

Long-term yields keep rising

HIGHLIGHTS

- United States: Retail sales were flat in April.
- U.S. consumer confidence pulls back in May.
- U.S. industrial output declines again.
- Canada: Manufacturing sales rebounded in March.

A LOOK AHEAD

- U.S. housing starts are expected to show a solid increase.
- United States: Following March's surge, home resales should rise again, but not as much.
- U.S. inflation should stay in negative territory for April.
- Canada: Wholesale and retail sales should advance in March.
- Canada: The total annual inflation rate should be flat.

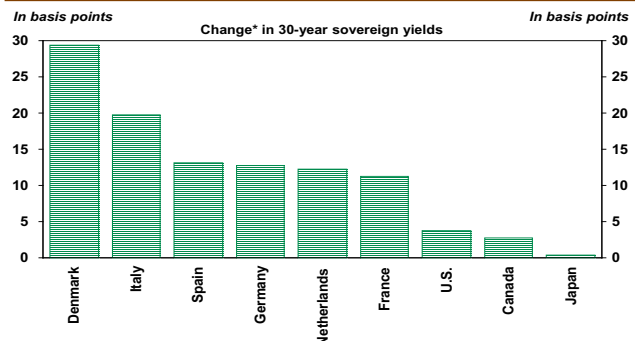
FINANCIAL MARKETS

- The rapid upswing in bond yields hurts the stock markets.
- Big surge in long-term yields in developed countries.
- The U.S. dollar dips again.

CONTENTS

Key statistics of the week.....	2
United States and Canada	
Financial markets.....	3
A look ahead	4
United States, Canada and Overseas	
Economic indicators of the week	6
Tables	
Economic indicators – United States	8
Economic indicators – Canada	9
Major financial indicators	10

Graph of the week – Long-term yields shoot up, especially in Europe



* From May 8 to 15, 2015.
Sources: Bloomberg and Desjardins, Economic Studies

François Dupuis
Vice-President and Chief Economist

Mathieu D'Anjou
Senior Economist

Benoît P. Durocher
Senior Economist

Francis Généreux
Senior Economist

Jimmy Jean
Senior Economist

Hendrix Vachon
Senior Economist

514-281-2336 or 1 866 866-7000, ext. 2336
E-mail: desjardins.economics@desjardins.com

KEY STATISTICS OF THE WEEK

UNITED STATES

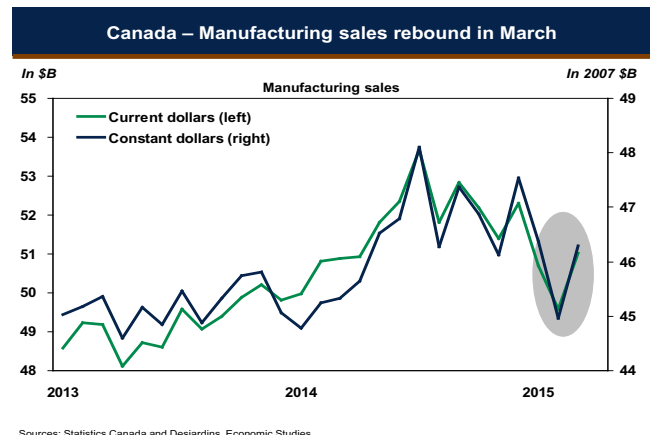
- Retail sales marked time in April after increasing 1.1% in March (revised from 0.9%). Auto sales retreated 0.4% following a 2.9% gain. Excluding autos and gas, sales were up 0.2% following a 0.7% increase in March. The lack of growth in total retail sales in April is disappointing. After good March results (even better after the revision), there was hope that the arrival of spring would spur consumers on even more. Instead, we note a lacklustre but not completely mediocre result.
- The preliminary version of the University of Michigan consumer confidence index is down for May. The index went from 95.9 in the final version for April to 88.6, its lowest point since October 2014. Both consumer expectations and feeling about the current situation retreated.
- Industrial output declined 0.3% in April following an equivalent drop in March (revised from -0.6%). This is the sixth month in a row it has retreated. Manufacturing output was stable after March's 0.3% advance. The auto sector rose 1.3%. The drop in oil prices is still being felt: drilling was down 14.5% in April, and 17.7% in March. It has plunged by a total of 46.5% in the last year. Energy production dropped 1.3% after March's 5.4% contraction.
- New weekly jobless claims have been very low for the last few weeks. They were at 264,000 in the week that ended Saturday, May 9. Over four weeks, the average is down to 271,750 claims, the lowest point since April 2000.
- Business inventories went up just 0.1% in March; they rose 0.2% in February (revised from 0.3%). Retail inventories increased 0.3%, with 0.2 percentage points from motor vehicles. Inventory growth (including the revision) should, along with March's trade balance, be among the factors that prompt the Bureau of Economic Analysis to downgrade real GDP growth for the first quarter, taking it into negative territory.
- The price indexes were lower than forecast in April. The index of imported goods prices retreated 0.3%, while the index of exported goods prices tumbled 0.7%. For its part, the producer price index retreated 0.4% (-0.2% excluding food and energy).

