

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Most U.S. Indicators See Substantial Improvement

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ United States: Retail sales and housing starts surge in March.
- ▶ United States: Energy and base effects cause inflation to rise.
- ▶ United States: Jobless claims fall to their lowest level since the start of the pandemic.
- ▶ Canada: Businesses and consumers are more optimistic.
- ▶ Canada: Existing home sales remain strong.

A LOOK AHEAD

- ▶ United States: After dropping in February, new home sales are expected to rebound.
- ▶ Canada: The number of housing starts could drop again in March.
- ▶ The Bank of Canada should leave its key interest rates unchanged but show more optimism.
- ▶ Canada: Total annual inflation should rise sharply in March.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

- ▶ Solid U.S. bank results fuel optimism.
- ▶ U.S. bond yields fall despite good news.
- ▶ The Canadian dollar is back up to US\$0.80.

CONTENTS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Key Statistics of the Week 2 | A Look Ahead 4 | Tables |
| <i>United States, Canada</i> | <i>United States, Canada, Overseas</i> | <i>Economic indicators</i> 8 |
| Financial Markets 3 | Economic Indicators of the Week 6 | <i>Major financial indicators</i> 10 |

François Dupuis, Vice-President and Chief Economist • Mathieu D'Anjou, Deputy Chief Economist
 Benoit P. Durocher, Senior Economist • Francis Généreux, Senior Economist • Lorenzo Tessier-Moreau, Senior Economist • Hendrix Vachon, Senior Economist
Desjardins, Economic Studies: 514-281-2336 or 1 866-866-7000, ext. 5552336 • desjardins.economics@desjardins.com • desjardins.com/economics

NOTE TO READERS: The letters k, M and B are used in texts and tables to refer to thousands, millions and billions respectively.
 IMPORTANT: This document is based on public information and may under no circumstances be used or construed as a commitment by Desjardins Group. While the information provided has been determined on the basis of data obtained from sources that are deemed to be reliable, Desjardins Group in no way warrants that the information is accurate or complete. The document is provided solely for information purposes and does not constitute an offer or solicitation for purchase or sale. Desjardins Group takes no responsibility for the consequences of any decision whatsoever made on the basis of the data contained herein and does not hereby undertake to provide any advice, notably in the area of investment services. The data on prices or margins are provided for information purposes and may be modified at any time, based on such factors as market conditions. The past performances and projections expressed herein are no guarantee of future performance. The opinions and forecasts contained herein are, unless otherwise indicated, those of the document's authors and do not represent the opinions of any other person or the official position of Desjardins Group. Copyright © 2021, Desjardins Group. All rights reserved.

Key Statistics of the Week

UNITED STATES

- ▶ Retail sales jumped 9.8% in March following a 2.7% drop in February and a 7.7% gain in January. Motor vehicle sales climbed 15.1%, while the value of service station sales rose 10.9%. Excluding motor vehicles and gasoline, sales were up 8.2%, after falling 3.1% in February.
- ▶ Industrial production rose 1.4% in March after a 2.6% pullback in February. Still, the mining sector jumped 5.7% and manufacturing 2.7%. Energy production plunged 11.4%.
- ▶ The consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.6% in March, after advancing 0.4% in February. This is the highest increase since June 2009. The annual variation in total CPI went from 1.7% in February to 2.6% in March, its highest point since August 2018. Core inflation, excluding food and energy, rose from 1.3% to 1.6%.
- ▶ Housing starts jumped 19.4% in March following an 11.2% drop in February and a 1.7% decline in January. They climbed to 1,739,000 units on an annualized basis in March, their highest level since July 2006. Building permits increased 2.7% to 1,766,000 units, below their January peak.
- ▶ The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's manufacturing index fell slightly but remained high, ticking down from 51.8 in March to 50.3 in April. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Empire index rose from 17.4 to 26.3.
- ▶ The University of Michigan consumer confidence index rose in April, but to a lesser degree than anticipated, going from 84.9 in March to 86.5 according to the preliminary April version.
- ▶ Initial jobless claims dropped sharply last week, going from 769,000 to 576,000. This was the lowest weekly level since the pandemic began to affect the U.S. economy in March 2020.

