

Canada's labour market picked up steam in March

HIGHLIGHTS

- United States: A slight upturn in the non-manufacturing ISM.
- A sharp drop in automobile sales in the United States.
- Canada: The merchandise trade balance deteriorated in February.
- Canada: 40,600 jobs were created in March.
- Canada: The number of housing starts fell to 204,300 units.

A LOOK AHEAD

- A modest increase in retail sales is anticipated in the United States.
- U.S. industrial production should decline further.
- For the first time this year, gasoline prices will contribute to a rise in consumer prices in the United States.
- The Bank of Canada will likely leave the target for the overnight rate at 0.50% while upgrading its economic scenario.
- Canada: Manufacturing sales could pull back in February.

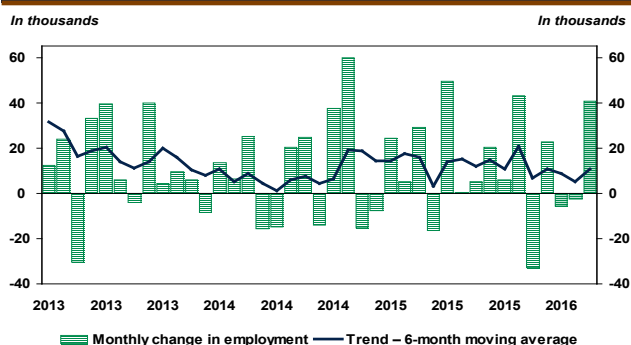
FINANCIAL MARKETS

- A moderate retreat in the world's stock markets.
- Canadian short-term yields escape the global downward trend.
- The Canadian dollar holds steady at close to US\$0.77 (C\$1.30/US\$).

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Graph of the week – The employment trend is still relatively sluggish in Canada despite the surge in March



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

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KEY STATISTICS OF THE WEEK

UNITED STATES

- After weak growth of US\$6.4B in December and a livelier advance of US\$14.9B in January, consumer credit climbed by US\$17.2B in February. The increase comes mainly from term loans, which were up by US\$14.3B, but we also note that, after a rare decline of US\$0.2B in January, revolving loans (credit cards and lines of credit) rose by US\$2.9B.
- In March, the non-manufacturing ISM recorded its first increase since October 2015. The gain of 1.1 points takes the index from 53.4 to 54.5, its highest level since December. Just as for the manufacturing index, we see noteworthy increases in current production, new orders and exports.
- Automobile sales tumbled in March. After slipping by 0.1% in February, they fell by 5.5%, the worst drop since May 2011. The annualized level fell from 17,428,000 to 16,460,000 units, the lowest level since February 2015. The slump is seen both in passenger cars (-6.4%) and in light trucks (-5.0%). Compared with the recent peak of October 2015, automobile sales have contracted by a total of 9.2%.
- For the third month in a row, the U.S. trade balance deteriorated in February. The balance fell from -US\$45.9B to -US\$47.1B. Nominal exports ticked up by 1.0% but imports rose even more: by 1.3%.

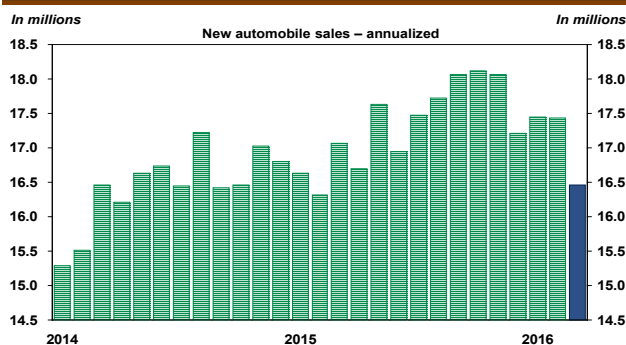
Francis Généreux
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CANADA

