

Better economic data in the United States

HIGHLIGHTS

- United States: Retail sales post an encouraging rebound.
- U.S. consumer confidence goes up in May.
- Canada: Investment intentions remain negative for 2016.
- Canada: Housing starts retreated in April.

A LOOK AHEAD

- Gas should contribute to an increase by the U.S. consumer price index.
- Canada: Manufacturing, wholesale and retail sales could lose ground in March.
- Canada: The total annual inflation rate could close in on the mid-point target (2%).

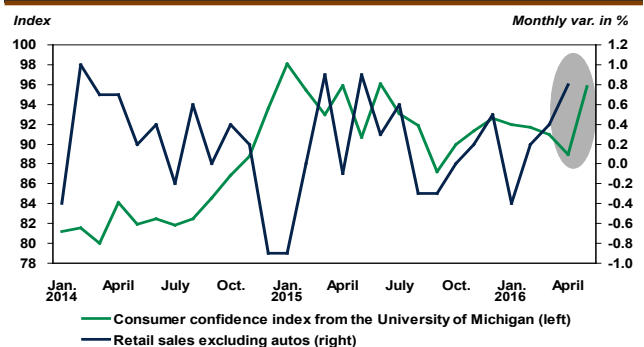
FINANCIAL MARKETS

- Oil prices remain volatile.
- The Bank of Canada is in no rush to deploy non-conventional measures.
- Another week of gains for the greenback.

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 – U.S. consumers seem to be waking



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, University of Michigan 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 jumped 1.3% in April on the heels of March's 0.3% slide. Auto sales went up 3.2%. Excluding automobiles, sales advanced 0.8%. Other noteworthy increases include those by nonstore retailers, clothing boutiques and grocery stores. The value of service station sales went up 2.2%. Excluding autos and gas, sales went up 0.6%, after a much smaller 0.2% gain. Sales at renovation centres went down after posting two months of good growth. April's retail sales performance is reassuring news for the strength of the U.S. economy and indicates a possible rebound by consumption and real GDP in the second quarter.
- Consumer confidence improved in May according to the preliminary version of the University of Michigan index, which went from 89.0 in April to 95.8 in May, its highest point since June 2015. The gain primarily stems from the household expectations component, which went from 77.6 to 87.5. We have not seen a 1-month jump this big since September 2006. The current situation component rose from 106.7 to 108.6.
- Prices indexes released for April did not, in general, go up as much as forecast. Import prices rose just 0.3%, although the forecast consensus was for an increase of 0.6%. As for production prices, the 0.2% uptick was smaller than the 0.3% advance anticipated.
- Business inventories increased 0.4% in March, though the consensus was calling for a 0.2% gain. The manufacturing (+0.2%) and wholesaling (+0.1%) sectors participated in the growth, but the gain mainly comes from retailers, where inventories went up 1.0%. Among other things, car dealer inventories jumped 2.3%.
- After falling to a 1973 low in April, weekly jobless claims have come up in the last few weeks. Last week, they went from 274,000 to 294,000.