Francis Généreux, Senior economist

CANADA

- ▶ Monday morning, the Bank of Canada released the recent results of its quarterly business and consumer outlook surveys. Overall, the business confidence index continued to improve in the first quarter of 2021 to reach 2.87, its highest level historically. On the consumer side, expectations that spending would grow peaked, probably because of the pent-up demand for some goods and services.
- ▶ Existing home sales continued their sharp rise, posting a 5.2% increase in March. Over one year, sales were up 76.2%, their highest point since 1988, when this data began to be collected. Demand therefore remains high, which has continued to put upward pressure on prices. The home price index climbed 3.1% in March. Over one year, prices grew 20.1%.
- ▶ Manufacturing sales fell 1.6% in February, slightly less than in the preliminary estimate. The decrease was especially felt by the motor vehicle industry, as manufacturers faced a shortage of semiconductor chips, causing production to slow down and leading a number of assembly plants to close.
- ▶ Wholesale sales fell 0.7% in February, close to the preliminary estimate of -0.4%. Sales declined in four of the seven sub-sectors, with the biggest decreases seen in building materials and supplies, as well as in automotive products due to a shortage of certain parts.

Benoit P. Durocher, Senior economist

Financial Markets

Another Good Week for the Markets

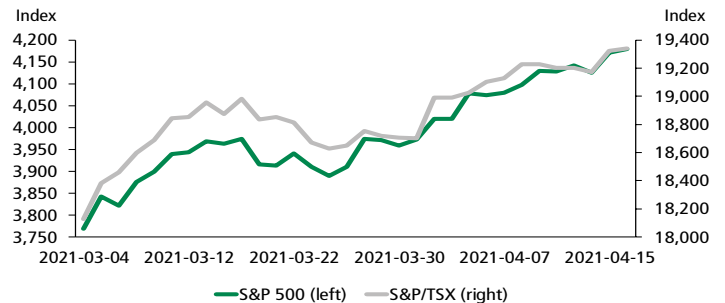
Stock markets were up this week, fuelled by solid financial results from major U.S. banks. Some banks took advantage of the first quarter to release large sums of provisions previously set aside in anticipation of losses from loan defaults, which never ended up materializing. This sends a positive signal about the financial health of U.S. consumers and businesses. There was also positive economic news this week with a surprise increase in retail sales for March. Upgraded predictions for oil demand and lower inventory in the United States also pushed the price per barrel up Wednesday. A barrel of WTI (West Texas Intermediate) reached US\$63 Friday morning after increasing more than 5%. As for the stock markets, the Dow Jones, S&P 500 and NASDAQ gained roughly 1% over the week at the time of writing, whereas the S&P/TSX gained just under 0.5%, weighed down by the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the country.

Quite counterintuitively, U.S. bond yields were down, particularly Thursday, despite good retail sales results. Liquidity remains abundant in the market, and after strong stock market gains since the beginning of the year, many investors are drawn to more secure investments. The U.S. 10-year yield lost close to 9 basis points over the week, a movement that was not reflected in its Canadian counterpart, which gained 1.5 basis points.

The U.S. dollar continued to depreciate this week. Optimism on the global financial markets and the decline in U.S. bond yields boosted many currencies against the greenback. The euro is again trading at close to US\$1.20, while it struggled to break US\$1.19 last week. The Canadian dollar climbed back up to the US\$0.80 mark. This appreciation is nevertheless small compared to other currencies, such as the euro. It is likely that the continued rise in COVID-19 cases in Canada is maintaining investors' caution with regard to the loonie.

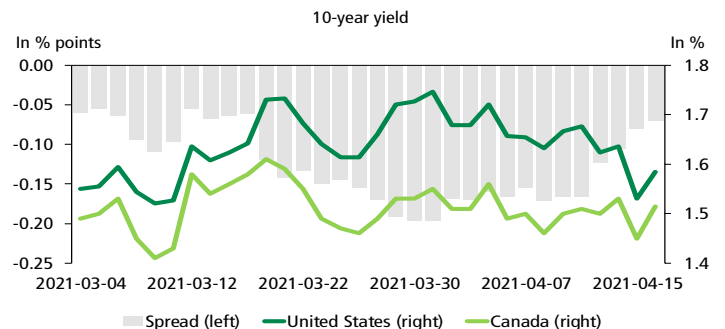
Hendrix Vachon, Senior Economist
Lorenzo Tessier-Moreau, Senior Economist

GRAPH 1
Stock markets



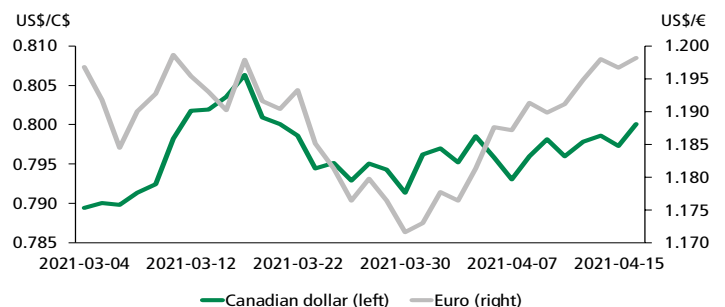
Sources: Datastream and Desjardins, Economic Studies

