months due to the adverse impacts of the temporary troubles in the U.S. economy and drop in oil prices. Only 8,000 jobs are expected to be created in April. The unemployment rate could stay at 6.8%.


**OVERSEAS**

**Euro zone: Retail sales (March)** – For the first time since September 2014, Euroland retail sales declined in February. However, at 3.0%, the annual change is still fairly strong—at that time last year, it was closer to 1%. March could see another monthly decline by sales since German sales fell 2.3%, while France’s dropped 0.6%.

**Tuesday May 5 - 8:30**

<b>April</b>	\$B
Consensus	n/a
Desjardins	1.33
<b>March</b>	<b>-0.98</b>

**Friday May 8 - 8:15**

<b>April</b>	ann. rate
Consensus	n/a
Desjardins	177,500
<b>March</b>	<b>189,700</b>

**Friday May 8 - 8:30**


<b>April</b>	n/a
Consensus	n/a
Desjardins	8,000
<b>March</b>	<b>28,700</b>

**Wednesday May 6 - 5:00**

<b>March</b>	m/m
Consensus	-0.7%
<b>February</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Week of May 4 to 8, 2015

Day	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
<b>MONDAY 4</b>						
	10:00	Factory orders (m/m)	March	2.1%	2.0%	0.2%
	12:25	Speech of the Chicago Fed President, C. Evans				
<b>TUESDAY 5</b>						
	8:30	Trade balance – Goods and services (US\$B)	March	-40.1	-41.4	-35.4
	10:00	ISM non-manufacturing index	April	56.2	56.5	56.5
<b>WEDNESDAY 6</b>						
	8:30	Nonfarm productivity – preliminary (ann. rate)	Q1	-1.9%	-2.2%	-2.2%
	8:30	Unit labor costs – preliminary (ann. rate)	Q1	4.1%	4.6%	4.1%
	13:15	Speech of the Kansas City Fed President, E. George				
	13:30	Speech of the Atlanta Fed President, D. Lockhart				
<b>THURSDAY 7</b>						
	8:30	Initial unemployment claims	April 27 - May 1	277,000	280,000	262,000
	15:00	Consumer credit (US\$B)	March	16.00	17.00	15.52
<b>FRIDAY 8</b>						
	8:30	Change in nonfarm payrolls	April	230,000	210,000	126,000
	8:30	Unemployment rate	April	5.4%	5.5%	5.5%
	8:30	Weekly worked hours	April	34.5	34.6	34.5
	8:30	Average weekly earnings (m/m)	April	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
	10:00	Wholesale inventories (m/m)	March	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%



## CANADA

**MONDAY 4**

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**TUESDAY 5**

	8:15	International reserves (\$B)	April	n/a	77.0	77.7
	8:30	International trade (\$B)	March	n/a	-1.33	-0.98

**WEDNESDAY 6**


	10:00	PMI-Ivey index	April	n/a	47.0	47.9
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**THURSDAY 7**

	8:30	Building permits (m/m)	March	n/a	1.5%	-0.9%
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**FRIDAY 8**

	8:15	Housing starts (ann. rate)	April	n/a	177,500	189,700
	8:30	Net change in employment	April	n/a	8,000	28,700
	8:30	Unemployment rate	April	n/a	6.8%	6.8%

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. Following the quarter, the abbreviations f, s and t correspond to first estimate, second estimate and third estimate respectively. (SA): Seasonally adjusted, (NSA): Non seasonally adjusted. The times shown are Daylight Saving Time (GMT - 4 hours).  Forecast of Desjardins, Economic Studies of the Desjardins Group.

