

## U.S. economy: 2016 gets off to a slow start

### HIGHLIGHTS

- United States: Another weak first quarter for real GDP.
- Federal Reserve: Still some doubt about a key rate hike in June.
- Canada: Real GDP by industry fell 0.1% in February.

### A LOOK AHEAD

- Another good month of hiring is expected in the United States.
- United States: The manufacturing ISM should tick up.
- Canada: The trade balance could improve somewhat in March.
- Canada: Modest job growth is expected for April.

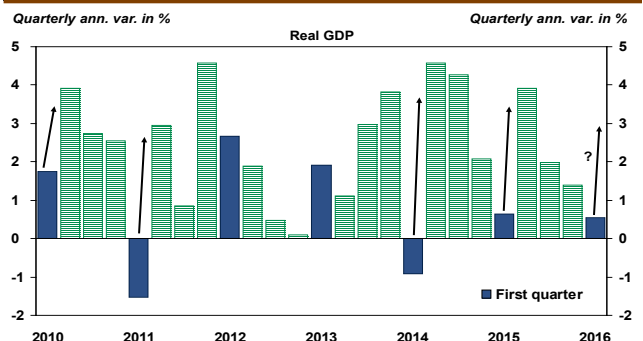
### FINANCIAL MARKETS

- A sour end of April for stock markets.
- The yield uptrend is over.
- The Canadian dollar reaches the US\$0.80 mark.

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**Graph of the week – In recent years, first quarters have been weaker in the United States**



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis 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](mailto:desjardins.economics@desjardins.com)

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

- Real GDP rose an annualized 0.5% in the first quarter of 2016, according to the advance estimate of the national accounts. It is the weakest real GDP growth in two years. Real consumption went up 1.9%. Consumption of durable goods has contracted (-1.6%) for the first time since spring 2011. Non-residential business investment fell for a second straight quarter. International trade also made a negative contribution to growth. Government expenditures increased 1.2% last fall, despite a 1.6% pullback in federal spending. State and municipal spending went up 2.9%.
- The Federal Reserve (Fed) kept the target range for the federal funds rate at 0.25% to 0.50%, but has decided to remain vague about its intentions. The press release published Wednesday does not rule out a rate hike in June, but nor does it open the door any further. If the indicators point to a spring rebound by growth and if the nearing British referendum on membership in the European Union does not generate too much turmoil, an increase in key interest rates in June is still in the cards.
- According to the Conference Board index, consumer confidence eroded in April. The index went from 96.1 to 94.2, nearly reaching February's level of 94.0. Bigger than the consensus expected, the decline comes entirely from the household expectations component.
- The S&P/Case-Shiller index of existing home prices in the 20 largest cities posted a monthly increase of 0.7%, slightly below the average growth of 0.8% for the three previous months. The index's annual change went from 5.7% to 5.4%.
- Sales of new single-family dwellings retreated for a third straight month in March. This time, they retreated 1.5%, taking sales from February's 519,000 units to 511,000 last month.
- New durable goods orders gained a modest 0.8% in March after dropping 3.1% in February. The aviation industry jumped 13.2%, primarily due to military orders. Excluding transportation, orders were down 0.2%, coming in below expectations. Excluding defence and aviation, new capital goods orders were flat after sliding 2.7% in February.