Francis Généreux
Senior Economist

CANADA

- Manufacturing sales increased 2.9% in March after posting two big consecutive monthly retreats. Substantial increases were recorded in motor vehicles (+12.8%), and aviation products (+42.3%). Excluding these two sectors, sales are up 0.8%, a fairly good result. In real terms, total manufacturing sales also progressed 2.9% over the month and will make a positive contribution to March's economic growth.
- Existing home sales rose 2.3% in April across Canada. Except for Alberta (-0.9%), Manitoba (-0.4%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-3.9%), all of the provinces saw their sales increase. Ontario recorded a 4.1% gain, taking growth over the last year to 17.4%. The average home price increased 1.1% in April for Canada as a whole, going to \$437,135. Prices are up 9.5% over the last year. Note, however, that annual price growth remained negative in Alberta.

Benoit P. Durocher
Senior Economist



FINANCIAL MARKETS

The bond markets remain volatile

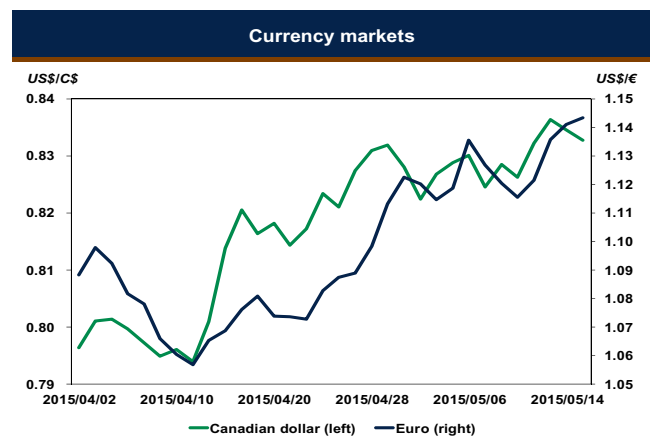
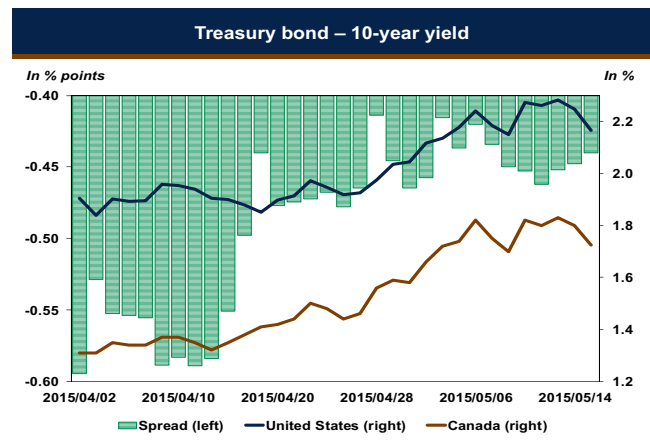
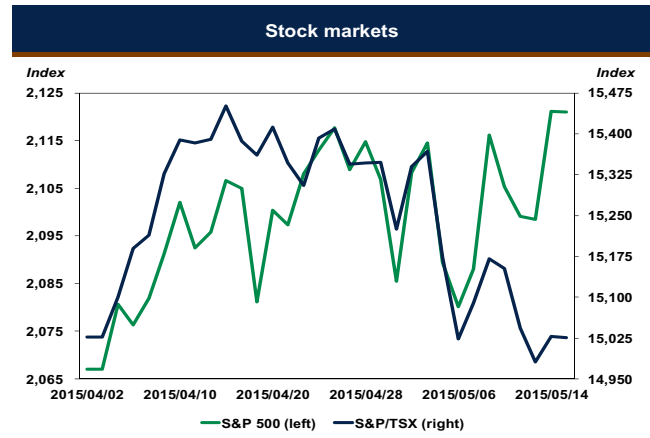
It was a mixed week for the world's stock markets. Europe's Euro Stoxx index was down by more than 1% for the week at the time of writing; the Asian markets, on the other hand, posted big increases, welcoming the new monetary easing actions ordered in China. In the United States, the S&P 500 retreated in each of the week's first three sessions, as the renewed upswing in bond yields around the world prompted concern about stock valuations. However, yields started to retreat on Thursday, allowing the U.S. stock markets to recoup much of their losses. Canada's stock market also moved down early in the week, but did not benefit as much from the drop in bond yields.