GRAPH 2
Bond markets



Sources: Datastream and Desjardins, Economic Studies

GRAPH 3
Currency markets



Sources: Datastream and Desjardins, Economic Studies

A Look Ahead

THURSDAY April 22 - 10:00

| March | m/m |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Consensus | 0.8% |
| Desjardins | 1.2% |
| February | 0.2% |

THURSDAY April 22 - 10:00

| March | ann. rate |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Consensus | 6,200,000 |
| Desjardins | 6,050,000 |
| February | 6,220,000 |

FRIDAY April 23 - 10:00

| March | ann. rate |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Consensus | 885,000 |
| Desjardins | 950,000 |
| February | 775,000 |

MONDAY April 19 - 8:15

| March | ann. rate |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Consensus | 255,000 |
| Desjardins | 240,000 |
| February | 245,900 |

WEDNESDAY April 21 - 8:30

| March | m/m |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Consensus | n/a |
| Desjardins | 0.7% |
| February | 0.5% |

WEDNESDAY April 21 - 10:00

| April | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Consensus | 0.25% |
| Desjardins | 0.25% |
| March 10 | 0.25% |

UNITED STATES

Leading indicator (March) – The leading indicator edged up 0.2% in February, its weakest increase since the April 2021 plunge. A more substantial increase is expected for March, however. The strongest contributions should come from fewer jobless claims, an increase in the ISM manufacturing index and a wider interest rate spread. We expect a monthly gain of 1.2%, the strongest since August.

Existing home sales (March) – In February resales were affected by the negative effect of the bad weather in part of the United States. With a 6.6% drop, the level went to a six-month low. Despite March's better weather we expect another decline due to delayed after effects. Pending home sales suggest a drop in resale. That is also the signal from the regional data. Mortgage applications in view of a purchase were also down in March. Resales are expected to go to 6,050,000 units.

New home sales (March) – Sales of new single-family homes plummeted 18.2% in February, their worst monthly drop since July 2013. The level is the lowest it has been since May 2020. However, an increase is expected for March. That would be in line with the 4.6% rise in building permits for single-family homes in March. The builders' confidence index has also remained relatively high, despite dropping from 90 to 87. We expect sales of new homes to go to 950,000 units.

CANADA

Housing starts (March) – After hitting an exceptionally high number in January, housing starts edged down from 284,372 to 245,922 units in February. There may be a slight reduction toward 240,000 units in March, which would bring the number of housing starts to a level compatible with the trend of recent months. That trend is still very high, a sign of the vitality of new housing construction.

Consumer price index (March) – According to prices at the pump, gas prices went up about 7% in March, which should lead to a contribution of about +0.2% to the monthly variation in the total consumer price index (CPI). Seasonal price fluctuations are usually up around +0.3% in March. Considering the uptrend in other components, an 0.7% monthly gain is expected for the total CPI in March. The total annual inflation rate could rise from 1.1% to 2.4%. That significant increase in the annual inflation rate is due to base effects, comparing gas prices to the very low levels a year ago.

Meeting of the Bank of Canada (April) – In all likelihood, the monetary authorities will opt to hold steady on key interest rates when they meet next week. However, the Bank of Canada (BoC) might have a more optimistic outlook on the economy and the progress of the vaccination campaign. The *Monetary Policy Report* may well revise the BoC's predictions upward. In those conditions, the monetary authorities may change their quantitative easing program and reduce the assets they purchase on the financial markets.

THURSDAY April 22 - 7:45

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| April | |
| Consensus | 0.00% |
| Desjardins | 0.00% |
| March 11 | 0.00% |

FRIDAY April 23 - 4:00

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| April | |
| Consensus | 52.8 |
| March | 53.2 |


OVERSEAS


Euro zone: Meeting of the European Central Bank (April) – At its last monetary policy meeting the European Central Bank (ECB) decided to temporarily increase its asset purchases in order to counter rising bond yields. The overall envelope for asset purchases has not been increased, however, which means that additional purchases made now won't be done later. The ECB could soon have to beef up its overall envelope, especially if the third wave of COVID-19 delays the economic recovery too much or the bond yields start shooting up.

Euro zone: PMI index (April – preliminary) – In March the European composite PMI index topped the 50 point bar for the first time since September. It also reached its highest level since July. That said, it is still well below the PMI indexes in the United States (59.7) and the United Kingdom (56.4). Vaccination delays and the corresponding spike in COVID-19 cases in several European countries are undermining the euro zone and reflecting the stop-and-go attitude toward health measures. It is not certain where the PMI indexes will go in April, but another improvement would be a positive sign for the European economy. We will find out more when the preliminary version of the April European consumer confidence index comes out on Thursday. Thursday will also bring us the business confidence indicators from France.