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Week of May 4 to 8, 2015

Country	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data	
				m/m (q/q)	y/y	m/m (q/q)	y/y
 <b>OVERSEAS</b>							
<b>DURING THE WEEK</b>							
China	---	Trade balance (US\$B)	April	34.25		3.08	
<b>MONDAY 4</b>							
Italy	3:45	PMI manufacturing index	April	53.4		53.3	
France	3:50	PMI manufacturing index – final	April	48.4		48.4	
Germany	3:55	PMI manufacturing index – final	April	51.9		51.9	
Euro zone	4:00	PMI manufacturing index – final	April	51.9		51.9	
<b>TUESDAY 5</b>							
Australia	0:30	Reserve Bank of Australia meeting	May	2.00%		2.25%	
United Kingdom	4:30	PMI construction index	April	57.4		57.8	
Euro zone	5:00	Producer price index	March	0.3%	-2.3%	0.5%	-2.8%
<b>WEDNESDAY 6</b>							
Italy	3:45	PMI composite index	April	52.7		52.4	
Italy	3:45	PMI services index	April	52.0		51.6	
France	3:50	PMI composite index – final	April	50.4		50.2	
France	3:50	PMI services index – final	April	50.8		50.8	
Germany	3:55	PMI composite index – final	April	54.2		54.2	
Germany	3:55	PMI services index – final	April	54.4		54.4	
Euro zone	4:00	PMI composite index – final	April	53.5		53.5	
Euro zone	4:00	PMI services index – final	April	53.7		53.7	
United Kingdom	4:30	PMI composite index	April	58.1		58.8	
United Kingdom	4:30	PMI services index	April	58.5		58.9	
Euro zone	5:00	Retail sales	March	-0.7%	2.4%	-0.2%	3.0%
Japan	21:35	PMI composite index	April	n/a		49.4	
Japan	21:35	PMI services index – final	April	n/a		48.4	
<b>THURSDAY 7</b>							
Germany	2:00	Factory orders	March	1.5%	1.9%	-0.9%	-1.3%
France	2:45	Trade balance (€M)	March	n/a		-3,449	
France	2:45	Industrial production	March	0.1%	1.2%	0.0%	0.6%
Germany	3:30	PMI construction index	April	n/a		53.3	
Norway	4:00	Bank of Norway meeting	May	1.25%		1.25%	
Euro zone	4:10	PMI retail index	April	n/a		48.6	
Germany	4:10	PMI retail index	April	n/a		53.0	
France	4:10	PMI retail index	April	n/a		45.7	
Italy	4:10	PMI retail index	April	n/a		45.7	
Brazil	7:30	Minutes of the Bank of Brazil meeting					
<b>FRIDAY 8</b>							
Germany	2:00	Trade balance (€B)	March	20.0		19.2	
Germany	2:00	Current account (€B)	March	20.0		16.6	
Germany	2:00	Industrial production	March	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%	-0.3%
Italy	4:00	Industrial production	March	0.3%	-0.2%	0.6%	-0.2%
United Kingdom	4:30	Trade balance (£M)	March	-2,400		-2,859	
China	21:30	Consumer price index	April	1.6%		1.4%	
China	21:30	Producer price index	April	-4.6%		-4.6%	

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 Daylight Saving Time (GMT - 4 hours).

## United States: Quarterly economic indicators

	Ref. quart.	Level	Variation (%)		Annual variation (%)			
			Quart. ann.	1 year	2014	2013	2012	2011
Gross domestic product (2009 \$B)	2015 Q1*	16,305	0.2	3.0	2.4	2.2	2.3	1.6
Consumption (2009 \$B)	2015 Q1*	11,173	1.9	3.0	2.5	2.4	1.8	2.3
Government spending (2009 \$B)	2015 Q1*	2,892	-0.8	0.8	-0.2	-2.0	-1.4	-3.0
Residential investment (2009 \$B)	2015 Q1*	505.9	1.3	4.2	1.6	11.9	13.5	0.5
Non-residential investment (2009 \$B)	2015 Q1*	2,151	-3.4	4.9	6.3	3.0	7.2	7.7
Business inventory change (2009 \$B) (1)	2015 Q1*	110.3	---	---	70.6	63.6	57.1	37.6
Exports (2009 \$B)	2015 Q1*	2,088	-7.2	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.3	6.9
Imports (2009 \$B)	2015 Q1*	2,610	1.8	5.5	4.0	1.1	2.3	5.5
Final domestic demand (2009 \$B)	2015 Q1*	16,701	0.7	2.9	2.5	1.9	2.1	1.7
GDP deflator (2009 = 100)	2015 Q1*	108.7	-0.1	0.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.1
Labor productivity (2009 = 100)	2014 Q4	106.4	-2.2	-0.1	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.2
Unit labor cost (2009 = 100)	2014 Q4	104.9	4.1	2.6	1.7	0.3	1.7	2.1
Employment cost index (Dec. 2005 = 100)	2015 Q1*	123.6	2.6	2.6	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0
Current account balance (\$B) (1)	2014 Q4	-113.5	---	---	-410.6	-400.3	-460.8	-459.3