After a short break, bond yield curves in developed nations started to steepen even more quickly. In Germany, the 30-year yield jumped 32 basis points from Monday to Thursday, then edged back. U.S. 30-year yields moved similarly, rising 21 basis points over the first four sessions then retreating to around 3% on Friday morning. In contrast, short-term yields moved downward against the backdrop of persisting poor economic numbers. Canadian 30-year bonds resisted the global trend a little better, with the yield up about 10 basis points for the week on Friday morning.

The U.S. dollar declined again this week, still penalized by disappointing economic figures in the United States. Simultaneously, the data was fairly good in Europe, helping the euro and pound advance. The euro crossed US\$1.14 on Thursday to hit a three-month peak. The tough negotiations with Greece to avoid a default on payment does not seem to be having too much of an effect on the common currency. For its part, the pound hit an almost 6-month peak above US\$1.58 on Thursday. The Canadian dollar closed in on US\$0.84 in the middle of the week, then dropped back to US\$0.83 on Friday. The loonie continues to track oil movements fairly closely. Oil went above US\$61/barrel on Wednesday but was down to US\$59 at the time of writing.

Jimmy Jean
Senior Economist

Hendrix Vachon
Senior Economist



A LOOK AHEAD



UNITED STATES

Tuesday May 19 - 8:30

April	ann. rate
Consensus	1,020,000
Desjardins	1,040,000
March	926,000

Housing starts (April) – Starts had been expected to post fairly strong growth in March, so the 2.0% upswing that followed February’s 15.3% plunge was quite disappointing. We expect a better performance in April, however. Firstly, 1,042,000 building permits were issued in March, which should take housing starts to a similar level. Secondly, 2,800 jobs were created in residential construction in April (and 20,800 for contractors that specialize in the residential sector). Thirdly, new home sales have been high for several months, despite March’s pullback. Housing starts should therefore go from 926,000 units to 1,040,000 units on an annualized basis. The NAHB index of homebuilder confidence will be released Monday.