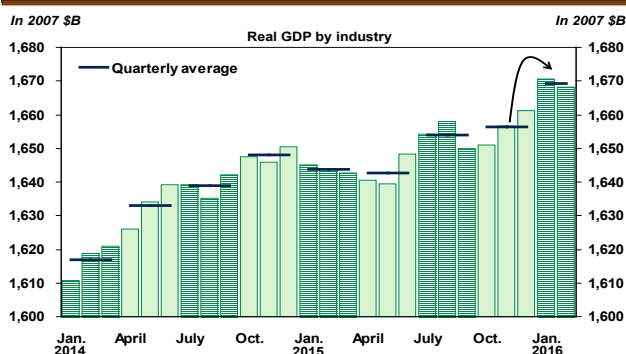
**Francis Généreux**  
Senior Economist

### CANADA

- Real GDP by industry fell 0.1% in February. This slight drop is not a concern. Some slower performance often happens when previous months have seen sustained growth. Note that January showed a gain of 0.6%, and that the final months of 2015 posted sustained output growth. From September 2015 to January 2016, real GDP growth by industry stood at an annualized 3.8%. After two months, the carryover for the first quarter of 2016 is 3.1% (annualized), meaning that our scenario of a 3.5% rise over the quarter remains realistic.
- The industrial product price index fell 0.6% in March. The increase in gas prices (+5.2%) was offset by a substantial decline in prices for other goods (-1.3%). However, the commodity price index went up 4.5% on a 14.3% increase in prices for crude energy products.
- Payrolls declined 0.2% in February, for a loss of 34,300 jobs. This result is more negative than the one yielded by the labour force survey by excluding self-employed workers (-5,200). The annual change in average weekly wages went from 0.1% to 0.4%. This sluggish rise does not augur well for consumer spending in the coming months.

**Benoit P. Durocher**  
Senior Economist

**Canada – Growth for Q1 2016 could be in the neighbourhood of 3.5%**



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

# FINANCIAL MARKETS

## The markets remain unconvinced that the Federal Reserve will raise its rates in June

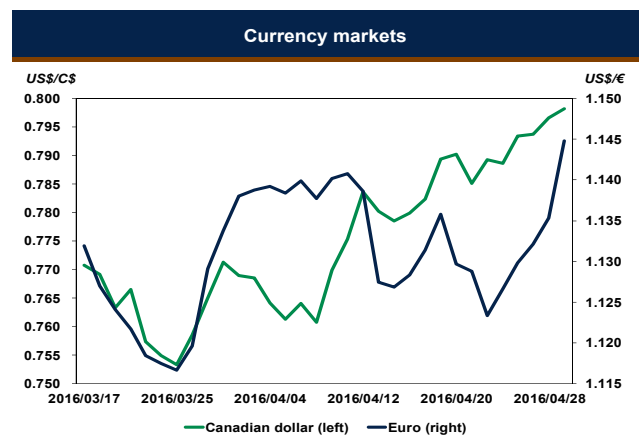
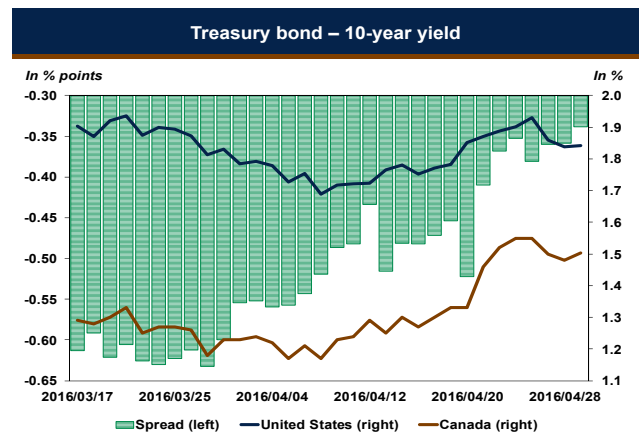
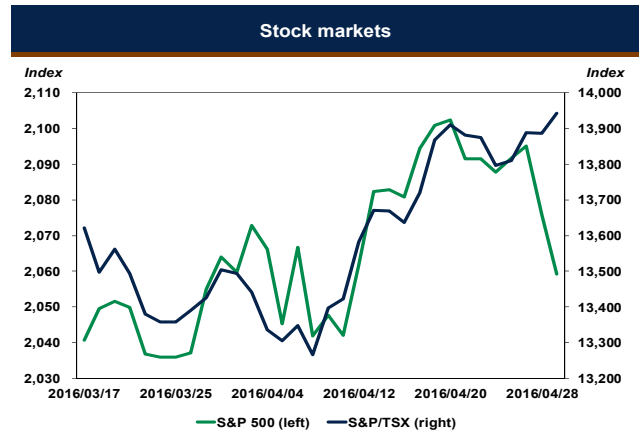
Announcements from the Federal Reserve (Fed) and Bank of Japan (BoJ) were the main highlights of the week. Refusing to commit itself as to the decision to be made at the June meeting, the Fed put less stress on the risks pertaining to the global economic and financial environment. The BoJ, for its part, surprised on Thursday when it maintained the status quo. Global stock markets seemed to have a hard time digesting the idea that two major central banks could take a tone that was immediately interpreted as being less dovish. For the global indexes, the Thursday and Friday sessions were tougher. Meanwhile, oil prices kept going up, rising above US\$46 on Friday and helping the Canadian stock market outperform.