\* New statistic in comparison with last week.

(1) Statistics representing the level during the period.

## United States: Monthly economic indicators

	Ref. month	Level	Variation (%)			
			-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year
Leading indicator (2010 = 100)	March	121.4	0.2	0.4	1.8	5.2
ISM manufacturing index (1)	April*	51.5	51.5	53.5	57.9	55.3
ISM non-manufacturing index (1)	March	56.5	56.9	56.5	58.1	53.7
Cons. confidence Conf. Board (1985 = 100) (1)	April*	95.2	101.4	103.8	94.1	81.7
Cons. confidence Michigan (1966 = 100) (1)	April	95.9	93.0	98.1	86.9	84.1
Personal consumption expenditure (2009 \$B)	March*	11,193	0.3	0.4	1.4	2.7
Disposable personal income (2009 \$B)	March*	12,258	-0.2	1.0	2.2	3.3
Consumer credit (\$B)	Feb.	3,343	0.5	1.4	2.8	6.8
Retail sales (\$M)	March	435,873	0.9	-0.4	-0.3	1.3
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	March	345,925	0.4	-0.8	-1.1	0.2
Industrial production (2007 = 100)	March	105.2	-0.6	-0.9	0.0	2.0
Production capacity utilization rate (%) (1)	March	78.4	79.0	79.5	79.4	79.1
New machinery orders (\$M)	Feb.	468,314	0.2	-4.0	-6.7	-4.3
New durable good orders (\$M)	March	240,175	4.0	4.5	-1.2	0.7
Business inventories (\$B)	Feb.	1,790	0.3	0.3	0.9	3.3
Housing starts (K) (1)	March	926.0	908.0	1,081	1,028	950.0
Building permits (K) (1)	March	1,042	1,102	1,060	1,039	1,010
New home sales (K) (1)	March	481.0	543.0	496.0	456.0	403.0
Existing home sales (K) (1)	March	5,190	4,890	5,070	5,100	4,700
Construction spending (\$B)	March*	966.6	-0.6	-1.8	0.0	2.0
Commercial surplus (\$M) (1)	Feb.	-35,444	-42,676	-39,529	-39,916	-41,891
Nonfarm employment (K) (2)	March	141,183	126.0	591.0	1,564	3,128
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	March	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.9	6.6
Consumer price (1982-1984 = 100)	March	235.7	0.2	-0.2	-0.8	-0.0
Excluding food and energy	March	240.8	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.8
Personal cons. expenditure deflator (2009 = 100)	March*	108.6	0.2	-0.1	-0.5	0.3
Excluding food and energy	March*	108.5	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.3
Producer price (2009 = 100)	March	193.5	0.5	-1.7	-3.9	-3.3
Excluding food and energy	March	191.5	0.5	0.8	1.2	2.0
Export prices (2000 = 100)	March	125.9	0.1	-1.9	-4.5	-6.7
Import prices (2000 = 100)	March	125.8	-0.3	-3.3	-8.8	-10.5

\* New statistic in comparison with last week.

(1) Statistic shows the level of the month of the column; (2) Statistic shows the variation since the reference month.