Economic Indicators

Week of April 19 to 23, 2021

| Day | Hour | Indicator | Period | Consensus |  | Previous data |
|----------------------|-------|---|-------------|-----------|---|---------------|
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | |
| MONDAY 19 | | | | | | |
| | --- | --- | | | | |
| TUESDAY 20 | | | | | | |
| | --- | --- | | | | |
| WEDNESDAY 21 | | | | | | |
| | --- | --- | | | | |
| THURSDAY 22 | | | | | | |
| | 8:30 | Initial unemployment claims | April 12-16 | 625,000 | 580,000 | 576,000 |
| | 10:00 | Leading indicator (m/m) | March | 0.8% | 1.2% | 0.2% |
| | 10:00 | Existing home sales (ann. rate) | March | 6,200,000 | 6,050,000 | 6,220,000 |
| FRIDAY 23 | | | | | | |
| | 10:00 | New home sales (ann. rate) | March | 885,000 | 950,000 | 775,000 |
| CANADA | | | | | | |
| MONDAY 19 | | | | | | |
| | --- | 2021 Federal Budget | | | | |
| | 8:15 | Housing starts (ann. rate) | March | 255,000 | 240,000 | 245,900 |
| TUESDAY 20 | | | | | | |
| | --- | --- | | | | |
| WEDNESDAY 21 | | | | | | |
| | 8:30 | Consumer price index | | | | |
| | | Total (m/m) | March | n/a | 0.7% | 0.5% |
| | | Excluding food and energy (m/m) | March | n/a | 0.1% | n/a |
| | | Total (y/y) | March | n/a | 2.4% | 1.1% |
| | | Excluding food and energy (y/y) | March | n/a | 0.8% | n/a |
| | 10:00 | Bank of Canada meeting | April | 0.25% | 0.25% | 0.25% |
| | 10:00 | Release of the Bank of Canada <i>Monetary Policy Report</i> | | | | |
| | 11:00 | Speech of the Bank of Canada Governor, T. Macklem | | | | |
| THURSDAY 22 | | | | | | |
| | 8:30 | New housing price index (m/m) | March | n/a | 1.0% | 1.9% |
| FRIDAY 23 | | | | | | |
| | --- | --- | | | | |

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. The times shown are Daylight Saving Time (GMT - 4 hours).  Forecast of Desjardins, Economic Studies of the Desjardins Group.

Economic Indicators

Week of April 19 to 23, 2021

| Country | Hour | Indicator | Period | Consensus | | Previous data | | |
|---------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|---------------|-------|--|
| | | | | m/m (q/q) | y/y | m/m (q/q) | y/y | |
| OVERSEAS | | | | | | | | |
| SUNDAY 18 | | | | | | | | |
| Japan | 19:50 | Trade balance (¥B) | March | 212.9 | | -38.7 | | |
| MONDAY 19 | | | | | | | | |
| Japan | 0:30 | Industrial production – final | Feb. | n/a | n/a | -2.1% | -2.6% | |
| Euro zone | 4:00 | Current account (€B) | Feb. | n/a | | 30.5 | | |
| Italy | 4:30 | Current account (€M) | Feb. | n/a | | 710 | | |
| Euro zone | 5:00 | Construction | Feb. | n/a | n/a | 0.8% | -1.9% | |
| TUESDAY 20 | | | | | | | | |
| Japan | 0:30 | Tertiary industry activity index | Feb. | 0.5% | | -1.7% | | |
| United Kingdom | 2:00 | ILO unemployment rate | Feb. | 5.0% | | 5.0% | | |
| Germany | 2:00 | Producer price index | March | 0.6% | 3.3% | 0.7% | 1.9% | |
| WEDNESDAY 21 | | | | | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 2:00 | Consumer price index | March | 0.4% | 0.8% | 0.1% | 0.4% | |
| United Kingdom | 2:00 | Producer price index | March | 0.3% | 1.7% | 0.6% | 0.9% | |
| THURSDAY 22 | | | | | | | | |
| France | 2:45 | Business confidence | April | 94 | | 97 | | |
| France | 2:45 | Production outlook | April | 8 | | 6 | | |
| Euro zone | 7:45 | European Central Bank meeting | April | 0.00% | | 0.00% | | |
| Euro zone | 10:00 | Consumer confidence – preliminary | April | -11.0 | | -10.8 | | |
| United Kingdom | 19:01 | Consumer confidence | April | -12 | | -16 | | |
| Japan | 19:30 | Consumer price index | March | | -0.2% | | -0.4% | |
| Japan | 20:30 | PMI composite index – preliminary | April | n/a | | 49.9 | | |
| Japan | 20:30 | PMI manufacturing index – preliminary | April | n/a | | 52.7 | | |
| Japan | 20:30 | PMI services index – preliminary | April | n/a | | 48.3 | | |
| FRIDAY 23 | | | | | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 2:00 | Retail sales | March | 1.5% | 3.6% | 2.1% | -3.7% | |
| France | 3:15 | PMI composite index – preliminary | April | 48.9 | | 50.0 | | |
| France | 3:15 | PMI manufacturing index – preliminary | April | 59.0 | | 59.3 | | |
| France | 3:15 | PMI services index – preliminary | April | 46.3 | | 48.2 | | |
| Germany | 3:30 | PMI composite index – preliminary | April | 57.0 | | 57.3 | | |
| Germany | 3:30 | PMI manufacturing index – preliminary | April | 65.8 | | 66.6 | | |
| Germany | 3:30 | PMI services index – preliminary | April | 51.0 | | 51.5 | | |
| Euro zone | 4:00 | PMI composite index – preliminary | April | 52.8 | | 53.2 | | |
| Euro zone | 4:00 | PMI manufacturing index – preliminary | April | 62.0 | | 62.5 | | |
| Euro zone | 4:00 | PMI services index – preliminary | April | 49.1 | | 49.6 | | |
| United Kingdom | 4:30 | PMI composite index – preliminary | April | 58.0 | | 56.4 | | |
| United Kingdom | 4:30 | PMI manufacturing index – preliminary | April | 59.0 | | 58.9 | | |
| United Kingdom | 4:30 | PMI services index – preliminary | April | 58.9 | | 56.3 | | |
| Russia | 6:30 | Bank of Russia meeting | April | 4.75% | | 4.50% | | |