After the Fed opted to keep the suspense going, the president of the Dallas Fed stated on Friday morning that markets were overestimating the amount of time to the next tightening move. Nevertheless, futures on federal funds are pricing in only a 14% chance of a rate increase in June. The U.S. 10-year yield almost reached 1.94% on Tuesday, then tumbled to 1.85% on Friday. Canadian short-term yields were under slight upside pressure. Bank of Canada (BoC) Governor Stephen Poloz suggested that it would take a major shock for the BoC to decide to increase monetary stimulus. GDP falling less than expected also favoured the trend.

The Fed's lack of clarity about moving ahead with monetary firming and the weak economic growth posted in the first quarter in the United States hurt the greenback, allowing the euro to climb back above US\$1.14. The pound crossed the US\$1.46 mark. Recent surveys showing a little more support for keeping the United Kingdom in the European Union helped the British pound. The yen shot up overnight from Wednesday to Thursday, as the BoJ did not announce any new measures and seemed in no rush to do so. The Canadian dollar hit US\$0.80 on Friday. In addition to the greenback's weakness, the advance in oil prices is giving the loonie some support.

**Jimmy Jean**  
Senior Economist

**Hendrix Vachon**  
Senior Economist



# A LOOK AHEAD



## UNITED STATES

### Monday May 2 - 10:00

<b>April</b>	
Consensus	51.5
Desjardins	52.2
<b>March</b>	<b>51.8</b>

**ISM manufacturing index (April)** – For the first time since the end of summer 2015, the manufacturing ISM is above the 50 mark. It gained 2.3 points in March and we expect another increase, though not as big, in April. The regional manufacturing indexes posted contradictory results in April, with the Philadelphia Fed index dropping back below zero and the New York Fed index jumping to its highest point since January 2015. We nonetheless expect the ISM manufacturing index to go above 52.0.

### Wednesday May 4 - 8:30

<b>March</b>	US\$B
Consensus	-42.5
Desjardins	-40.7
<b>February</b>	<b>-47.1</b>

**Trade balance (March)** – For a third month in a row, the trade balance eroded in February, going from -US\$45.8B to -US\$47.1B. Based on the preliminary numbers for merchandise trade released for March, we can, however, expect the deficit to improve substantially for March. The preliminary data shows a much bigger drop by nominal imports (-4.4%) than exports (-1.7%). The deficit could retreat to US\$40.7B, making it the best trade balance since February 2015.

### Wednesday May 4 - 10:00

<b>April</b>	
Consensus	54.7
Desjardins	54.5
<b>March</b>	<b>54.5</b>

**ISM non-manufacturing index (April)** – Relatively stable from January to February, the ISM non-manufacturing index gained 1.1 points to go from 53.4 to 54.5, its first increase of note since October 2015. We expect it to stay put in April, at 54.5. The mixed numbers on housing and consumer confidence point in this direction.