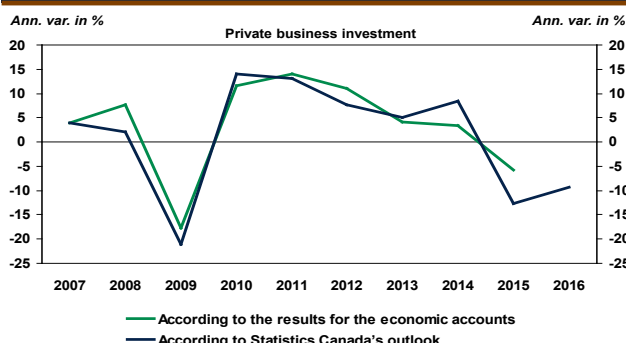
Francis Généreux
Senior Economist

CANADA

- According to Statistics Canada's survey of investment intentions, capital spending will decline 4.4% in 2016, on the heels of 2015's 7.2% drop. Private sector investment is forecast to decrease by 9.3% in 2016. Among other areas, major declines are anticipated in mining and oil and gas extraction (-23.1%), manufacturing (-10.9%), administrative services (-16.8%), and accommodation and food services (-9.7%). However, public sector investment is expected to increase (+6.5%). As in 2015, the anticipated decline by business capital spending will make a negative contribution to economic growth in 2016.
- Housing starts went from 202,400 units in March to 191,500 in April. The decline is primarily focused in Ontario (-24,600) and, to a lesser extent, Quebec (-2,100). Together, the eight other provinces are up 15,800 units. The decline affects all of Canada's market segments, including single-family dwellings and multi-unit housing in urban areas, and all housing in rural areas.
- According to the provinces' results for real GDP by industry, Alberta's economy fell 4.0% in 2015. The other oil-producing provinces struggled too, with Newfoundland and Labrador retreating 2.2%, and Saskatchewan seeing a 1.4% decline. All of the other provinces saw real production rise in 2015. Ontario (+2.5%) and British Columbia (+3.0%) stand out with the strongest growth in the country.

Benoit P. Durocher
Senior Economist

Canada – Non-residential investment by business will once again drop substantially in 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

FINANCIAL MARKETS

A June interest rate increase still likely in the United States

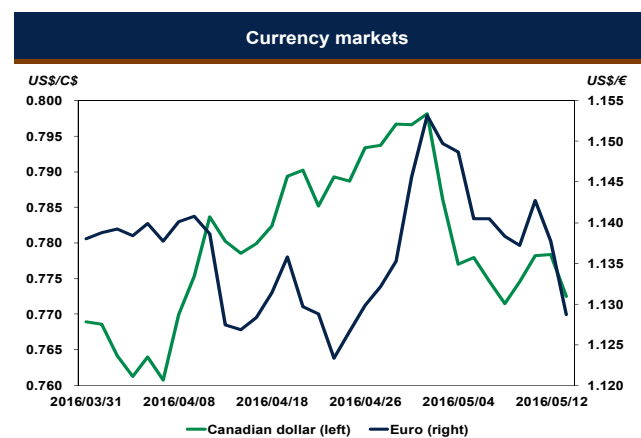
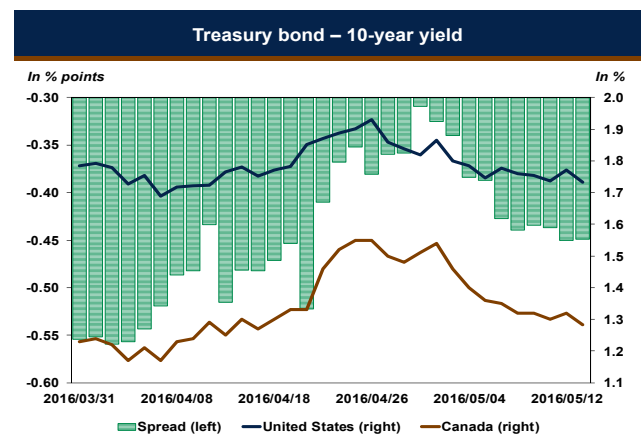
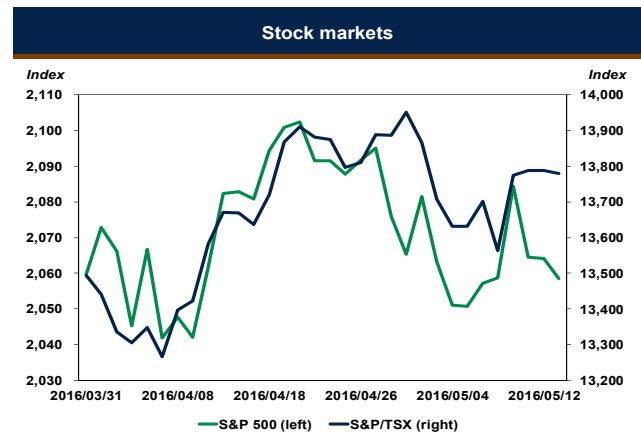
Fairly quiet week for the stock markets. Big swings were primarily seen in oil prices per barrel. Oil prices started the week at US\$46, fell to US\$43 on Tuesday, then began to climb, even temporarily going to US\$47 on Thursday. The much bigger than anticipated decline in U.S. crude inventories powered the upswing. Boosted by oil prices and announcements that Alberta oil production would soon be back on line, the S&P/TSX made gains mid-week. It did relatively well compared with most of the global indexes. The S&P 500 started well, but ran into some difficulties toward the end of the week. Even the encouraging retail sales numbers failed to fan optimism.

