



Economics

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"Ottawa might not have forever before it acts to address the fiscal consequences of the recession. But it clearly does have some time, in comparison to most other countries."

THE WEEK AHEAD

March 1-5, 2010

Finance Minister Flaherty Ascends the Podium

by Peter Buchanan

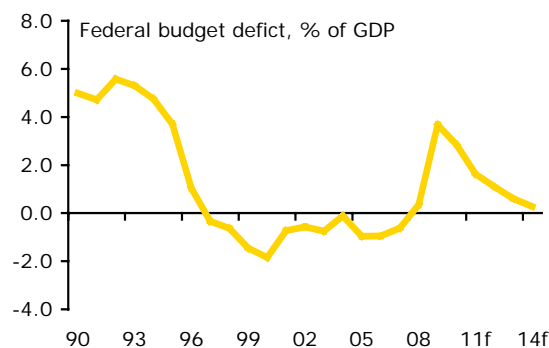
The spotlight will shift at least temporarily on Thursday from Euroland debt woes and medal counts to Ottawa with the tabling of Finance Minister Flaherty's fifth budget. Last January, the plain and simple need was to help extricate the economy from one of the worst recessions on record. While providing help for now to solidify a still not firmly entrenched recovery, the Minister will also have to warn Canadians of more austere times in future, when the stimulus funds provided in last year's budget run out.

Due largely to the recession's revenue hit, the government's most recent fiscal update in September estimated that the deficit this year would reach \$56 billion, versus the \$34 billion projected at budget time, falling to \$45 billion in the upcoming year. Given Ottawa's penchant for signaling things in advance, the lack of a clear cut warning to brace for worse suggests the 2009/10 tally may be not hugely different from that predicted amount. Next year's target could get some help from developments on the revenue side, given our expectation that nominal GDP will rise by 5.6% in 2010, vs the 4% pace assumed in the September update.

Given the headwinds still facing the economy, Ottawa not in advisedly has signaled that this year's budget will be a "stand pat" document. With an immediate scaling back of earlier pump-priming measures effectively

ruled out, that leaves investors to focus on the deficit's trajectory for fiscal year 2011/12 and beyond. The September update in fact projected a return to effective balance over five years.

Ottawa may not have forever before it acts to address the fiscal consequences of the recession. But it clearly does have some time, in comparison to most other countries. Even with fiscal retightening effectively deferred for a year, the federal deficit-to-GDP ratio in this cycle is likely to peak at around 3.7%. That's a good two points lower than in the early 1990s before Ottawa moved aggressively to put the nation's finances back on a sustainable footing. Those actions cut the debt-to-GDP ratio by two thirds in the following decade. Estimates suggest that on the current fiscal track Canada's net debt-to-GDP ratio will be about 36% in 2011 including the provinces, nearly 30%pts below the OECD average.



<http://research.cibcwm.com/res/Eco/EcoResearch.html>



Week Ahead Calendar And Forecast

	CANADA				UNITED STATES			
		CIBC	Consensus	Prior		CIBC	Consensus	Prior
Monday March 1	8:30 AM INDUSTRIAL PROD. PRICES M/M GDP (annualized) GDP M/M	(Jan) (M) (Q3) (H) (Dec) (H)	0.5% 4.0% 0.4%	-0.1% 0.4% 0.4%	AUCTION: 3-M BILLS \$26B, 6-M BILLS \$28B 8:30 AM PERSONAL INCOME M/M PERSONAL SPENDING M/M	(Jan) (M) (Jan) (M)	0.4% 0.6%	0.4% 0.4%
Tuesday March 2	AUCTION: 3-M BILLS \$7.1B, 6-M BILLS \$2.7B, 1-YR BILLS \$2.7B CASH MANAGEMENT BUYBACK (Jun '10 - Jun '11) \$1.0B AUCTION: 5-YR CANADAS \$3B, Jun-01-2015 British Columbia Provincial Budget 9:00 AM BANK OF CANADA RATE	(Mar) (H)	0.25%	0.25%	AUCTION: 4-WEEK BILLS \$31B 5:00 PM NEW VEHICLE SALES	40209 (M)	10.5M	10.8M
Wednesday March 3					8:15 AM ADP EMPLOYMENT CHANGE	Feb-01 (M)	-10K	-22K
Thursday March 4	CANADIAN FEDERAL BUDGET 8:30 AM BUILDING PERMITS M/M 10:00 AM IVEY PMI	(Jan) (L) (Feb) (L)	1.8% 56.0	1.2% 50.8	ISM - NON-MANUFACTURING Speaker(s): 8:15 PM Richard W. Fisher (Dallas) 09:15 AM Eric Rosengren (Philadelphia) 01:00 PM Dennis Lockhart (New York)	(Feb) (L)	51.0	50.5
					8:30 AM NON-FARM PRODUCTIVITY INITIAL CLAIMS	(Q3 R) (L) (Feb) (H)	6.3% 475K	6.2% 496K
					10:00 AM FACTORY ORDERS M/M	(Jan) (H)	2.7%	1.2%
Friday March 5					Speaker(s): 01:25 PM Charles Evans (Chicago)			
					8:30 AM NON-FARM PAYROLLS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS M/M	(Feb) (H) (Feb) (H) (Feb) (H)	-25K 9.9% 0.2%	-20K 9.7% 0.2%
					3:00 PM CONSUMER CREDIT	(Jan) (L)	\$-3.8B	-\$1.7B