### Friday May 6 - 8:30

<b>April</b>	
Consensus	203,000
Desjardins	225,000
<b>March</b>	<b>215,000</b>

**Job creation according to the establishment survey (April)** – The U.S. job market is still performing well. It created 245,000 jobs in February, and added 215,000 more in March. We can expect another strong gain for April. Weekly jobless claims fell to their lowest point since 1973 during this period. Consumer confidence in the current job market also seems to have improved, according to the Conference Board survey. Job creation is forecast to accelerate slightly to 225,000 new jobs in April. After rising 0.1 percentage points in March, the unemployment rate should stay at 5.0%. However, we can expect slightly slower monthly growth for average hourly wages than the 0.3% rise posted in March.

### Friday May 6 - 15:00

<b>March</b>	US\$B
Consensus	16.000
Desjardins	24.000
<b>February</b>	<b>17.217</b>

**Consumer credit (March)** – Growth by consumer credit improved slightly from January to February, going from a monthly gain of US\$14.9B to US\$17.2B. We expect it to keep accelerating in March. The result should beat US\$20B and near levels closer to the weekly results for bank credit. Consumer credit growth should rise to US\$24B.


**CANADA**


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**International merchandise trade (March)** – Once seasonally adjusted and expressed in Canadian dollars, the commodity price index went up 6.8% in March. Energy prices were up 17.2% (for the first time since October), while non-energy products fell 1.8%. A substantial increase in the value of exports should therefore boost Canada's total trade. In contrast, weak non-residential investment should once again lead to modest growth by imports. All in all, the trade balance is expected to improve slightly.

**Labour Force Survey (April)** – 40,600 jobs were created in March, and the pace of labour market growth should moderate in April. A gain of about 10,000 jobs is expected, which would keep the trend compatible with the production growth seen in recent months. The unemployment rate could stay at 7.1%.


**OVERSEAS**


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**Euro zone: Retail sales (March)** – Although the consumer confidence index is trending down and economic growth remains modest overall, Euroland's retail sales are doing better. February's 0.2% gain constitutes the fourth straight increase. However, the 1.1% contraction by German retail sales is a downside risk for March, although it is offset by a 0.2% increase in French consumption for the same month.

**Wednesday May 4 - 8:30**

<b>March</b>	\$B
Consensus	-1.30
Desjardins	-1.20
<b>February</b>	<b>-1.91</b>

**Friday May 6 - 8:30**


<b>April</b>	
Consensus	5,000
Desjardins	10,000
<b>March</b>	<b>40,600</b>

**Wednesday May 4 - 5:00**

<b>March</b>	m/m
Consensus	-0.1%
<b>February</b>	<b>0.2%</b>

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS


## Week of May 2 to 6, 2016

Day	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
<b>SUNDAY 1</b>	19:15	Speech of the New York Fed President, W. Dudley				
<b>MONDAY 2</b>	8:50	Speech of the Atlanta Fed President, D. Lockhart				
	10:00	Construction spending (m/m)	March	0.5%	0.0%	-0.5%
	10:00	ISM manufacturing index	April	51.5	52.2	51.8
	17:30	Speech of the San Francisco Fed President, J. Williams				
<b>TUESDAY 3</b>	---	Total vehicle sales (ann. rate)	April	17,300,000	17,100,000	16,460,000
	10:30	Speech of the Cleveland Fed President, L. Mester				
	19:00	Speech of the Atlanta Fed President, D. Lockhart				
<b>WEDNESDAY 4</b>	8:30	Trade balance – Goods and services (US\$B)	March	-42.5	-40.7	-47.1
	8:30	Nonfarm productivity – preliminary (ann. rate)	Q1	-1.4%	-1.3%	-2.2%
	8:30	Unit labor costs – preliminary (ann. rate)	Q1	2.9%	2.0%	3.3%
	10:00	ISM non-manufacturing index	April	54.7	54.5	54.5
	10:00	Factory orders (m/m)	March	0,6%	0,3%	-1,7%
	18:30	Speech of the Minneapolis Fed President, N. Kashkari				
<b>THURSDAY 5</b>	8:30	Initial unemployment claims	April 25-29	263,000	258,000	257,000
	11:30	Speech of the St. Louis Fed President, J. Bullard				
	19:15	Speeches of the St. Louis Fed President, J. Bullard, the Dallas Fed President, R. Kaplan, the Atlanta Fed President, D. Lockhart, and the San Francisco Fed President, J. Williams				
<b>FRIDAY 6</b>	8:30	Change in nonfarm payrolls	April	203,000	225,000	215,000
	8:30	Unemployment rate	April	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
	8:30	Weekly worked hours	April	34.5	34.5	34.4
	8:30	Average weekly earnings (m/m)	April	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
	15:00	Consumer credit (US\$B)	March	16.000	24.000	17.217