- The labour market gained 40,600 new jobs in March. Once again, the findings of the Labour Force Survey confounded the predictions: job creation far surpassed the most optimistic expectations of the forecasters consulted by Bloomberg. Some rebound was indeed anticipated after two consecutive months of pullback in employment, but nothing of this scope. Should we break out the champagne? Caution is the order of the day, considering the short-term volatility of this indicator. Moreover, the sharp increase in Alberta (+18,900) appears to be unsustainable, given the serious economic troubles plaguing that province. Looking at the various sectors, a gain of 74,700 jobs was seen in services thanks to fairly widespread growth. However, the goods sectors lost 34,100 jobs due to a decline of 31,800 jobs in manufacturing. This cancels out practically all the gains achieved in that sector over the past 10 months. The unemployment rate across Canada dipped from 7.3% to 7.1%.
- The value of merchandise exports dropped by 5.4% in February, putting an end to three straight months of increases. A significant pullback was observed in energy products (due to lower prices) and in many other sectors as well, including automotive products. Even though imports were down by 2.6%, this was not enough to prevent the trade balance from deteriorating: it plunged from -\$0.63B to -\$1.91B. Expressed in real terms, exports pulled back by 2.0% while imports ticked up by 0.1%.
- The number of housing starts slid, from 219,100 units in February to 204,300 units in March. The bulk of that decline came from multiple-unit projects in urban areas. Surprisingly, housing starts in Ontario were up, from 80,900 to 90,600 units. Most of the other provinces saw a downturn in their housing starts.

Benoit P. Durocher
Senior Economist

United States – New automobile sales plunged in March



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis and Desjardins, Economic Studies

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Caution is the order of the day in markets

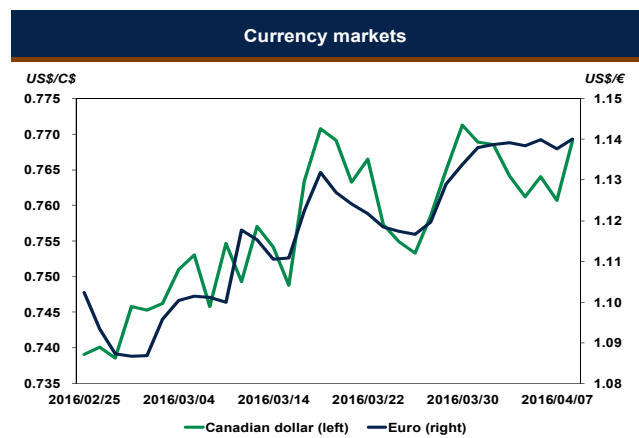
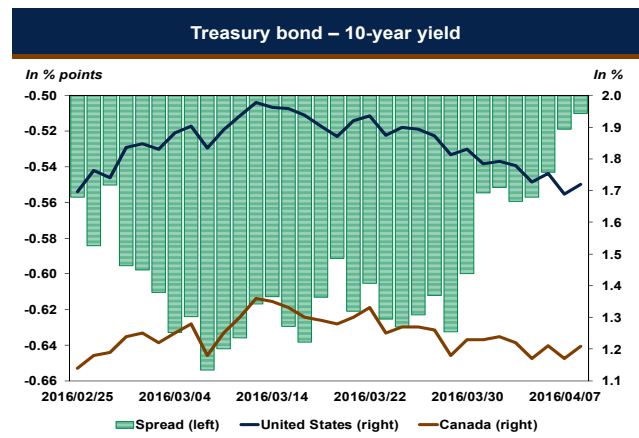
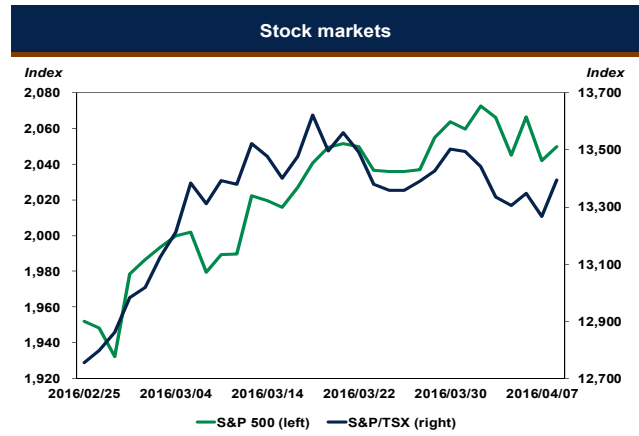
Few stock markets managed to post gains this week. The Euro Stoxx 500 index was heading towards a weekly loss of 0.6% on Friday morning. In the United States, the S&P 500 was showing a drop of 0.9%. The S&P/TSX was down by 0.6% on the week, having reaped little benefit from movements in the price of oil. Oil prices stabilized on Monday, before heading up to above US\$39 on Friday. The minutes of the Federal Reserve meeting did not make too many waves. Even though the minutes showed that opinions were divided as to the appropriate time for raising key interest rates, a fair number of officials appeared to be rather concerned about global conditions and inflation expectations.