Federal Reserve leaders keep on sending signals. Three voting members of the monetary policy committee made speeches and none of them ruled out the hypothesis of a June hike in interest rates. Even Eric Rosengren, who does not bear the reputation of being a hawk, said he thought the markets were too pessimistic. Even so, U.S. bond yields barely flinched, with the 10-year yield at 1.74% on Friday morning. The trend in Canada was similar. The Bank of Canada's Senior Deputy Governor did note that use of non-conventional monetary policy was not currently warranted in Canada; this helped contain expectations of monetary easing.

The U.S. dollar maintained last week's trend, rising against most of the major currencies. The encouraging U.S. retail sales figures released Friday had a hand in the week's biggest gains for the greenback. At the time of writing, the euro was trading at around US\$1.13, while the pound was below US\$1.44. The Bank of England's warning about the fallout that could be generated by the United Kingdom leaving the European Union did not have much impact on the pound. For its part, the Canadian dollar rose in the first half of the week, boosted by the advance in oil prices. The loonie temporarily went over US\$0.78 on Thursday, then headed back toward US\$0.77 (C\$1.30/US\$).

Jimmy Jean
Senior Economist

Hendrix Vachon
Senior Economist



A LOOK AHEAD



UNITED STATES

Tuesday May 17 - 8:30

April	m/m
Consensus	0.4%
Desjardins	0.4%
March	0.1%

Consumer price index (April) – For the first time since November 2015, the consumer price index (CPI) rose in March. The 0.1% uptick was slighter than anticipated, however, as the increase in gas prices was largely offset by other components, like a 0.2% drop in food prices and 1.1% decline in clothing prices. We expect the CPI to make a stronger advance in April. In terms of energy, prices at the pump went up 6.3% last month, a little more than the usual 4.2% used as a seasonal adjustment factor. Food prices are also expected to start rising again. The total CPI should therefore go up 0.4%, which would be its biggest increase since February 2013. Excluding food and energy, the core CPI should edge up 0.1%, as in March. Total inflation should go from 0.9% to 1.1%. Core inflation should go from 2.2% to 2.1%.

Tuesday May 17 - 8:30

April	ann. rate
Consensus	1,123,000
Desjardins	1,105,000
March	1,089,000

Housing starts (April) – The recent performance by housing starts is rather disappointing. They fell 8.8% in March, although the consensus forecast was for some stability. They are also quite far off their latest peak of 1,211,000 units, reached nearly a year ago in June 2015. Starts are expected to just edge up in April, as building permits were at a quite low 1,076,000 in March. Although April's job creation of 1,000 in the overall construction sector was disappointing, the 7,100 jobs added in homebuilding is more encouraging. Housing starts are expected to go to 1,105,000. We expect building permits to edge up toward 1,135,000 units.

Tuesday May 17 - 9:15

April	m/m
Consensus	0.3%
Desjardins	0.0%
March	-0.6%

Industrial production (April) – Industrial output contracted in March, for the sixth time in seven months. Manufacturing (-0.3%), mining (-2.9%) and energy production (-1.1%) all declined. We expect the latter to rebound in April, as temperatures were closer to normal (and even on the cool side in the Northeast), whereas previous months had been somewhat warmer. Energy production could therefore see a monthly increase of almost 3%. Another decline is expected in mining, but it should be much smaller than in previous months. The forecast -0.4% would be the best performance since the 0.4% gain posted in August 2015. In manufacturing, April's hours worked point to another decline in the automotive sector. However, the rest of manufacturing output should see growth, in keeping with the manufacturing ISM's better performance. We therefore expect the industry to post a modest 0.1% gain. Overall, industrial production should be flat at 0.0%, like the industrial capacity utilization rate (74.8%). The New York Fed's regional Empire index will also be out on Monday, with the Philadelphia Fed index coming on Thursday. They will give us a first indication of how the manufacturing sector is doing in May.

Thursday May 19 - 10:00

April	m/m
Consensus	0.4%
Desjardins	0.7%
March	0.2%

Leading indicator (April) – The Conference Board's leading indicator ticked up 0.2% in March, due primarily to the stock market and interest rate spreads. We expect an even stronger rise in April. The stock market and rates will make further positive contributions, as will the increase in hours worked, the drop in jobless claims, and the forecast rise by building permits. The leading indicator is expected to go up 0.7%, making this its best performance in a year.