Thursday May 21 - 10:00

April	ann. rate
Consensus	5,220,000
Desjardins	5,290,000
March	5,190,000

Existing home sales (April) – After several disappointing months, resales rebounded in March, rising 6.1%, the biggest increase since December 2010. Another, smaller increase is expected for April. Pending home sales are up 1.1%. Also, mortgage applications in view of a purchase jumped 14.7% from March to April. Resales are therefore forecast to rise to an annualized 5,290,000 units.

Thursday May 21 - 10:00

April	m/m
Consensus	0.3%
Desjardins	0.4%
March	0.2%

Leading indicator (April) – The leading indicator ticked up 0.2% in March, due primarily to weak jobless claims. This component will make a smaller contribution in April; however, because fewer components should make negative contributions, we can still expect fairly good growth. The main gains will come from the interest rate spread and building permits (if our forecast of 1,065,000 units proves accurate). The leading indicator should advance 0.4%.

Friday May 22 - 8:30

April	m/m
Consensus	0.1%
Desjardins	0.1%
March	0.2%

Consumer price index (April) – Following the strong downtrend that ran from the summer of 2014 to January 2015, the consumer price index (CPI) has started to rise again, posting two straight 0.2% increases in February and March. The change of heading is mainly due to gas prices, which are up from the lows reached earlier in the year. Average prices at the pump also rose a modest 0.7% in April. However, these prices usually go up 1.8% in April, so the seasonal adjustment will have gas prices and energy making a negative contribution to April’s monthly CPI increase. Food prices should show an increase after March’s 0.2% downtick. Excluding food and energy, we expect a rise similar to the 0.2% gain recorded by the core CPI in January, February and March. All in all, the total CPI should post a monthly increase of 0.1%. Despite the rise, inflation should remain in negative territory at -0.1%, while core inflation will stay at 1.8%.



CANADA

Wednesday May 20 - 8:30

March	m/m
Consensus	0.5%
Desjardins	1.0%
February	-0.4%

Wholesale trade – After two consecutive monthly pullbacks, the value of wholesale sales should return to positive territory. Among other things, March’s surge in automotive product exports suggests that this sector will make a big contribution. Also, retail trade advanced in February, with sales up 1.7%.

Consumer price index (April) – According to the weekly surveys of prices at the pumps, the average gas price went up 0.9% in April, a much smaller fluctuation than in previous months. This means that the rise in gas prices will only contribute +0.04% to the monthly change in the total consumer price index (CPI). Usually, seasonal effects push the monthly change in the total CPI up by 0.2%. If we also factor in the uptrend noted in many components over the last few months, the total CPI should rise 0.3% in April. The total annual inflation rate should stay at 1.2%. Core inflation should also be flat, at 2.4%.

Retail sales (March) – After February’s 1.7% rebound, retail sales should continue to rise for March. Seasonally adjusted gas prices are up 1.7% for the month, which should boost the value of service station sales. For motor vehicles, the number of new vehicles sold did decline about 1% in March, but this dip should be largely offset by the almost 2.0% increase in new motor vehicle prices that month. If we also consider the slightly positive outlooks for the other retail components, a gain of 0.7% is forecast for the month.



OVERSEAS

Japan: Real GDP (Q1) – Following a short recession triggered by such things as the spring 2014 sales tax increase, Japan’s economy returned to growth last fall. However, GDP growth remains a relatively weak 0.4% (an annualized 1.5%). A similar performance is expected for the first quarter. Consumption growth likely flagged, but foreign trade seems to have improved substantially.

Euro zone: PMI index (May) – In April, the euro zone’s composite PMI index put an end to a string of four consecutive monthly increases. The index is now at 53.9, which is relatively high compared with the figures seen last year. Another increase would suggest that Euroland’s economy is continuing to advance this spring. During the week, it will be interesting to get March’s trade balance on Tuesday, to see if it continued to improve. May’s flash version of the Euroland consumer confidence index will come out on Thursday. Also, the German IFO indexes come out Friday, as will the final version of Germany’s real GDP for the first quarter.