## CANADA

<b>MONDAY 2</b>	---	---				
<b>TUESDAY 3</b>	12:30	Speech of the Bank of Canada Governor, S. Poloz				
<b>WEDNESDAY 4</b>	8:30	International trade (\$B)	March	-1.30	-1.20	-1.91
<b>THURSDAY 5</b>	8:30	Building permits (m/m)	March	-4.8%	-3.0%	15.5%
<b>FRIDAY 6</b>	8:30	Net change in employment	April	5,000	10,000	40,600
	8:30	Unemployment rate	April	7.2%	7.1%	7.1%
	10:00	PMI-Ivey index	April	n/a	51.0	50.1
	11:00	Speech of a Bank of Canada Deputy Governor, L. Schembri				

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 2 to 6, 2016

Country	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data		
				m/m (q/q)	y/y	m/m (q/q)	y/y	
 <b>OVERSEAS</b>								
<b>MONDAY 2</b>								
Japan	1:00	Vehicle sales	April		n/a			-3.2%
Italy	3:45	PMI manufacturing index	April	53.0		53.5		
France	3:50	PMI manufacturing index – final	April	48.3		48.3		
Germany	3:55	PMI manufacturing index – final	April	51.9		51.9		
Euro zone	4:00	PMI manufacturing index – final	April	51.5		51.5		
<b>TUESDAY 3</b>								
Australia	0:30	Reserve Bank of Australia meeting	May	2.00%		2.00%		
United Kingdom	4:30	PMI manufacturing index	April	51.2		51.0		
Euro zone	5:00	Producer price index	March	0.0%	-4.3%	-0.7%		-4.2%
<b>WEDNESDAY 4</b>								
France	2:45	Trade balance (€M)	March	-4,200		-5,177		
France	2:45	Current account (€B)	March	n/a		-3.9		
Italy	3:45	PMI composite index	April	n/a		52.4		
Italy	3:45	PMI services index	April	51.9		51.2		
France	3:50	PMI composite index – final	April	50.5		50.5		
France	3:50	PMI services index – final	April	50.8		50.8		
Germany	3:55	PMI composite index – final	April	53.8		53.8		
Germany	3:55	PMI services index – final	April	54.6		54.6		
Euro zone	4:00	PMI composite index – final	April	53.0		53.0		
Euro zone	4:00	PMI services index – final	April	53.2		53.2		
United Kingdom	4:30	PMI construction index	April	54.0		54.2		
Euro zone	5:00	Retail sales	March	-0.1%	2.6%	0.2%		2.4%
<b>THURSDAY 5</b>								
United Kingdom	4:30	PMI composite index	April	53.2		53.6		
United Kingdom	4:30	PMI services index	April	53.5		53.7		
Mexico	14:00	Bank of Mexico meeting	May	3.75%		3.75%		
Australia	21:30	Reserve Bank of Australia Statement on Monetary Policy						
<b>FRIDAY 6</b>								
Germany	3:30	PMI construction index – final	April	n/a		55.8		