## Canada: Quarterly economic indicators

	Ref. quart.	Level	Variation (%)		Annual variation (%)			
			Quart. ann.	1 year	2014	2013	2012	2011
Gross domestic product (2007 \$M)	2014 Q4	1,767,784	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.0	1.9	3.0
Household consumption (2007 \$M)	2014 Q4	982,885	2.0	2.6	2.8	2.5	1.9	2.2
Government consumption (2007 \$M)	2014 Q4	350,813	2.1	0.7	0.3	0.4	1.2	0.8
Residential investment (2007 \$M)	2014 Q4	117,965	1.5	5.2	2.8	-0.4	5.7	1.7
Non-residential investment (2007 \$M)	2014 Q4	194,449	-2.3	0.5	0.1	2.6	9.0	12.7
Business inventory change (2007 \$M) (1)	2014 Q4	8,017	---	---	7,433	12,368	7,437	10,911
Exports (2007 \$M)	2014 Q4	560,663	-1.6	6.5	5.4	2.0	2.6	4.6
Imports (2007 \$M)	2014 Q4	579,017	1.7	2.6	1.7	1.3	3.7	5.7
Final domestic demand (2007 \$M)	2014 Q4	1,766,335	1.5	2.0	1.6	1.5	2.5	2.5
GDP deflator (2007 = 100)	2014 Q4	112.7	-2.4	1.2	1.8	1.3	1.6	3.4
Labour productivity (2007 = 100)	2014 Q4	107.2	-0.3	1.8	2.5	1.1	0.0	1.4
Unit labour cost (2007 = 100)	2014 Q4	113.6	0.0	0.6	0.9	1.3	3.0	2.1
Current account balance (\$M) (1)	2014 Q4	-13,917	---	---	-43,499	-56,255	-59,911	-47,195
Production capacity utilization rate (%) (1)	2014 Q4	83.6	---	---	82.8	81.2	81.5	80.6
Disposable personal income (\$M)	2014 Q4	1,127,836	1.9	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.2	4.5
Corporate net operating surplus (2007 \$M)	2014 Q4	277,016	-11.3	6.7	9.0	-0.6	-4.2	15.4

\* New statistic in comparison with last week.

(1) Statistics representing the level during the period.

## Canada: Monthly economic indicators

	Ref. month	Level	Variation (%)			
			-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year
Gross domestic product (2007 \$M)	Feb.*	1,653,690	0.0	0.2	0.8	2.1
Industrial production (2007 \$M)	Feb.*	360,326	-0.4	0.2	1.1	1.6
Manufacturing sales (\$M)	Feb.	50,036	-1.7	-2.6	-3.4	-1.5
Housing starts (K) (1)	March	189.7	151.2	178.5	197.0	157.3
Building permits (\$M)	Feb.	6,115	-0.9	-7.8	-6.8	-5.0
Retail sales (\$M)	Feb.	42,245	1.7	-1.5	-0.4	2.5
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	Feb.	32,120	2.0	-1.4	-0.6	1.4
Wholesale trade sales (\$M)	Feb.	53,620	-0.4	-0.7	0.9	5.5
Commercial surplus (\$M) (1)	Feb.	-983.5	-1,475	-404.9	475.2	638.2
Exports (\$M)	Feb.	43,521	0.4	-0.2	-2.7	0.5
Imports (\$M)	Feb.	44,505	-0.7	1.1	0.6	4.3
Employment (K) (2)	March	17,915	28.7	21.0	16.3	11.5
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	March	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.9	7.0
Average weekly earnings (\$)	Feb.*	951.4	0.3	1.4	1.3	2.7
Number of salaried employees (K) (2)	Feb.*	15,709	4.5	23.7	12.9	17.7
Consumer price (2002 = 100)	March	126.3	0.7	1.4	0.4	1.2
Excluding food and energy	March	121.0	0.6	1.4	1.1	2.0
Excluding 8 volatile items	March	125.4	0.6	1.4	1.1	2.4
Industrial product price (2002 = 100)	March*	110.6	0.3	1.8	-0.7	-1.8
Raw materials price (2002 = 100)	March*	94.8	-0.9	-3.4	-19.3	-23.3
Money supply M1+ (\$M)	March*	768,635	1.0	2.2	3.7	6.8

\* New statistic in comparison with last week.