Friday May 22 - 8:30

April	m/m
Consensus	0.1%
Desjardins	0.3%
March	0.7%

Friday May 22 - 8:30

March	m/m
Consensus	0.3%
Desjardins	0.7%
February	1.7%

Tuesday May 19 - 19:50


Q1 2015	q/q
Consensus	0.4%
Q4 2014	0.4%


Thursday May 21 - 4:00

May	
Consensus	53.9
April	53.9

ECONOMIC INDICATORS


Week of May 18 to 22, 2015

Day	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data
UNITED STATES						
MONDAY 18	2:00	Speech of the Chicago Fed President, C. Evans				
	10:00	NAHB housing market index	May	57	n/a	56
TUESDAY 19	8:30	Housing starts (ann. rate)	April	1,020,000	1,040,000	926,000
	8:30	Building permits (ann. rate)	April	1,070,000	1,065,000	1,042,000
WEDNESDAY 20	3:00	Speech of the Chicago Fed President, C. Evans				
	14:00	Release minutes from April 28-29 FOMC meeting				
THURSDAY 21	8:30	Initial unemployment claims	May 11-15	270,000	270,000	264,000
	10:00	Leading indicator (m/m)	April	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
	10:00	Philadelphia Fed index	May	8.0	10.0	7.5
	10:00	Existing home sales (ann. rate)	April	5,220,000	5,290,000	5,190,000
	13:30	Speech of the Federal Reserve Vice Chair, S. Fisher				
	19:00	Speech of the San Francisco Fed President, J. Williams				
FRIDAY 22	8:30	Consumer price index				
		Total (m/m)	April	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
		Excluding food and energy (m/m)	April	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
		Total (y/y)	April	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.1%
		Excluding food and energy (y/y)	April	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%
	13:00	Speech of the Federal Reserve Chair, J. Yellen				
CANADA						
MONDAY 18	---	Markets closed (Victoria Day)				
TUESDAY 19	11:30	Speech of the Bank of Canada Governor, S. Poloz				
WEDNESDAY 20	8:30	Wholesale sales (m/m)	March	0.5%	1.0%	-0.4%
	8:30	Wholesale inventories (m/m)	March	n/a	0.5%	0.6%
THURSDAY 21	---	---				
FRIDAY 22	8:30	Consumer price index				
		Total (m/m)	April	0.1%	0.3%	0.7%
		Excluding 8 most volatile (m/m)	April	0.1%	0.2%	0.6%
		Total (y/y)	April	1.0%	1.2%	1.2%
		Excluding 8 most volatile (y/y)	April	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%
	8:30	Retail sales				
		Total (m/m)	March	0.3%	0,7 %	1,7 %
		Excluding automobiles (m/m)	March	0.2%	0,8 %	2,0 %