Week Ahead's Market Call

by Meny Grauman

In the US, we kick off the week with a look at January personal income and spending figures, both of which should be quite good. However, despite an assortment of other secondary indicators the main data event will no doubt be on Friday with February's nonfarm payroll report. Although we believe that the market is ascribing too much of a downward pull to the two blizzards that blanketed the east-coast early in the month, there is no doubt that heavy storms will have somewhat of a negative impact on the final numbers. Perhaps more revealing than will be the latest jobless claims figures, which will weigh on investors if there is no discernible reversal after two weeks of disappointing data.

In Canada, after a sleepy week for data to close out the month, we get an action packed calendar led off by Q4 GDP. We expect a slightly better than 4% annualized print, and look for that momentum to extend into Q1 as well. The Bank of Canada will make its latest rate announcement on Tuesday. Although we don't expect any change on the rate front, the fact that policy makers will choose not to extend their conditional commitment to keep rates on hold past June, should be viewed as a signal that rates will start to head higher shortly after. The Conservatives will release their 5th budget on Wednesday, and although we expect the government to hold their spending commitment steady in the coming fiscal year, look for talk of necessary cuts in years ahead.

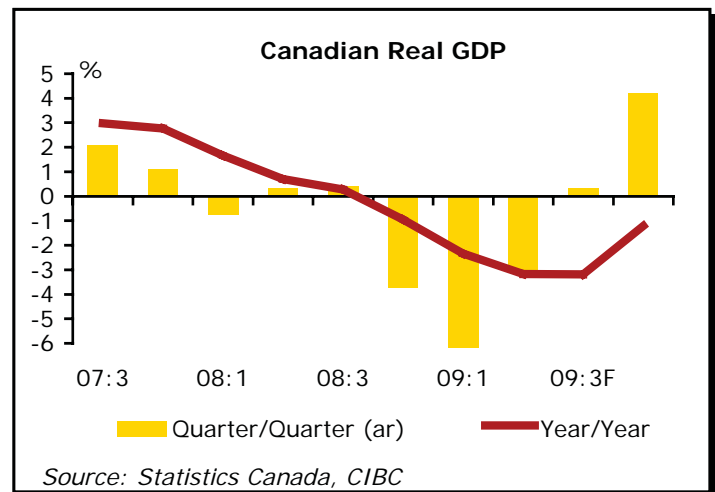
Week Ahead’s Key Canadian Number:

Real GDP—Q4

(Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.)

Peter Buchanan (416) 594-7354

	CIBC	Mkt	Prior
Qtly GDP (annualized)	4.2%	4.0%	0.4%



After a hesitant trip down the runway, Canada’s recovery finally appeared to reach take-off speed in Q4. Aided by a swing in trade from a huge drag to a modest plus and from further growth in consumer spending, real GDP appears to have expanded at a 4.2% annualized pace. That’s clearly not as hot as south of the border, but appreciably better than Q3’s 0.4% tempo. Besides the modest boost from trade, residential construction likely posted a further 6% annualized increase, in step with the healthy increase already reported in housing starts. Adding to growth, a slowing pace of inventory liquidation means firms are increasingly meeting demand from production rather than stocks. Domestic final sales, which exclude changes in the trade position and inventories, likely expanded at a 3.1% clip in the quarter, somewhat more modest than the previous quarter’s near 5% pace. A 0.4% rise in December GDP should provide a good handoff for Q1.