Bond yields fell even further, due to weak appetite for risk. In the United States, the curve flattened slightly, as the 30-year yield recorded a drop of over 5 basis points on the week. The 10-year yield touched on 1.68% on Thursday, its lowest point since the end of February. Canadian yields resisted the downward trend, especially in the shorter portion of the curve. Furthermore, stronger-than-expected statistics on employment and housing starts triggered a widening of the spreads between Canadian and U.S. yields on Friday. The markets are factoring in barely more than a 15% probability of an interest rate cut by the Bank of Canada between now and December.

The U.S. dollar did not show any clear trend this week against the other major currencies. After appreciating last week, the euro basically stayed between US\$1.135 and US\$1.140. On the other hand, the pound lost ground, falling to around US\$1.41. The uncertain outcome of the June 2016 referendum in the United Kingdom continues to generate volatility for the British currency. The yen appreciated; it still seems to be enjoying a safe-haven effect after some rather pessimistic comments from the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization about the health of the global economy, among other things. The Canadian dollar pulled back at the beginning of the week but quickly returned to around US\$0.77, boosted by rising oil prices and job numbers.

Jimmy Jean
Senior Economist

Hendrix Vachon
Senior Economist



A LOOK AHEAD



UNITED STATES

Wednesday April 13 - 8:30

March	m/m
Consensus	0.1%
Desjardins	0.2%
February	-0.1%

Retail sales (March) – Once again impacted by the drop in gas prices, retail sales fell 0.1% in February. When the results were released, however, the focus was primarily on the major downside changes to January’s numbers, with sales now pulling back 0.4% instead of rising 0.2%. We now expect total sales to go up 0.2% for March. The auto sector should take a bite out of the results, as the number of new motor vehicles sold fell 5.5%, the worst 1-month drop since May 2011. However, the rise by gas prices should boost the value of service station sales by about 3%. Lastly, we expect sales excluding autos and gas to advance 0.3%.

Thursday April 14 - 8:30

March	m/m
Consensus	0.2%
Desjardins	0.4%
February	-0.2%

Consumer price index (March) – In February, for a third straight month, energy prices, particularly gas, made a negative contribution to monthly growth by the consumer price index (CPI). This time, energy prices (-5.9%) fell enough to trigger a 0.2% drop in the total CPI. We expect this effect to reverse in March. Prices at the pump went up 12.7% last month. However, because gas prices tend to go up substantially in March (+7.9%), the positive effect will be smaller. The total CPI should still rise 0.4%; this would be its biggest increase since February 2013. Excluding food and energy, the core CPI should rise 0.2%, a weaker advance than the 0.3% increases posted in January and February. Total inflation should go from 1.0% to 1.2%, again below the recent peak of 1.4% reached in January. Core inflation should go from 2.3% to 2.4%.

Friday April 15 - 9:15

March	m/m
Consensus	-0.1%
Desjardins	-0.6%
February	-0.5%

Industrial production (March) – The news was mixed for February’s industrial production (including the annual revision released April 1). On one hand, manufacturing improved, posting a second consecutive monthly increase for the first time since spring 2015. However, another decline by mining and a 4.0% tumble by energy production led to a 0.5% drop in overall industrial output. We expect a similar situation in March. Last month’s milder than normal weather should pull energy production down by about 1% (a situation that could reverse in April). For mining, and the oil sector, we should see another decline, this time around 2%. For manufacturing, the downtick by hours worked and the improved ISM manufacturing index are delivering contradictory information. We expect a slight 0.1% gain, as in February. A drop of 0.6% is anticipated for total industrial production. The industrial capacity utilization rate should slide from 75.4% to 74.9%. The New York Fed’s Empire index will also be out on Friday, giving us a first glimpse of how the manufacturing sector is doing in April.