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. 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 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
| Gross domestic product (2012 \$B) | 2020 Q4 | 18,794 | 4.3 | -2.4 | -3.5 | 2.2 | 3.0 |
| Consumption (2012 \$B) | 2020 Q4 | 12,999 | 2.3 | -2.7 | -3.9 | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| Government spending (2012 \$B) | 2020 Q4 | 3,320 | -0.8 | -0.5 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 1.8 |
| Residential investment (2012 \$B) | 2020 Q4 | 697.9 | 36.6 | 14.3 | 6.1 | -1.7 | -0.6 |
| Non-residential investment (2012 \$B) | 2020 Q4 | 2,742 | 13.1 | -1.4 | -4.0 | 2.9 | 6.9 |
| Business inventory change (2012 \$B) ¹ | 2020 Q4 | 62.1 | --- | --- | -77.4 | 48.5 | 53.4 |
| Exports (2012 \$B) | 2020 Q4 | 2,279 | 22.3 | -10.9 | -12.9 | -0.1 | 3.0 |
| Imports (2012 \$B) | 2020 Q4 | 3,400 | 29.8 | -0.6 | -9.3 | 1.1 | 4.1 |
| Final domestic demand (2012 \$B) | 2020 Q4 | 19,775 | 4.4 | -1.5 | -2.7 | 2.3 | 3.0 |
| GDP deflator (2012 = 100) | 2020 Q4 | 114.4 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 2.4 |
| Labor productivity (2012 = 100) | 2020 Q4 | 111.1 | -4.2 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 1.4 |
| Unit labor cost (2012 = 100) | 2020 Q4 | 116.4 | 6.0 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Employment cost index (Dec. 2005 = 100) | 2020 Q4 | 142.4 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.8 |
| Current account balance (\$B) ¹ | 2020 Q4 | -188.5 | --- | --- | -647.2 | -480.2 | -449.7 |

¹ Statistics representing the level during the period; * New statistic in comparison with last week.