Forecast Implications — Even with a strong 4.2% rise in the quarter, GDP for the year as a whole will still be down 2.5%, the sharpest decline since 1982. A good part of Q4’s momentum should extend into the first half of 2010. The economy is likely to decelerate in the second half however as softer growth stateside hurts export momentum and the unsustainably hot housing sector cools.

Market Impact — A solid over 4% rise in Q4 GDP will cement expectations for a rate hike in Q3 when the Bank’s conditional commitment to stay on the sidelines lapses. That’s likely to help the loonie and cyclical stocks but hurt shorter-term debt issues.

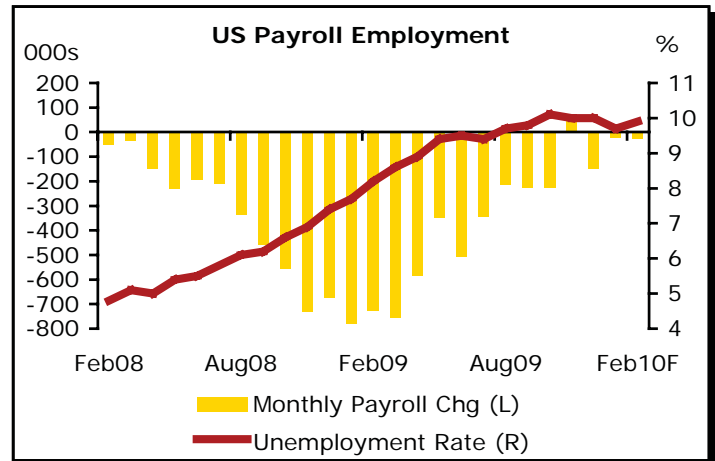
Week Ahead’s Key US Number:

Non-Farm Payrolls—February

(Friday, 8:30 a.m.)

Meny Grauman (416) 956-6527

	CIBC	Mkt	Prior
Non-Farm Payrolls (Chg)	-25K	-50K	-20K
Unemployment Rate	9.9%	9.8%	9.7%



The big question on everyone’s mind in the lead up to Friday’s nonfarm payroll report will be the impact from the two blizzards that swept the eastern seaboard early in February. On the surface, it would appear to be quite significant, but taking a closer look at how the numbers are collected suggests that the distortion may not be as large as some are claiming.

After all, people are counted as employed by the establishment survey if they were on the books any time during the pay period that includes February 12th. The snowstorm shut down many of biggest cities on the east coast for a couple of days, but even assuming a two-week pay period for many workers, that would still leave plenty of time to be counted in the official tally. However, the weather likely did slow down the pace of new hires, which certainly would impact the net jobs count. What is

more certain is that we will see a sizeable decline in hours worked and aggregate earnings.

Forecast Implications — Despite the puzzling upturn in initial jobless claims, payrolls should start to turn positive again over the next few months, no doubt helped along by a coming surge in census hiring. However, excluding that temporary burst of new hires, the pace of improvement is likely to be slow as firms respond to growing demand, in part by raising the hours of existing workers. That should keep the unemployment rate high compared to past recessions, and we do not expect it to fall meaningfully back below 10% before 2011.

Market Impact — With the market braced from a weather-induced payroll disappointment in February, our stronger-than-expected forecast may give a lift to equities and the US dollar, while hurting Treasuries.

Other US Releases:

Personal Income & Spending—January

(Monday, 8:30 a.m.)

The US economy may be on the slow path to recovery, but with unemployment still rising and consumer credit continuing to contract, households remain in a difficult position. The recent strength in US personal consumption does not appear to be sustainable, but for the time being people appear to be shopping. If the latest retail sales report is any indication, personal spending likely climbed by 0.6% due to ongoing strength from a number of

categories including services, even as autos likely weighed down these gains somewhat. The retail numbers did show a sizeable drop in sales of building materials, but for national accounts purposes that category is included in residential investment. On the income side we expect to see a gain of 0.4%, after a similar jump in December due to an increase in government transfer payments.