Friday April 15 - 10:00

April	
Consensus	92.0
Desjardins	90.0
March	91.0

University of Michigan consumer confidence index (April – preliminary) – March’s 0.7 point drop by the University of Michigan confidence index is the third straight retreat. Conceivable early in the year given the financial instability we were seeing then, the decline is now astonishing: the stock market was doing better, gas prices were still low, and the job market was still performing very well. Moreover, the Conference Board index went up in March. However, we do not expect to see the University of Michigan index improve with the first estimate for April. Gas prices have started to rise and are now close to US\$2 a gallon, and the stock market has been at a standstill for two weeks. Even initial jobless claims have edged up from their recent low. We therefore expect the University of Michigan index to go down again. It could go to 90.0, which would be consistent with the recent movements by some other confidence indexes, particularly Bloomberg’s weekly index.


CANADA

Bank of Canada meeting (April) – Overall, the latest economic figures have been better than expected. Among other things, real GDP by industry rose 0.6% in January, after going up 0.3% in November and 0.2% in December. Under these conditions, Q1 2016 as a whole could therefore finish with an annualized gain of about 3.5%. This projection is much higher than the forecast the Bank of Canada (BoC) issued in January: just 1.0% for the period. Moreover, the monetary authorities will be incorporating the benefits of the federal government’s budget measures into their outlook. The *Monetary Policy Report* should therefore include an upgrade to the BoC’s economic forecasts. That being said, the Canadian economy has clearly not fully adjusted to the drop in commodity prices, and some regions are struggling. We should therefore expect the status quo for key rates to continue at the end of next week’s meeting.

Manufacturing sales (February) – After three months of sustained growth, manufacturing sales could pull back in February. The value of merchandise exports tumbled in the oil and coal product, machinery and automotive product sectors, suggesting that these manufacturers’ sales will retreat for the month. Although aerospace industry exports went up in February, and manufacturing sales are expected to increase in other sectors, overall sales should drop about 1%.


OVERSEAS

Euro zone: Industrial production (February) – Euroland’s industrial production started 2016 with a roar, posting monthly growth of 2.1%, the strongest 1-month advance since September 2009. This kind of performance is usually followed by somewhat of a pullback. A drop of 0.5% followed Germany’s 2.3% gain in January. In France, industrial production retreated 1.0% after advancing that much in January. The consensus therefore expects industrial production to contract in February. Beyond the month-to-month volatility, we can also expect the pace to slow, consistent with the slightly lower Euroland PMI manufacturing indexes.

United Kingdom: Bank of England meeting (April) – No action is expected from the Bank of England (BoE) in the near future. Modest economic growth (according to the latest indicators) along with the tough international economic climate, low British inflation and the uncertainty created by the looming referendum on whether or not the United Kingdom will stay in the European Union are all factors arguing for some patience from BoE leaders.

China: Real GDP (Q1) – China’s economy should keep slowing this year. The annual real GDP change went from 6.9% in summer 2015 to 6.8% last fall. The consensus expects another modest pullback, taking it to 6.7%. However, Chinese economic data is volatile at the start of the year, making predictions for the quarter that has just ended difficult. The year’s official target for real GDP growth is between 6.5% and 7.0%.