Friday May 20 - 10:00

April	ann. rate
Consensus	5,390,000
Desjardins	5,410,000
March	5,330,000

Existing home sales (April) – Resales posted solid growth in March, at 5.1%, but that was not enough to offset February's 7.3% drop. Another increase is expected in April, however. Pending home resales rose 1.4% after jumping 3.4% the previous month. Also, mortgage applications in view of a purchase recorded good growth in April. We expect existing home sales to go over the 5,400,000-unit mark.


CANADA

Manufacturing sales (March) – March’s 4.8% drop by merchandise exports suggests that manufacturing sales plunged again that month. Among other things, exports of automotive products retreated 6.0%. Most of the other sectors ran into difficulties. In terms of good news, the aviation sector could rebound after pulling back for two months. All in all, total sales are forecast to drop around 3% in March.

Wholesale trade (March) – Sales by wholesalers could also have been impacted by March’s 4.8% decline in merchandise exports. The automotive sector seems especially vulnerable. However, Canadian demand remains fairly robust; the trend for retail sales is very good, posting a year-to-date gain of 2.5%. Wholesale sales are expected to edge down in March.

Retail sales (March) – Once seasonally adjusted, automobile and gas prices rose in March. However, prices for other goods fell an average of 0.4%; this will reduce the value of retail sales. According to the preliminary numbers, the volume of new motor vehicle sales edged down, however. The risks of a lacklustre performance by retailing are also high in several sectors due to the major increases seen in the last few months. Total retail sales are expected to decline.

Consumer price index (April) – On average, gas prices went up 6.9% in April; this should lead to a 0.3% increase in the total consumer price index (CPI) for the month. Seasonal price fluctuations are usually fairly weak in April, about +0.1% for the total CPI. If we also factor in the uptrend seen in the last few months, the total CPI’s monthly change should be around 0.5% in April. The total annual inflation rate could therefore go from 1.3% to 1.9%. The monthly change in the core index (CPIX) could be around 0.2%. However, the annual change should be essentially flat.


OVERSEAS

Japan: Real GDP (Q1) – Once again, Japan has one foot in a technical recession, as its real GDP retreated 0.3% (not annualized) in the last quarter of 2015. The consensus is not calling for a second straight decline, but the risk is still sizable given the modest gain forecast and highly volatile Japanese data.

Tuesday May 17 - 8:30

March	m/m
Consensus	-2.2%
Desjardins	-2.7%
February	-3.3%

Thursday May 19 - 8:30

March	m/m
Consensus	-0.5%
Desjardins	-0.8%
February	-2.2%

Friday May 20 - 8:30

March	m/m
Consensus	-0.6%
Desjardins	-0.6%
February	0.4%

Friday May 20 - 8:30




April	m/m
Consensus	0.4%
Desjardins	0.5%
March	0.6%


Tuesday May 17 - 19:50

Q1 2016	q/q
Consensus	0.1%
Q4 2015	-0.3%

ECONOMIC INDICATORS


Week of May 16 to 20, 2016

Day	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data
 UNITED STATES						
MONDAY 16	8:30	Empire manufacturing index	May	6.50	5.00	9.56
	10:00	NAHB housing market index	May	59	n/a	58
	16:00	Net foreign security purchases (US\$B)	March	n/a	n/a	72.0
	19:00	Speech of the Minneapolis Fed President, N. Kashkari				
TUESDAY 17	8:30	Consumer price index				
		Total (m/m)	April	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%
		Excluding food and energy (m/m)	April	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
		Total (y/y)	April	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%
		Excluding food and energy (y/y)	April	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%
	8:30	Housing starts (ann. rate)	April	1,123,000	1,105,000	1,089,000
	8:30	Building permits (ann. rate)	April	1,133,000	1,135,000	1,076,000
	9:15	Industrial production (m/m)	April	0.3%	0.0%	-0.6%
	9:15	Production capacity utilization rates	April	75.0%	74.8%	74.8%
WEDNESDAY 18	14:00	Release minutes from April 26-27 FOMC meeting				
THURSDAY 19	8:30	Initial unemployment claims	May 9-13	275,000	278,000	294,000
	8:30	Philadelphia Fed index	May	3.0	5.0	-1.6
	10:00	Leading indicator (m/m)	April	0.4%	0.7%	0.2%
	10:30	Speech of the New York Fed President, W. Dudley				
FRIDAY 20	10:00	New home sales (ann. rate)	April	5,390,000	5,410,000	5,330,000
 CANADA						
MONDAY 16	9:00	Existing home sales				
TUESDAY 17	8:30	Manufacturing sales (m/m)	March	-2.2%	-2.7%	-3.3%
WEDNESDAY 18	8:30	International transactions in securities (\$B)	March	n/a	20.00	15.94
THURSDAY 19	8:30	Wholesale sales (m/m)	March	-0.5%	-0.8%	-2.2%
	8:30	Wholesale inventories (m/m)	March	n/a	0.3%	0.2%
FRIDAY 20	8:30	Consumer price index				
		Total (m/m)	April	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%
		Excluding 8 most volatile (m/m)	April	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%
		Total (y/y)	April	1.7%	1.9%	1.3%
		Excluding 8 most volatile (y/y)	April	2.0%	2.2%	2.1%
	8:30	Retail sales				
		Total (m/m)	March	-0.6%	-0.6%	0.4%
		Excluding automobiles (m/m)	March	-0.4%	-0.7%	0.2%