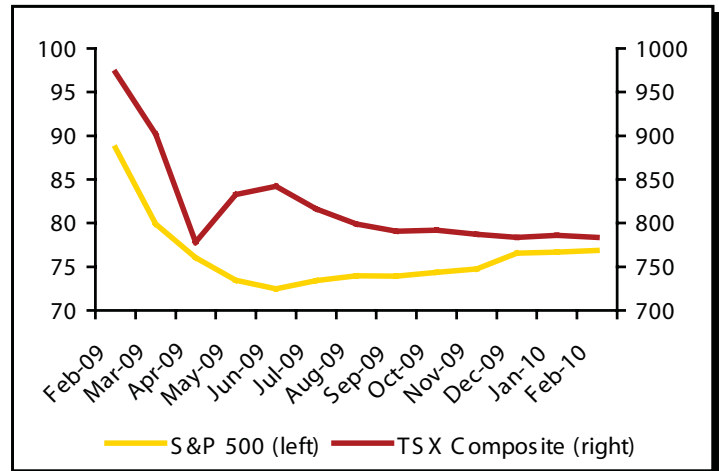
Equity Insights

Peter Buchanan and Meny Grauman

Consensus Still Looks for Solid Earnings Growth in 2010

Despite recent economic uncertainties, expectations for 2010 S&P 500 EPS have remained on a gradually ascending track to stand at 78.0 currently, vs 60.0 in the fiscal year just past. Expectations have risen the most in the last three months in the transportation group, which is dominated by the rails and airlines, consumer durables and technology. Despite an upgraded outlook for tech producers, health and basic industries (non-energy resources), the trend in Canada has if anything been in the other direction. The muscular loonie may be a contributing factor. But even with the recent erosion, the “bottom up” consensus continues to expect a solid 26% advance in TSX Composite earnings this year, just reclaiming the year-ago decline.

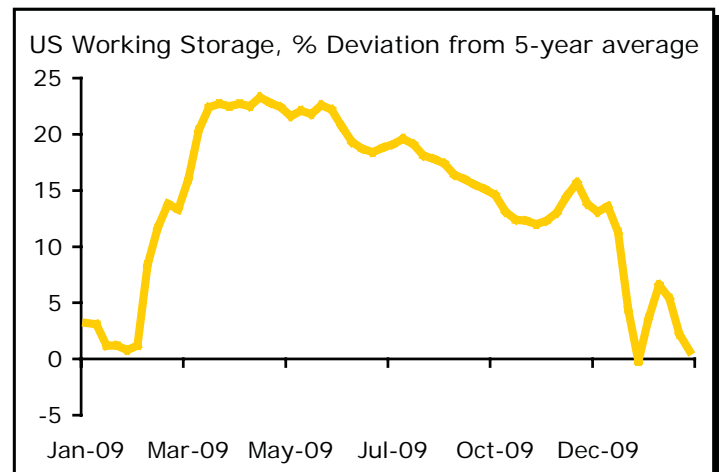
“Bottom Up” Earnings Expectations



End of Natural Gas Bubble Could Mean Higher Prices

The great gas inventory bubble of 2009 is history, a victim of firmer US demand aided by cold weather and a recovering factory sector. Scaled-back production due to drilling cutbacks may have also played a role, although the answer will only become clearer when the DOE releases early 2010 production data in the weeks ahead. With inventories tightening, a hot summer leading to higher generation demand, or storm-related disruptions, could trigger higher—perhaps much higher—prices in coming months.