Wednesday April 13 - 10:00**April**

Consensus	0.50%
Desjardins	0.50%
March 9	0.50%

Friday April 15 - 8:30**February**

	m/m
Consensus	-1.2%
Desjardins	-1.0%
January	2.3%

Wednesday April 13 - 5:00**February**

	m/m
Consensus	-0.7%
January	2.1%

Thursday April 14 - 7:00**April**


Consensus	0.50%
Desjardins	0.50%
March 17	0.50%

Thursday April 14 - 22:00**Q1 2016**

	y/y
Consensus	6.7%
Q4 2015	6.8%

ECONOMIC INDICATORS


Week of April 11 to 15, 2016

Day	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data
UNITED STATES						
MONDAY 11	9:25	Speech of the New York Fed President, W. Dudley				
	13:00	Speech of the Dallas Fed President, R. Kaplan				
TUESDAY 12	8:30	Export prices (m/m)	March	n/a	0.7%	-0.4%
	8:30	Import prices (m/m)	March	1.0%	2.0%	-0.3%
	9:00	Speech of the Philadelphia Fed President, P. Harker				
	14:00	Federal budget (US\$B)	March	-99.0	-104.0	-52.9
	15:00	Speech of the San Francisco Fed President, J. Williams				
	16:00	Speech of the Richmond Fed President, J. Lacker				
WEDNESDAY 13	8:30	Producer price index				
		Total (m/m)	March	0.2%	0.4%	-0.2%
		Excluding food and energy (m/m)	March	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
	8:30	Retail sales				
		Total (m/m)	March	0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%
		Excluding automobiles (m/m)	March	0.4%	0.5%	-0.1%
	10:00	Business inventories (m/m)	Feb.	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.1%
	14:00	Release of the <i>Beige Book</i>				
THURSDAY 14	8:30	Initial unemployment claims	April 4-8	270,000	268,000	267,000
	8:30	Consumer price index				
		Total (m/m)	March	0.2%	0.4%	-0.2%
		Excluding food and energy (m/m)	March	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
		Total (y/y)	March	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%
		Excluding food and energy (y/y)	March	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%
	10:00	Speech of the Atlanta Fed President, D. Lockhart				
	10:00	Speech of a Federal Reserve Governor, J. Powell, before a Senate Committee				
FRIDAY 15	8:30	Empire manufacturing index	April	2.00	3.50	0.62
	9:15	Industrial production (m/m)	March	-0.1%	-0.6%	-0.5%
	9:15	Production capacity utilization rates	March	75.4%	74.9%	76.7%
	10:00	Michigan's consumer sentiment index – preliminary	April	92.0	90.0	91.0
	12:30	Speech of the Chicago Fed President, C. Evans				
	16:00	Net foreign security purchases (US\$B)	Feb.	n/a	n/a	-12.0




CANADA

MONDAY 11	---	---				
TUESDAY 12	---	---				
WEDNESDAY 13	10:00	Bank of Canada meeting	April	0.50%	0,50 %	0.50%
	10:00	Release of the Bank of Canada <i>Monetary Policy Report</i>				
THURSDAY 14	8:30	New housing price index (m/m)	Feb.	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
FRIDAY 15	8:30	Manufacturing sales (m/m)	Feb.	-1.2%	-1.0%	2.3%
	9:00	Existing home sales	March			

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 April 11 to 15, 2016

Country	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data		
				m/m (q/q)	y/y	m/m (q/q)	y/y	
 OVERSEAS								
DURING THE WEEK								
China	---	Trade balance (US\$B)	March	34.95		32.59		
SUNDAY 10								
Japan	19:50	Machinery orders	Feb.	-12.0%	-2.4%	15.0%	8.4%	
China	21:30	Consumer price index	March		2.4%		2.3%	
China	21:30	Producer price index	March		-4.6%		-4.9%	
MONDAY 11								
Italy	4:00	Industrial production	Feb.	-0.9%	1.4%	1.9%	3.9%	
TUESDAY 12								
Germany	2:00	Consumer price index – final	March	0.8%	0.3%	0.8%	0.3%	
United Kingdom	4:30	Consumer price index	March	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	
United Kingdom	4:30	Producer price index	March	0.2%	-1.0%	0.1%	-1.1%	
Japan	19:50	Producer price index	March	0.0%	-3.5%	-0.2%	-3.4%	
WEDNESDAY 13								
France	2:45	Consumer price index – final	March	0.7%	-0.2%	0.7%	-0.2%	
Euro zone	5:00	Industrial production	Feb.	-0.7%	1.3%	2.1%	2.8%	
THURSDAY 14								
Euro zone	5:00	Consumer price index – final	March	1.2%	-0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%	
United Kingdom	7:00	Bank of England meeting	April	0.50%		0.50%		
China	22:00	Real GDP	Q1	1.5%	6.7%	1.6%	6.8%	
China	22:00	Industrial production	March		6.0%		5.9%	
China	22:00	Retail sales	March		10.4%		1.1%	
FRIDAY 15								
Japan	0:30	Industrial production	Feb.	n/a	n/a	-6.2%	-1.5%	
Italy	4:00	Trade balance (€M)	Feb.	n/a		35		
United Kingdom	4:30	Construction	Feb.	0.0%	0.7%	-0.2%	-0.8%	
Euro zone	5:00	Trade balance (€B)	Feb.	21.5		21.2		