(1) Statistic shows the level of the month of the column; (2) Statistic shows the variation since the reference month.

## Major financial indicators

	Previous data (%)						Last 52 weeks (%)		
	May 1	April 24	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
<b>United States</b>									
Federal funds – target	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.00
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.60	0.51	0.48	0.45	0.47	0.43	0.72	0.51	0.31
– 5 years	1.49	1.32	1.25	1.18	1.61	1.68	1.84	1.57	1.18
– 10 years	2.10	1.92	1.84	1.68	2.33	2.59	2.65	2.27	1.67
– 30 years	2.81	2.62	2.49	2.26	3.06	3.37	3.48	2.98	2.25
S&P 500 index	2,097	2,118	2,067	1,995	2,018	1,881	2,118	2,008	1,862
DJIA index	17,957	18,080	17,763	17,165	17,391	16,513	18,289	17,320	16,117
Gold price (US\$/ounce)	1,173	1,178	1,197	1,273	1,166	1,303	1,338	1,239	1,146
CRB index	227.72	224.05	216.09	218.84	271.96	307.14	312.93	262.72	209.00
WTI oil (US\$/barrel)	58.89	55.98	49.13	47.79	80.53	99.80	107.30	76.47	43.39
<b>Canada</b>									
Overnight – target	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.93	0.75
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.66	0.66	0.56	0.58	0.88	0.94	0.96	0.82	0.47
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.70	0.63	0.49	0.39	1.02	1.07	1.17	0.91	0.39
– 5 years	1.04	0.88	0.73	0.61	1.54	1.63	1.73	1.31	0.59
– 10 years	1.65	1.44	1.31	1.25	2.05	2.35	2.40	1.89	1.24
– 30 years	2.23	2.05	1.96	1.83	2.59	2.88	2.93	2.45	1.83
Spread with the U.S. rate (% points)									
Overnight – target	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.68	0.50
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.66	0.63	0.54	0.56	0.87	0.92	0.93	0.80	0.45
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.10	0.12	0.01	-0.06	0.55	0.64	0.73	0.39	-0.23
– 5 years	-0.45	-0.44	-0.52	-0.57	-0.07	-0.05	0.07	-0.26	-0.82
– 10 years	-0.45	-0.48	-0.53	-0.43	-0.28	-0.24	-0.17	-0.38	-0.72
– 30 years	-0.58	-0.57	-0.53	-0.43	-0.47	-0.49	-0.29	-0.52	-0.71
S&P/TSX index	15,312	15,408	15,027	14,673	14,613	14,765	15,658	14,920	13,705
Exchange rate (C\$/US\$)	1.2174	1.2180	1.2484	1.2732	1.1267	1.0974	1.2789	1.1488	0.8214
Exchange rate (C\$/€)	1.3647	1.3244	1.3705	1.4372	1.4111	1.5221	1.5202	1.4203	0.9208
<b>Overseas</b>									
ECB – Refinancing rate	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.25	0.25	0.10	0.05
BoE – Base rate	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
BoJ – Overnight rate	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Germany: Bonds – 10 years	0.36	0.16	0.19	0.27	0.80	1.45	1.47	0.78	0.08
U.K.: Bonds – 10 years	1.84	1.68	1.62	1.36	2.24	2.64	2.88	2.16	1.36
Euro: Exchange rate (US\$/€)	1.1210	1.0874	1.0978	1.1289	1.2525	1.3871	1.3928	1.2420	1.0495
U.K.: Exchange rate (US\$/£)	1.5157	1.5189	1.4921	1.5069	1.5998	1.6867	1.7166	1.5972	1.4632

CRB: Commodity Research Bureau; WTI: West Texas Intermediate; ECB: European Central Bank; BoE: Bank of England; BoJ: Bank of Japan  
 Note: Data taken at markets closing, with the exception of the current day where they were taken at 11:00 a.m.