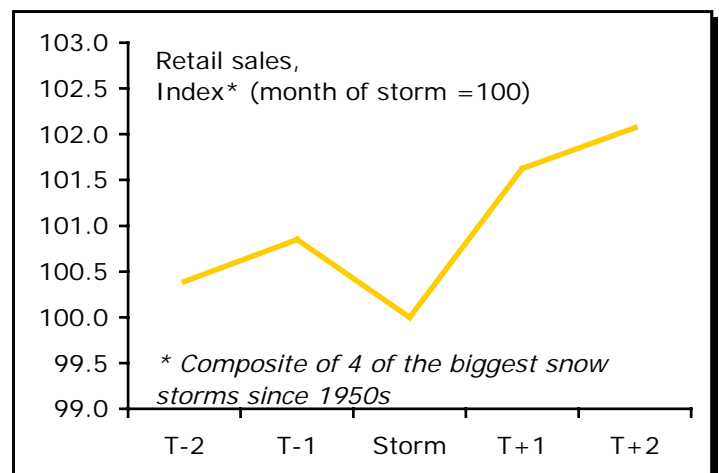
Easing Storage Overhang



A Blizzard of Weak Data in February Unlikely to Dent the Quarter

Despite our continuing belief that US real GDP growth will be strong in the first half of 2010, we expect the true economic picture to be temporarily clouded in February due to back-to-back blizzards early in the month. If history is any guide, recent storms will have somewhat of a negative impact on a number of other important economic variables including retail sales, industrial production, and housing starts. However, the impact on growth in the quarter as a whole is likely to be limited since activity typically overcompensates the following month. Also minimizing the economic impact this time around is the fact that the worst of both blizzards hit south of the populous NYC area.

Impact of Storms To Be Temporary



Currency Currents

Meny Grauman and Peter Buchanan

Mexico: An Island Unto Itself

Despite its checkered reputation in the sovereign debt markets, the recent fiscal crisis in Greece has had very limited repercussions for serial-defaulter Mexico. In fact, while 5-yr CDS spreads widened by 20% for Argentina since early January they have only climbed by 5% in Mexico. That is largely a function of the country's relatively healthy budgetary position, but also due to its minimal trade links with Southern Europe. While fiscal worries call into question the speed of rate hikes in many parts of the world, Mexico's strong fundamental data, including a better-than-expected Q4 GDP print, suggests that rate hikes there may come sooner. That should be supportive of further gains in peso, which has already had a good run for the month to date.

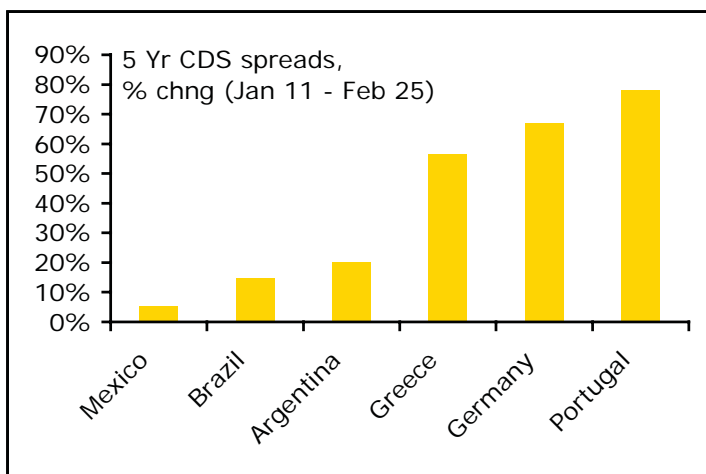
Next 2-3 Months Will Be Critical for Greece (and Euro)

Downgrade fears, a deferred bond sale and strife in Athens kept Greece in the forefront of eurozone debt concerns this week. The timing of Greece's current fiscal crisis isn't a great surprise. The heavily indebted nation faces the need to roll over nearly \$30 billion of its US\$400 billion public sector debt in the next 2-3 months. While Greece's budget and deficit problems aren't likely to go away anytime soon, a reduced focus on them could help the euro do better in the second half of the year. The country's rollover needs fall off to just \$7 billion in the July-December period. That assumes of course that another troubled eurozone member doesn't step into the spotlight.

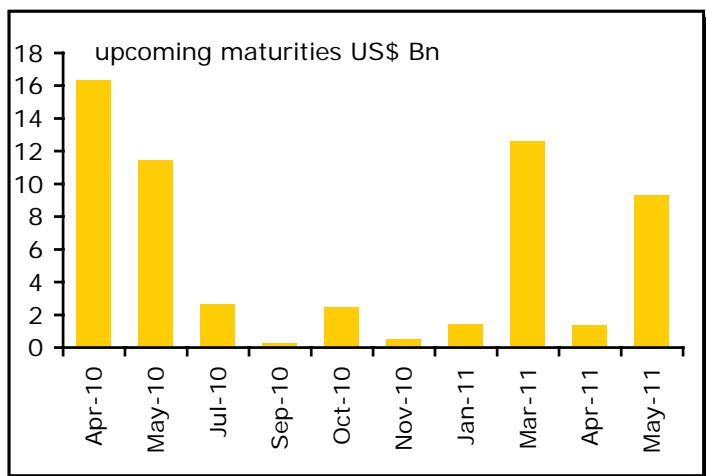
Yuan Appreciation Could Create Upside For Asian Currencies Like Yen, Baht