UNITED STATES
Monthly economic indicators

| | REF. MONTH | LEVEL | VARIATION (%) | | | |
|---|------------|---------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| | | | -1 month | -3 months | -6 months | -1 year |
| Leading indicator (2016 = 100) | Feb. | 110.5 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 3.8 | -1.2 |
| ISM manufacturing index ¹ | March | 64.7 | 60.8 | 60.5 | 55.7 | 49.7 |
| ISM non-manufacturing index ¹ | March | 63.7 | 55.3 | 57.7 | 57.2 | 53.6 |
| Cons. confidence Conference Board (1985 = 100) ¹ | March | 109.7 | 90.4 | 87.1 | 101.3 | 118.8 |
| Personal consumption expenditure (2012 \$B) | Feb. | 13,119 | -1.2 | 0.8 | 1.6 | -2.1 |
| Disposable personal income (2012 \$B) | Feb. | 15,681 | -8.2 | 2.2 | 0.3 | 3.4 |
| Consumer credit (\$B) | Feb. | 4,206 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 0.0 |
| Retail sales (\$M) | March* | 619,105 | 9.8 | 15.0 | 12.0 | 27.7 |
| <i>Excluding automobiles (\$M)</i> | March* | 484,977 | 8.4 | 14.6 | 10.7 | 19.4 |
| Industrial production (2012 = 100) | March* | 105.6 | 1.4 | -0.3 | 2.7 | 1.0 |
| Production capacity utilization rate (%) ¹ | March* | 74.4 | 73.4 | 74.7 | 72.5 | 73.6 |
| New machinery orders (\$M) | Feb. | 505,680 | -0.8 | 3.6 | 7.6 | 1.9 |
| New durable good orders (\$M) | Feb. | 254,082 | -1.2 | 3.6 | 9.1 | 3.2 |
| Business inventories (\$B) | Feb.* | 2,011 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 3.8 | -0.7 |
| Housing starts (k) ¹ | March* | 1,739 | 1,457 | 1,670 | 1,437 | 1,269 |
| Building permits (k) ¹ | March* | 1,766 | 1,720 | 1,704 | 1,545 | 1,356 |
| New home sales (k) ¹ | Feb. | 775.0 | 948.0 | 857.0 | 977.0 | 716.0 |
| Existing home sales (k) ¹ | Feb. | 6,220 | 6,660 | 6,590 | 5,970 | 5,700 |
| Commercial surplus (\$M) ¹ | Feb. | -71,078 | -67,823 | -69,038 | -66,064 | -38,008 |
| Nonfarm employment (k) ² | March | 144,120 | 916.0 | 1,617 | 2,255 | -6,720 |
| Unemployment rate (%) ¹ | March | 6.0 | 6.2 | 6.7 | 7.8 | 4.4 |
| Consumer price (1982-1984 = 100) | March* | 264.8 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 2.6 |
| <i>Excluding food and energy</i> | March* | 271.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.6 |
| Personal cons. expenditure deflator (2012 = 100) | Feb. | 112.7 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.6 |
| <i>Excluding food and energy</i> | Feb. | 114.7 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.4 |
| Producer price (2009 = 100) | March | 123.1 | 1.0 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 4.3 |
| Export prices (2000 = 100) | March* | 133.7 | 2.1 | 6.5 | 8.9 | 9.1 |
| Import prices (2000 = 100) | March* | 129.7 | 1.2 | 4.1 | 5.1 | 6.9 |

¹ Statistic shows the level of the month of the column; ² Statistic shows the variation since the reference month; * New statistic in comparison with last week.

CANADA
Quarterly economic indicators

| | REF. QUART. | LEVEL | VARIATION (%) | | ANNUAL VARIATION (%) | | |
|---|-------------|-----------|---------------|--------|----------------------|---------|---------|
| | | | Quart. ann. | 1 year | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
| Gross domestic product (2012 \$M) | 2020 Q4 | 2,045,925 | 9.6 | -3.2 | -5.4 | 1.9 | 2.4 |
| Household consumption (2012 \$M) | 2020 Q4 | 1,135,859 | -0.4 | -4.8 | -6.1 | 1.6 | 2.5 |
| Government consumption (2012 \$M) | 2020 Q4 | 427,753 | 6.2 | 0.1 | -1.1 | 2.0 | 2.9 |
| Residential investment (2012 \$M) | 2020 Q4 | 163,068 | 18.4 | 14.4 | 3.9 | -0.2 | -1.7 |
| Non-residential investment (2012 \$M) | 2020 Q4 | 158,899 | 4.2 | -13.1 | -13.1 | 1.1 | 3.1 |
| Business inventory change (2012 \$M) ¹ | 2020 Q4 | 1,721 | --- | --- | -15,533 | 18,766 | 15,486 |
| Exports (2012 \$M) | 2020 Q4 | 624,807 | 5.0 | -7.1 | -9.8 | 1.3 | 3.7 |
| Imports (2012 \$M) | 2020 Q4 | 627,163 | 10.8 | -6.0 | -11.3 | 0.4 | 3.4 |
| Final domestic demand (2012 \$M) | 2020 Q4 | 2,041,230 | 3.5 | -2.5 | -4.5 | 1.4 | 2.5 |
| GDP deflator (2012 = 100) | 2020 Q4 | 112.8 | 4.4 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| Labour productivity (2012 = 100) | 2020 Q4 | 112.1 | -7.7 | 3.8 | 8.8 | 1.0 | 0.6 |
| Unit labour cost (2012 = 100) | 2020 Q4 | 115.0 | 0.0 | 2.7 | 4.0 | 2.9 | 3.1 |
| Current account balance (\$M) ¹ | 2020 Q4 | -7,261 | --- | --- | -42,673 | -47,384 | -52,224 |
| Production capacity utilization rate (%) ¹ | 2020 Q4 | 79.2 | --- | --- | 77.2 | 82.6 | 83.7 |
| Disposable personal income (\$M) | 2020 Q4 | 1,397,720 | -3.8 | 7.7 | 10.0 | 3.8 | 3.1 |
| Corporate net operating surplus (\$M) | 2020 Q4 | 303,500 | -2.7 | 4.3 | -6.1 | 0.6 | 3.8 |