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 16 to 20, 2016

Country	Hour	Indicator	Period	Consensus		Previous data		
				m/m (q/q)	y/y	m/m (q/q)	y/y	
 OVERSEAS								
SUNDAY 15								
Japan	19:50	Producer price index	April	0.2%	-3.7%	-0.1%	-3.8%	
MONDAY 16								
Australia	21:30	Minutes of the Reserve Bank of Australia May meeting						
TUESDAY 17								
Japan	0:30	Industrial production – final	March	n/a	n/a	3.6%	0.1%	
Italy	4:00	Trade balance (€M)	March	n/a		3,856		
United Kingdom	4:30	Consumer price index	April	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	
United Kingdom	4:30	Producer price index	April	0.2%	-0.8%	0.3%	-0.9%	
Euro zone	5:00	Trade balance (€B)	March	22.0		20.2		
Japan	19:50	Real GDP – preliminary	Q1	0.1%		-0.3%		
WEDNESDAY 18								
United Kingdom	4:30	ILO unemployment rate	March	5.1%		5.1%		
Euro zone	5:00	Consumer price index	April	0.0%	-0.2%	1.2%	-0.2%	
Japan	19:50	Machinery orders	March	-1.9%	0.8%	-9.2%	-0.7%	
THURSDAY 19								
Japan	0:30	All industry activity index	March	0.7%		-1.2%		
France	1:30	ILO unemployment rate	Q1	10.2%		10.3%		
Euro zone	4:00	Current account (€B)	March	n/a		19.0		
United Kingdom	4:30	Retail sales	April	0.6%	2.5%	-1.3%	2.7%	
Euro zone	5:00	Construction	March	n/a	n/a	-1.1%	2.5%	
Euro zone	7:30	Minutes of the European Central Bank meeting						
Mexico	10:00	Minutes of the Bank of Mexico meeting						
FRIDAY 20								
Germany	2:00	Producer price index	April	0.1%	-3.0%	0.0%	-3.1%	
Italy	4:30	Current account (€M)	March	n/a		1,377		

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)	2016 Q1	105.9	-1.0	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.9
Unit labor cost (2009 = 100)	2016 Q1	109.7	4.1	2.3	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)	April	50.8	51.8	48.2	49.4	51.6
ISM non-manufacturing index (1)	April	55.7	54.5	53.5	58.3	57.5
Cons. confidence Conf. Board (1985 = 100) (1)	April	94.2	96.1	97.8	99.1	94.3
Cons. confidence Michigan (1966 = 100) (1)	May*	95.8	89.0	91.7	91.3	90.7
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)	March*	3,592	0.8	1.6	2.7	6.6
Retail sales (\$M)	April*	453,438	1.3	1.2	1.4	3.0
Excluding automobiles (\$M)	April*	360,864	0.8	1.4	1.7	3.0
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)	March	458,377	1.1	0.4	-1.9	-4.2
New durable good orders (\$M)	March	230,585	0.8	1.9	-0.6	-2.6
Business inventories (\$B)	March*	1,819	0.4	0.2	-0.0	1.5
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)	March	1,137	0.3	1.0	1.2	8.0
Commercial surplus (\$M) (1)	March	-40,443	-46,963	-44,698	-44,321	-52,176
Nonfarm employment (K) (2)	April	143,915	160.0	601.0	1,320	2,692
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	April	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.4
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)	April*	109.7	0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.1
Excluding food and energy	April*	109.7	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.9
Export prices (2000 = 100)	April*	118.8	0.5	0.1	-2.6	-5.0
Import prices (2000 = 100)	April*	118.0	0.3	0.2	-2.9	-5.7