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)	2016 Q1*	16,493	0.5	1.9	2.4	2.4	1.5	2.2
Consumption (2009 \$B)	2016 Q1*	11,383	1.9	2.7	3.1	2.7	1.7	1.5
Government spending (2009 \$B)	2016 Q1*	2,879	1.2	1.4	0.7	-0.6	-2.9	-1.9
Residential investment (2009 \$B)	2016 Q1*	566.7	14.9	10.6	8.9	1.8	9.5	13.5
Non-residential investment (2009 \$B)	2016 Q1*	2,180	-5.8	-0.4	2.8	6.2	3.0	9.0
Business inventory change (2009 \$B) (1)	2016 Q1*	60.9	---	---	97.5	68.0	61.4	54.7
Exports (2009 \$B)	2016 Q1*	2,097	-2.6	0.3	1.1	3.4	2.8	3.4
Imports (2009 \$B)	2016 Q1*	2,663	0.2	1.2	4.9	3.8	1.0	2.2
Final domestic demand (2009 \$B)	2016 Q1*	16,990	1.2	2.4	2.8	2.5	1.2	1.9
GDP deflator (2009 = 100)	2016 Q1*	110.5	0.7	1.3	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)	2016 Q1*	126.0	2.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9
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)	March	123.4	0.2	0.0	0.7	2.2
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)	April*	94.2	96.1	97.8	99.1	94.3
Cons. confidence Michigan (1966 = 100) (1)	April	89.0	91.0	92.0	90.0	95.9
Personal consumption expenditure (2009 \$B)	March*	11,397	0.0	0.3	0.9	2.6
Disposable personal income (2009 \$B)	March*	12,482	0.3	0.7	1.3	3.1
Consumer credit (\$B)	Feb.	3,568	0.5	1.1	2.8	6.6
Retail sales (\$M)	March	447,498	-0.4	-0.7	0.1	1.6
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	March	356,855	0.1	-0.2	0.6	1.7
Industrial production (2007 = 100)	March	103.4	-0.6	-0.7	-1.8	-2.0
Production capacity utilization rate (%) (1)	March	74.8	75.3	75.4	76.4	77.3
New machinery orders (\$M)	Feb.	453,956	-1.7	-3.4	-3.6	-3.0
New durable good orders (\$M)	March*	230,651	0.8	1.9	-0.6	-2.5
Business inventories (\$B)	Feb.	1,812	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	1.2
Housing starts (K) (1)	March	1,089	1,194	1,159	1,207	954.0
Building permits (K) (1)	March	1,076	1,177	1,204	1,105	1,038
New home sales (K) (1)	March*	511.0	519.0	537.0	457.0	485.0
Existing home sales (K) (1)	March	5,330	5,070	5,450	5,440	5,250
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)	March	237.9	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.9
Excluding food and energy	March	246.1	0.1	0.6	1.2	2.2
Personal cons. expenditure deflator (2009 = 100)	March*	109.9	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.8
Excluding food and energy	March*	110.7	0.1	0.5	0.8	1.6
Producer price (2009 = 100)	March	109.5	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1
Excluding food and energy	March	109.6	-0.1	0.3	0.5	1.0
Export prices (2000 = 100)	March	118.2	0.0	-1.3	-3.4	-6.1
Import prices (2000 = 100)	March	117.5	0.2	-1.5	-3.6	-6.2

\* 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)	Feb.*	1,668,157	-0.1	0.7	0.6	1.5
Industrial production (2007 \$M)	Feb.*	356,876	-0.7	1.1	-0.4	0.9
Manufacturing sales (\$M)	Feb.	51,192	-3.3	0.5	-0.8	3.9
Housing starts (K) (1)	March	204.6	219.4	172.6	233.3	190.7
Building permits (\$M)	Feb.	7,386	15.5	12.6	-1.5	10.2
Retail sales (\$M)	Feb.	44,156	0.4	0.5	2.0	5.6
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	Feb.	32,631	0.2	-0.2	0.2	2.6
Wholesale trade sales (\$M)	Feb.	55,773	-2.2	-0.3	0.9	4.1
Commercial surplus (\$M) (1)	Feb.	-1,908	-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 (\$)	Feb.*	953.8	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.4
Number of salaried employees (K) (2)	Feb.*	15,811	-34.3	-7.8	10.9	6.8
Consumer price (2002 = 100)	March	127.9	0.6	1.1	0.6	1.3
Excluding food and energy	March	123.1	0.7	1.5	1.0	1.7
Excluding 8 volatile items	March	128.0	0.7	1.5	1.1	2.1
Industrial product price (2002 = 100)	March*	108.3	-0.6	-1.2	-2.3	-2.1
Raw materials price (2002 = 100)	March*	85.5	4.5	2.0	-7.7	-9.7
Money supply M1+ (\$M)	March*	830,792	0.2	1.9	3.1	8.4