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	2015	2014	2013	2012
Gross domestic product (2009 \$B)	2015 Q4	16,471	1.4	2.0	2.4	2.4	1.5	2.2
Consumption (2009 \$B)	2015 Q4	11,331	2.4	2.7	3.1	2.7	1.7	1.5
Government spending (2009 \$B)	2015 Q4	2,871	0.1	1.1	0.7	-0.6	-2.9	-1.9
Residential investment (2009 \$B)	2015 Q4	547.4	10.1	9.4	8.9	1.8	9.5	13.5
Non-residential investment (2009 \$B)	2015 Q4	2,213	-2.1	1.5	2.8	6.2	3.0	9.0
Business inventory change (2009 \$B) (1)	2015 Q4	78.3	---	---	97.5	68.0	61.4	54.7
Exports (2009 \$B)	2015 Q4	2,110	-2.0	-0.6	1.1	3.4	2.8	3.4
Imports (2009 \$B)	2015 Q4	2,662	-0.7	2.9	4.9	3.8	1.0	2.2
Final domestic demand (2009 \$B)	2015 Q4	16,940	1.7	2.5	2.8	2.5	1.2	1.9
GDP deflator (2009 = 100)	2015 Q4	110.3	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.8
Labor productivity (2009 = 100)	2015 Q4	106.0	-2.2	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.9
Unit labor cost (2009 = 100)	2015 Q4	108.8	3.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.1	1.7
Employment cost index (Dec. 2005 = 100)	2015 Q4	125.2	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.8
Current account balance (\$B) (1)	2015 Q4	-125.3	---	---	-484.1	-389.5	-376.8	-449.7

* 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)	Feb.	123.2	0.1	-0.4	0.3	2.3
ISM manufacturing index (1)	March	51.8	49.5	48.0	50.0	52.3
ISM non-manufacturing index (1)	March*	54.5	53.4	55.8	56.7	56.9
Cons. confidence Conf. Board (1985 = 100) (1)	March	96.2	94.0	96.3	102.6	101.4
Cons. confidence Michigan (1966 = 100) (1)	March	91.0	91.7	92.6	87.2	93.0
Personal consumption expenditure (2009 \$B)	Feb.	11,378	0.2	0.4	1.0	2.8
Disposable personal income (2009 \$B)	Feb.	12,464	0.3	0.9	1.4	2.7
Consumer credit (\$B)	Feb.*	3,568	0.5	1.1	2.8	6.6
Retail sales (\$M)	Feb.	447,308	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	3.1
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	Feb.	352,997	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	2.1
Industrial production (2007 = 100)	Feb.	104.2	-0.5	-0.3	-1.3	-1.6
Production capacity utilization rate (%) (1)	Feb.	75.4	75.8	75.7	76.7	77.7
New machinery orders (\$M)	Feb.*	453,956	-1.7	-3.4	-3.6	-3.0
New durable good orders (\$M)	Feb.	229,118	-3.0	-3.5	-2.1	1.7
Business inventories (\$B)	Jan.	1,812	0.1	-0.0	0.1	1.8
Housing starts (K) (1)	Feb.	1,178	1,120	1,176	1,116	900.0
Building permits (K) (1)	Feb.	1,177	1,204	1,282	1,161	1,098
New home sales (K) (1)	Feb.	512.0	502.0	511.0	507.0	545.0
Existing home sales (K) (1)	Feb.	5,080	5,470	4,860	5,290	4,970
Construction spending (\$B)	Feb.	1,144	-0.5	2.4	2.0	10.3
Commercial surplus (\$M) (1)	Feb.*	-47,060	-45,882	-43,571	-50,544	-38,550
Nonfarm employment (K) (2)	March	143,774	215.0	628.0	1,474	2,802
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	March	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.5
Consumer price (1982-1984 = 100)	Feb.	237.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	1.0
Excluding food and energy	Feb.	245.9	0.3	0.7	1.3	2.3
Personal cons. expenditure deflator (2009 = 100)	Feb.	109.8	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	1.0
Excluding food and energy	Feb.	110.6	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.7
Producer price (2009 = 100)	Feb.	109.6	-0.2	-0.3	-0.6	0.0
Excluding food and energy	Feb.	109.7	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.1
Export prices (2000 = 100)	Feb.	118.3	-0.4	-2.3	-3.8	-6.0
Import prices (2000 = 100)	Feb.	117.8	-0.3	-2.5	-4.4	-6.1