¹ Statistics representing the level during the period; * New statistic in comparison with last week.

CANADA
Monthly economic indicators

| | REF. MONTH | LEVEL | VARIATION (%) | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| | | | -1 month | -3 months | -6 months | -1 year |
| Gross domestic product (2012 \$M) | Jan. | 1,949,641 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 4.1 | -2.3 |
| Industrial production (2012 \$M) | Jan. | 388,473 | 1.7 | 4.2 | 5.3 | -1.9 |
| Manufacturing sales (\$M) | Feb.* | 55,357 | -1.6 | 2.8 | 5.0 | -0.8 |
| Housing starts (k) ¹ | Feb. | 245.9 | 284.4 | 261.6 | 261.5 | 210.0 |
| Building permits (\$M) | Feb. | 10,150 | 2.1 | 4.8 | 22.8 | 20.5 |
| Retail sales (\$M) | Jan. | 52,546 | -1.1 | -3.1 | -1.0 | 1.3 |
| <i>Excluding automobiles (\$M)</i> | Jan. | 38,794 | -1.2 | -2.3 | -0.3 | 2.5 |
| Wholesale trade sales (\$M) | Feb.* | 68,763 | -0.7 | 2.0 | 4.7 | 6.5 |
| Commercial surplus (\$M) ¹ | Feb. | 1,039 | 1,206 | -3,379 | -3,252 | -2,362 |
| <i>Exports (\$M)</i> | Feb. | 49,856 | -2.7 | 6.6 | 10.2 | 4.1 |
| <i>Imports (\$M)</i> | Feb. | 48,817 | -2.4 | -2.7 | 0.7 | -2.8 |
| Employment (k) ² | March | 18,834 | 303.1 | 116.5 | 74.3 | 58.4 |
| Unemployment rate (%) ¹ | March | 7.5 | 8.2 | 8.8 | 9.2 | 7.9 |
| Average weekly earnings (\$) | Jan. | 1,135 | 1.8 | 2.9 | 2.0 | 8.3 |
| Number of salaried employees (k) ² | Jan. | 15,842 | -134.5 | -52.7 | 118.4 | -103.6 |
| Consumer price (2002 = 100) | Feb. | 138.9 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| <i>Excluding food and energy</i> | Feb. | 133.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| <i>Excluding 8 volatile items</i> | Feb. | 137.1 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Industrial product price (2010 = 100) | Feb. | 107.1 | 2.6 | 6.7 | 7.0 | 7.1 |
| Raw materials price (2010 = 100) | Feb. | 112.8 | 6.6 | 16.5 | 15.6 | 17.1 |
| Money supply M1+ (\$M) | Jan. | 1,410,954 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 8.0 | 30.4 |

¹ Statistic shows the level of the month of the column; ² Statistic shows the variation since the reference month; * New statistic in comparison with last week.