\* 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 29	April 22	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-1 year	Higher	Average	Lower
<b>United States</b>									
Federal funds – target	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.34	0.25
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.20	0.23	0.23	0.32	0.08	0.01	0.35	0.13	-0.02
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.79	0.83	0.78	0.79	0.74	0.60	1.08	0.76	0.54
– 5 years	1.30	1.36	1.23	1.33	1.51	1.50	1.79	1.49	1.11
– 10 years	1.84	1.89	1.79	1.93	2.15	2.11	2.48	2.11	1.64
– 30 years	2.70	2.70	2.60	2.76	2.92	2.83	3.24	2.89	2.51
S&P 500 index	2,059	2,092	2,073	1,940	2,079	2,108	2,131	2,031	1,829
DJIA index	17,706	18,004	17,793	16,466	17,664	18,024	18,312	17,291	15,660
Gold price (US\$/ounce)	1,295	1,242	1,212	1,117	1,141	1,173	1,295	1,154	1,052
CRB index	184.49	179.65	168.03	166.75	195.61	227.95	231.77	190.77	155.01
WTI oil (US\$/barrel)	46.24	42.76	36.78	33.66	46.60	59.10	61.36	43.76	26.19
<b>Canada</b>									
Overnight – target	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.55	0.50
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.56	0.56	0.45	0.46	0.42	0.66	0.68	0.48	0.32
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.69	0.68	0.54	0.42	0.58	0.71	0.71	0.52	0.29
– 5 years	0.87	0.89	0.70	0.67	0.88	1.05	1.13	0.80	0.48
– 10 years	1.50	1.52	1.24	1.22	1.54	1.66	1.91	1.46	1.00
– 30 years	2.08	2.08	2.01	2.04	2.30	2.24	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	0.21	0.00
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.36	0.33	0.22	0.14	0.34	0.65	0.67	0.34	0.06
Treasury bonds – 2 years	-0.10	-0.15	-0.24	-0.37	-0.16	0.11	0.13	-0.23	-0.64
– 5 years	-0.43	-0.47	-0.53	-0.66	-0.63	-0.45	-0.39	-0.69	-1.00
– 10 years	-0.34	-0.37	-0.55	-0.71	-0.61	-0.45	-0.34	-0.65	-0.90
– 30 years	-0.62	-0.62	-0.59	-0.72	-0.62	-0.59	-0.53	-0.71	-0.90
S&P/TSX index	13,943	13,874	13,440	12,822	13,529	15,340	15,367	13,686	11,843
Exchange rate (C\$/US\$)	1.2528	1.2670	1.3012	1.3973	1.3078	1.2159	1.4579	1.3143	0.7982
Exchange rate (C\$/€)	1.4341	1.4233	1.4817	1.5142	1.4393	1.3620	1.5903	1.4568	0.9138
<b>Overseas</b>									
ECB – Refinancing rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	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	0.06	-0.10
Germany: Bonds – 10 years	0.28	0.23	0.14	0.27	0.52	0.36	0.99	0.53	0.09
U.K.: Bonds – 10 years	1.61	1.60	1.42	1.57	1.92	1.85	2.19	1.80	1.28
Euro: Exchange rate (US\$/€)	1.1448	1.1234	1.1388	1.0837	1.1006	1.1202	1.1620	1.1089	1.0565
U.K.: Exchange rate (US\$/£)	1.4658	1.4403	1.4227	1.4248	1.5429	1.5141	1.5884	1.5027	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.