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 18 to 22, 2015

Country	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data		
				m/m (q/q)	y/y	m/m (q/q)	y/y	
 OVERSEAS								
SUNDAY 17								
Japan	19:50	Machinery orders	March	1.5%	-6.0%	-0.4%	5.9%	
MONDAY 18								
Japan	0:30	Tertiary industry activity index	March	-0.5%		0.3%		
Japan	0:30	Industrial production – final	March	n/a	n/a	-0.3%	-1.2%	
Italy	4:00	Trade balance (€M)	March	n/a		3,538		
Australia	21:30	Minutes of the Reserve Bank of Australia May meeting						
TUESDAY 19								
United Kingdom	4:30	Consumer price index	April	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	
United Kingdom	4:30	Producer price index	April	0.2%	-1.6%	0.2%	-1.7%	
Euro zone	5:00	Trade balance (€B)	March	22.7		22.0		
Euro zone	5:00	Consumer price index – final	April	0.2%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	
Germany	5:00	ZEW survey – Current situation	May	68.0		70.2		
Germany	5:00	ZEW survey – Expectations	May	48.5		53.3		
Japan	19:50	Real GDP – preliminary	Q1	0.4%		0.4%		
WEDNESDAY 20								
Japan	1:00	Leading indicator – final	March	n/a		105.5		
Japan	1:00	Coincident indicator – final	March	n/a		109.5		
Germany	2:00	Producer price index	April	0.2%	-1.4%	0.1%	-1.7%	
United Kingdom	4:30	Minutes of the Bank of England meeting						
Euro zone	5:00	Construction	March	n/a	n/a	-1.8%	-3.7%	
Japan	21:35	PMI manufacturing index – preliminary	May	50.3		49.9		
THURSDAY 21								
Japan	---	Bank of Japan meeting						
Japan	0:30	All industry activity index	March	-0.5%		0.1%		
France	3:00	PMI composite index – preliminary	May	51.0		50.6		
France	3:00	PMI manufacturing index – preliminary	May	48.5		48.0		
France	3:00	PMI services index – preliminary	May	51.9		51.4		
Germany	3:30	PMI composite index – preliminary	May	53.8		54.1		
Germany	3:30	PMI manufacturing index – preliminary	May	52.2		52.1		
Germany	3:30	PMI services index – preliminary	May	54.0		54.0		
Euro zone	4:00	Current account (€B)	March	n/a		26.4		
Euro zone	4:00	PMI composite index – preliminary	May	53.9		53.9		
Euro zone	4:00	PMI manufacturing index – preliminary	May	51.8		52.0		
Euro zone	4:00	PMI services index – preliminary	May	53.9		54.1		
United Kingdom	4:30	Retail sales	April	0.2%	3.7%	0.2%	5.0%	
Italy	5:00	Current account (€M)	March	n/a		3,594		
Euro zone	10:00	Consumer confidence – preliminary	May	-4.8		-4.6		
FRIDAY 22								
Germany	2:00	Real GDP – final	Q1	0.3%	1.0%	0.3%	1.0%	
France	2:45	Business confidence	May	97		96		
France	2:45	Production outlook	May	n/a		3		
Italy	4:00	Factory orders	March	n/a	n/a	0.8%	2.0%	
Germany	4:00	IFO survey – Business climate	May	108.3		108.6		
Germany	4:00	IFO survey – Current situation	May	113.5		113.9		
Germany	4:00	IFO survey – Expectations	May	103.0		103.5		
Italy	5:00	Retail sales	March	0.3%	0.3%	-0.2%	0.1%	

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)	2015 Q1	105.9	-1.9	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.2
Unit labor cost (2009 = 100)	2015 Q1	106.2	5.0	1.1	1.8	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)	April	57.8	56.5	56.7	56.9	55.3
Cons. confidence Conf. Board (1985 = 100) (1)	April	95.2	101.4	103.8	94.1	81.7
Cons. confidence Michigan (1966 = 100) (1)	May*	88.6	95.9	95.4	88.8	81.9
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)	March	3,363	0.6	1.4	2.9	6.9
Retail sales (\$M)	April*	436,772	-0.0	0.6	-0.6	0.9
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	April*	347,004	0.1	0.6	-1.1	-0.0
Industrial production (2007 = 100)	April*	105.2	-0.3	-0.6	0.0	1.9
Production capacity utilization rate (%) (1)	April*	78.2	78.6	79.2	79.2	79.0
New machinery orders (\$M)	March	477,828	2.1	0.6	-4.6	-5.3
New durable good orders (\$M)	March	235,877	4.7	4.0	-1.0	-1.0
Business inventories (\$B)	March*	1,786	0.1	0.3	0.7	2.9
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)	March	-51,367	-35,892	-45,601	-43,368	-42,784
Nonfarm employment (K) (2)	April	141,367	223.0	574.0	1,527	2,982
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	April	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.7	6.2
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)	April*	192.4	-0.6	-0.2	-4.2	-4.2
Excluding food and energy	April*	191.6	0.1	0.7	1.1	2.0
Export prices (2000 = 100)	April*	125.1	-0.7	-0.8	-4.3	-6.3
Import prices (2000 = 100)	April*	124.8	-0.3	-1.0	-8.2	-10.7