* 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	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)	April*	191.5	202.4	174.3	197.7	178.7
Building permits (\$M)	March	6,859	-7.0	-3.0	-1.5	-4.6
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)	March	-3,414	-2,468	-909.2	-2,049	-3,074
Exports (\$M)	March	40,990	-4.8	-9.0	-6.9	-5.1
Imports (\$M)	March	44,404	-2.4	-3.4	-3.7	-4.0
Employment (K) (2)	April	18,041	-2.1	12.1	3.4	12.0
Unemployment rate (%) (1)	April	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.0	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 (%)		
	May 13	May 6	-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	0.35	0.25
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.27	0.19	0.22	0.29	0.13	0.02	0.35	0.14	-0.02
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.78	0.73	0.74	0.70	0.85	0.54	1.08	0.76	0.54
– 5 years	1.24	1.23	1.21	1.20	1.66	1.46	1.79	1.48	1.11
– 10 years	1.73	1.78	1.75	1.75	2.29	2.16	2.48	2.09	1.64
– 30 years	2.57	2.63	2.56	2.59	3.07	2.95	3.24	2.87	2.51
S&P 500 index	2,059	2,057	2,081	1,865	2,023	2,123	2,131	2,030	1,829
DJIA index	17,698	17,741	17,897	15,974	17,245	18,273	18,312	17,279	15,660
Gold price (US\$/ounce)	1,271	1,290	1,230	1,234	1,082	1,222	1,294	1,157	1,052
CRB index	182.46	179.91	173.64	160.36	184.77	231.46	230.68	188.88	155.01
WTI oil (US\$/barrel)	46.09	44.58	40.40	29.32	40.69	59.73	61.36	43.18	26.19
Canada									
Overnight – target	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.54	0.50
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.52	0.50	0.51	0.45	0.44	0.64	0.67	0.47	0.32
Treasury bonds – 2 years	0.56	0.56	0.59	0.44	0.61	0.67	0.70	0.52	0.29
– 5 years	0.69	0.73	0.76	0.59	0.95	1.07	1.10	0.79	0.48
– 10 years	1.28	1.35	1.27	1.13	1.65	1.80	1.91	1.45	1.00
– 30 years	1.96	1.99	1.97	1.93	2.35	2.42	2.48	2.17	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	0.19	0.00
Treasury bill – 3 months	0.25	0.31	0.29	0.16	0.31	0.62	0.65	0.33	0.06
Treasury bonds – 2 years	-0.21	-0.17	-0.15	-0.26	-0.24	0.13	0.09	-0.24	-0.64
– 5 years	-0.55	-0.50	-0.45	-0.61	-0.71	-0.39	-0.39	-0.69	-1.00
– 10 years	-0.45	-0.43	-0.48	-0.62	-0.64	-0.36	-0.31	-0.65	-0.90
– 30 years	-0.61	-0.64	-0.59	-0.66	-0.72	-0.53	-0.57	-0.71	-0.90
S&P/TSX index	13,780	13,701	13,637	12,381	13,075	15,108	15,204	13,633	11,843
Exchange rate (C\$/US\$)	1.2945	1.2909	1.2823	1.3847	1.3324	1.2013	1.4579	1.3171	0.7725
Exchange rate (C\$/€)	1.4609	1.4723	1.4468	1.5592	1.4362	1.3757	1.5903	1.4607	0.8719
Overseas									
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	0.05	-0.10
Germany: Bonds – 10 years	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.26	0.56	0.64	0.99	0.51	0.09
U.K.: Bonds – 10 years	1.38	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.98	1.90	2.19	1.78	1.28
Euro: Exchange rate (US\$/€)	1.1287	1.1405	1.1283	1.1261	1.0780	1.1453	1.1620	1.1094	1.0565
U.K.: Exchange rate (US\$/£)	1.4349	1.4431	1.4195	1.4508	1.5234	1.5723	1.5884	1.4989	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.