* 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	2015	2014	2013	2012
Gross domestic product (2007 \$M)	2015 Q4	1,775,743	0.8	0.5	1.2	2.5	2.2	1.7
Household consumption (2007 \$M)	2015 Q4	1,004,848	1.0	1.4	1.9	2.6	2.4	1.9
Government consumption (2007 \$M)	2015 Q4	345,955	1.5	1.9	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.7
Residential investment (2007 \$M)	2015 Q4	122,075	1.8	2.9	3.9	2.5	-0.4	5.6
Non-residential investment (2007 \$M)	2015 Q4	168,104	-12.4	-13.8	-8.8	0.0	2.5	8.6
Business inventory change (2007 \$M) (1)	2015 Q4	-4,017	---	---	4,550	9,869	15,476	6,159
Exports (2007 \$M)	2015 Q4	575,472	-2.2	1.9	3.0	5.3	2.8	2.6
Imports (2007 \$M)	2015 Q4	560,609	-8.9	-3.2	0.1	1.8	1.5	3.6
Final domestic demand (2007 \$M)	2015 Q4	1,755,910	-0.6	-0.5	0.5	1.6	1.3	2.4
GDP deflator (2007 = 100)	2015 Q4	112.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	1.7	1.6	1.3
Labour productivity (2007 = 100)	2015 Q4	106.4	0.4	-1.1	-0.2	2.5	1.3	-0.4
Unit labour cost (2007 = 100)	2015 Q4	115.8	3.2	2.1	1.6	1.1	1.7	3.2
Current account balance (\$M) (1)	2015 Q4	-15,379	---	---	-65,714	-44,894	-59,665	-65,680
Production capacity utilization rate (%) (1)	2015 Q4	81.1	---	---	81.3	82.3	80.8	81.0
Disposable personal income (\$M)	2015 Q4	1,131,400	2.2	3.4	3.9	3.0	4.8	4.1
Corporate net operating surplus (2007 \$M)	2015 Q4	221,036	-19.4	-18.6	-15.2	7.0	0.8	-5.3

* 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)	Jan.	1,670,864	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.5
Industrial production (2007 \$M)	Jan.	358,227	1.6	2.6	1.0	0.7
Manufacturing sales (\$M)	Jan.	53,131	2.3	5.3	2.1	5.6
Housing starts (K) (1)	March*	204.3	219.1	172.6	233.3	190.7
Building permits (\$M)	Feb.*	7,386	15.5	12.6	-1.5	10.2
Retail sales (\$M)	Jan.	44,173	2.1	1.5	1.9	6.4
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	Jan.	32,559	1.2	0.4	0.1	3.4
Wholesale trade sales (\$M)	Jan.	57,049	-0.0	3.8	3.1	5.9
Commercial surplus (\$M) (1)	Feb.*	-1,907.7	-628.3	-1,896	-2,384	-1,778
Exports (\$M)	Feb.*	43,675	-5.4	0.2	-1.9	2.1
Imports (\$M)	Feb.*	45,583	-2.6	0.2	-2.8	2.3
Employment (K) (2)	March*	18,044	40.6	10.9	10.9	10.8
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	March*	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.1	6.8
Average weekly earnings (\$)	Jan.	952.9	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1	0.4
Number of salaried employees (K) (2)	Jan.	15,866	-10.2	10.1	12.1	11.3
Consumer price (2002 = 100)	Feb.	127.1	0.2	0.0	-0.2	1.4
Excluding food and energy	Feb.	122.3	0.6	0.3	0.7	1.7
Excluding 8 volatile items	Feb.	127.1	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.9
Industrial product price (2002 = 100)	Feb.	108.9	-1.1	-0.9	-2.2	-1.4
Raw materials price (2002 = 100)	Feb.	81.4	-2.6	-8.0	-10.0	-15.1
Money supply M1+ (\$M)	Feb.	829,538	0.8	2.1	3.9	8.9