* 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)	March*	51,015	2.9	-2.5	-3.5	0.3
Housing starts (K) (1)	April	181.8	189.5	183.0	180.7	195.7
Building permits (\$M)	March	6,867	11.6	-2.4	-8.5	13.0
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)	March	-3,019	-2,215	-1,228	146.5	1,249
Exports (\$M)	March	42,497	0.4	-3.3	-5.2	-3.1
Imports (\$M)	March	45,516	2.2	0.7	1.9	6.8
Employment (K) (2)	April	17,895	-19.7	2.7	2.6	11.6
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	April	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	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 15	May 8	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
United States									
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	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.01
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.55	0.58	0.50	0.63	0.51	0.37	0.72	0.52	0.31
– 5 years	1.48	1.49	1.29	1.52	1.61	1.55	1.84	1.56	1.18
– 10 years	2.17	2.15	1.85	2.03	2.32	2.52	2.65	2.25	1.67
– 30 years	2.95	2.90	2.51	2.62	3.05	3.35	3.48	2.96	2.25
S&P 500 index	2,121	2,116	2,081	2,097	2,040	1,878	2,121	2,017	1,862
DJIA index	18,250	18,191	17,826	18,019	17,635	16,491	18,289	17,378	16,117
Gold price (US\$/ounce)	1,223	1,185	1,204	1,233	1,173	1,294	1,338	1,235	1,146
CRB index	231.19	229.16	223.94	229.19	266.79	305.92	312.93	259.77	209.00
WTI oil (US\$/barrel)	59.45	59.41	55.71	52.66	75.91	102.02	107.30	74.90	43.39
Canada									
Overnight – target	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.92	0.75
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.65	0.66	0.64	0.51	0.90	0.93	0.96	0.81	0.47
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.66	0.66	0.63	0.43	1.01	1.04	1.17	0.89	0.39
– 5 years	1.02	1.02	0.86	0.73	1.52	1.54	1.73	1.28	0.59
– 10 years	1.73	1.70	1.41	1.43	2.03	2.26	2.35	1.87	1.24
– 30 years	2.35	2.30	2.02	2.07	2.59	2.80	2.87	2.43	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	0.67	0.50
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.50	0.88	0.90	0.93	0.79	0.45
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.11	0.08	0.13	-0.20	0.50	0.67	0.73	0.37	-0.23
– 5 years	-0.46	-0.47	-0.43	-0.79	-0.09	-0.01	0.07	-0.28	-0.82
– 10 years	-0.44	-0.45	-0.44	-0.60	-0.29	-0.26	-0.17	-0.39	-0.72
– 30 years	-0.60	-0.60	-0.49	-0.55	-0.46	-0.55	-0.29	-0.52	-0.71
S&P/TSX index	15,025	15,170	15,361	15,265	14,843	14,515	15,658	14,939	13,705
Exchange rate (C\$/US\$)	1.2009	1.2071	1.2250	1.2449	1.1289	1.0858	1.2789	1.1533	0.8327
Exchange rate (C\$/€)	1.3733	1.3525	1.3239	1.4174	1.4137	1.4869	1.4949	1.4149	0.9520
Overseas									
ECB – Refinancing rate	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.25	0.25	0.09	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	0.64	0.55	0.08	0.34	0.79	1.34	1.43	0.75	0.08
U.K.: Bonds – 10 years	1.90	1.88	1.61	1.67	2.14	2.57	2.88	2.13	1.36
Euro: Exchange rate (US\$/€)	1.1433	1.1205	1.0807	1.1386	1.2524	1.3695	1.3709	1.2324	1.0495
U.K.: Exchange rate (US\$/£)	1.5785	1.5457	1.4962	1.5400	1.5670	1.6816	1.7166	1.5918	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.