UNITED STATES, CANADA, OVERSEAS
Major financial indicators

| IN % (EXPECTED IF INDICATED) | ACTUAL | PREVIOUS DATA | | | | | LAST 52 WEEKS | | |
|---|----------|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|--------|
| | April 16 | April 9 | -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 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.19 | 0.09 | 0.01 |
| Treasury bonds – 2 years | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.14 | 0.21 | 0.23 | 0.15 | 0.11 |
| – 5 years | 0.83 | 0.85 | 0.88 | 0.46 | 0.32 | 0.36 | 0.92 | 0.42 | 0.19 |
| – 10 years | 1.58 | 1.67 | 1.73 | 1.10 | 0.74 | 0.66 | 1.75 | 0.92 | 0.51 |
| – 30 years | 2.28 | 2.34 | 2.45 | 1.85 | 1.53 | 1.28 | 2.48 | 1.66 | 1.16 |
| S&P 500 index (level) | 4,179 | 4,129 | 3,913 | 3,768 | 3,484 | 2,875 | 4,179 | 3,483 | 2,737 |
| DJIA index (level) | 34,161 | 33,801 | 32,628 | 30,814 | 28,606 | 24,242 | 34,161 | 28,622 | 23,019 |
| Gold price (US\$/ounce) | 1,778 | 1,743 | 1,740 | 1,825 | 1,903 | 1,694 | 2,053 | 1,829 | 1,681 |
| CRB index (level) | 193.27 | 186.74 | 188.79 | 175.25 | 151.48 | 123.80 | 195.13 | 156.13 | 106.29 |
| WTI oil (US\$/barrel) | 63.00 | 59.60 | 60.01 | 52.24 | 40.73 | 18.27 | 66.09 | 44.10 | -37.63 |
| Canada | | | | | | | | | |
| Overnight – target | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 |
| Treasury bill – 3 months | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.20 | 0.27 | 0.14 | 0.05 |
| Treasury bonds – 2 years | 0.29 | 0.24 | 0.26 | 0.15 | 0.23 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.26 | 0.15 |
| – 5 years | 0.93 | 0.95 | 1.00 | 0.42 | 0.34 | 0.46 | 1.03 | 0.48 | 0.30 |
| – 10 years | 1.51 | 1.50 | 1.59 | 0.81 | 0.57 | 0.64 | 1.61 | 0.77 | 0.43 |
| – 30 years | 1.96 | 1.92 | 2.05 | 1.44 | 1.16 | 1.29 | 2.08 | 1.31 | 0.89 |
| <u>Spread with the U.S. rate (% points)</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Overnight – target | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Treasury bill – 3 months | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.08 | -0.04 | -0.02 | 0.08 | 0.17 | 0.04 | -0.04 |
| Treasury bonds – 2 years | 0.13 | 0.08 | 0.11 | 0.02 | 0.09 | 0.14 | 0.16 | 0.10 | 0.01 |
| – 5 years | 0.11 | 0.10 | 0.12 | -0.04 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.21 | 0.06 | -0.04 |
| – 10 years | -0.07 | -0.17 | -0.14 | -0.29 | -0.17 | -0.02 | 0.01 | -0.14 | -0.30 |
| – 30 years | -0.32 | -0.42 | -0.40 | -0.41 | -0.37 | 0.01 | 0.06 | -0.35 | -0.49 |
| S&P/TSX index (level) | 19,339 | 19,228 | 18,854 | 17,909 | 16,439 | 14,360 | 19,339 | 16,791 | 13,940 |
| Exchange rate (C\$/US\$) | 1.2498 | 1.2529 | 1.2499 | 1.2735 | 1.3189 | 1.4000 | 1.4211 | 1.3146 | 1.2402 |
| Exchange rate (C\$/€) | 1.4977 | 1.4907 | 1.4879 | 1.5383 | 1.5458 | 1.5229 | 1.5903 | 1.5390 | 1.4733 |
| Overseas | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Euro zone</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| ECB – Refinancing rate | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Exchange rate (US\$/€) | 1.1982 | 1.1898 | 1.1904 | 1.2080 | 1.1720 | 1.0878 | 1.2327 | 1.1720 | 1.0778 |
| <u>United Kingdom</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| BoE – Base rate | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| Bonds – 10 years | 0.78 | 0.81 | 0.88 | 0.31 | 0.22 | 0.25 | 0.91 | 0.33 | 0.04 |
| FTSE index (level) | 7,016 | 6,916 | 6,709 | 6,736 | 5,920 | 5,787 | 7,016 | 6,282 | 5,577 |
| Exchange rate (US\$/£) | 1.3822 | 1.3710 | 1.3870 | 1.3588 | 1.2916 | 1.2501 | 1.4141 | 1.3149 | 1.2106 |
| <u>Germany</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Bonds – 10 years | -0.26 | -0.34 | -0.33 | -0.57 | -0.62 | -0.48 | -0.26 | -0.49 | -0.64 |
| DAX index (level) | 15,464 | 15,234 | 14,621 | 13,788 | 12,909 | 10,626 | 15,464 | 13,037 | 10,250 |
| <u>Japan</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| BoJ – Main policy rate | -0.10 | -0.10 | -0.10 | -0.10 | -0.10 | -0.10 | -0.10 | -0.10 | -0.10 |
| Nikkei index (level) | 29,683 | 29,768 | 29,792 | 28,519 | 23,411 | 19,897 | 30,468 | 24,950 | 19,138 |
| Exchange rate (US\$/¥) | 108.83 | 109.67 | 108.89 | 103.89 | 105.42 | 107.53 | 110.73 | 106.10 | 102.74 |

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.