* 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 (%)		
	April 8	April 1	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
United States									
Federal funds – target	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.33	0.25
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.22	0.23	0.32	0.20	0.01	0.02	0.35	0.12	-0.02
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.71	0.78	0.97	1.02	0.62	0.56	1.08	0.74	0.49
– 5 years	1.16	1.23	1.48	1.56	1.40	1.40	1.79	1.49	1.11
– 10 years	1.72	1.79	1.98	2.12	2.09	1.95	2.48	2.12	1.64
– 30 years	2.55	2.60	2.75	2.91	2.92	2.58	3.24	2.89	2.51
S&P 500 index	2,050	2,073	2,022	1,922	2,015	2,102	2,131	2,032	1,829
DJIA index	17,589	17,793	17,213	16,346	17,084	18,058	18,312	17,297	15,660
Gold price (US\$/ounce)	1,240	1,212	1,258	1,103	1,158	1,207	1,271	1,151	1,052
CRB index	170.56	168.03	173.53	168.58	202.69	217.12	231.77	193.38	155.01
WTI oil (US\$/barrel)	39.55	36.78	38.51	33.20	49.67	51.63	61.36	44.55	26.19
Canada									
Overnight – target	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.56	0.50
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.47	0.45	0.47	0.44	0.41	0.59	0.68	0.48	0.32
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.56	0.54	0.59	0.42	0.56	0.53	0.71	0.52	0.29
– 5 years	0.69	0.70	0.81	0.64	0.87	0.79	1.13	0.80	0.48
– 10 years	1.21	1.24	1.36	1.30	1.52	1.37	1.91	1.47	1.00
– 30 years	1.93	2.01	2.12	2.06	2.32	2.04	2.48	2.18	1.82
Spread with the U.S. rate (% points)									
Overnight – target	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.23	0.00
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.25	0.22	0.15	0.24	0.40	0.57	0.67	0.36	0.06
Treasury bonds – 2 years	-0.15	-0.24	-0.38	-0.60	-0.06	-0.03	0.13	-0.22	-0.64
– 5 years	-0.47	-0.53	-0.67	-0.92	-0.53	-0.61	-0.39	-0.69	-1.00
– 10 years	-0.51	-0.55	-0.62	-0.82	-0.57	-0.58	-0.36	-0.65	-0.90
– 30 years	-0.62	-0.59	-0.63	-0.85	-0.60	-0.54	-0.50	-0.70	-0.90
S&P/TSX index	13,395	13,440	13,522	12,445	13,964	15,388	15,451	13,778	11,843
Exchange rate (C\$/US\$)	1.3002	1.3012	1.3210	1.4170	1.2944	1.2562	1.4579	1.3112	0.7691
Exchange rate (C\$/€)	1.4826	1.4817	1.4733	1.5490	1.4701	1.3321	1.5903	1.4500	0.8768
Overseas									
ECB – Refinancing rate	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00
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	0.07	-0.10
Germany: Bonds – 10 years	0.09	0.14	0.28	0.51	0.62	0.16	0.99	0.52	0.08
U.K.: Bonds – 10 years	1.36	1.42	1.58	1.76	1.86	1.62	2.19	1.81	1.28
Euro: Exchange rate (US\$/€)	1.1400	1.1388	1.1153	1.0932	1.1358	1.0604	1.1620	1.1062	1.0565
U.K.: Exchange rate (US\$/£)	1.4091	1.4227	1.4388	1.4520	1.5304	1.4632	1.5884	1.5066	1.3871

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.