China appears to be under growing pressure to either float the yuan or undertake a one-off appreciation to staunch inflation pressure, and contain hot growth and money inflows. Futures markets are pricing in a 2.4% rise to 6.66 over a 12-month horizon. With estimates of the currency's undervaluation ranging as high as 30%, an appreciably larger move, though, would likely be needed to have much economic effect or ease US trade tensions. A firmer yuan could create room for the currencies of other Asian countries that compete or trade heavily with China to rally against the dollar.

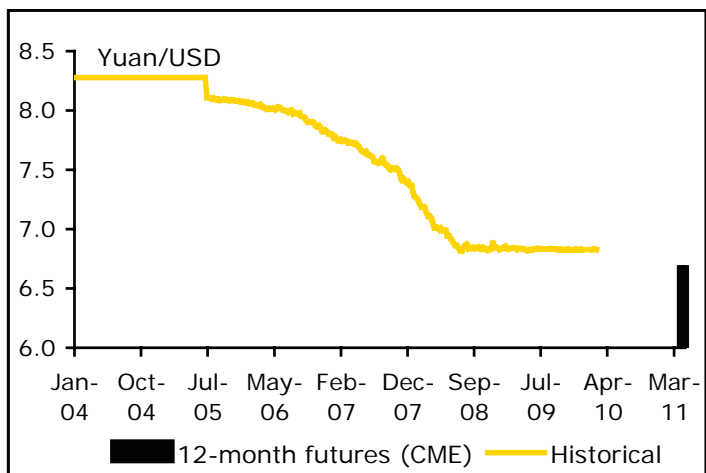
Mexican CDS Spreads Less Affected by Greek Debt Crisis



Greece's Looming Refinancing Bulge



Yuan Market Still Not Pricing in a Large Revaluation



CANADIAN RELEASE AND EVENT DATES February/March 2010



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
22	23	24	25	26
		QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATISTICS 8:30 AM		BALANCE OF INT'L PAYMENTS 8:30 AM CURR. ACCT. BAL. \$BN(OR) \$BN(AR) 09:Q2 -11.0 -43.8 09:Q3 -13.8 -55.2 09:Q4 -9.8 -39.1
NATIONAL ACCOUNTS 1 8:30 AM REAL GDP PRICE DEFLECTOR %ch AR %ch AR 09:Q2 -3.1 0.7 09:Q3 0.4 3.1 09:Q4 INDUSTRIAL PRICES 8:30 AM M (NSA) Y NOV 0.9 -2.9 DEC -0.1 -0.8 JAN GDP BY INDUSTRY 8:30 AM (2002\$) GDP IND.PROD. M M OCT 0.3 0.5 NOV 0.4 0.5 DEC	2 Bank of Canada Interest Rate Announcement British Columbia Provincial Budget	INTERNATIONAL RESERVES 3 8:15 AM \$BN \$BN CHANGE LEVEL DEC -2.063 54.4 JAN 2.620 57.0 FEB	BUILDING PERMITS (\$) 4 8:30 AM M M (RES) (NON-RES) NOV 11.6 -22.1 DEC -0.1 6.8 JAN IVEY PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX 10:00 AM Canadian Federal Budget	5
8	9	10	11	12
HOUSING STARTS 8:15 AM 000's (AR) TOTAL SINGLES NOV 168 75 DEC 178 79 JAN			MERCHANDISE TRADE 8:30 AM \$MN 12 MO. BALANCE NOV -201 -5,265 DEC -246 -4,790 JAN NEW HOUSING PRICE INDEX 8:30 AM CAPACITY UTILIZATION 8:30 AM LEVEL (%) TOTAL MANUF. 09:Q2 67.7 64.7 09:Q3 67.5 65.6 09:Q4	LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 12 7:00 AM AVG EMPLOY UNEMP HRLY (HOUSE) RATE EARN M Y % Y DEC -0.2 -1.1 8.4 2.2 JAN 0.3 -0.1 8.3 0.0 FEB
15	16	17	18	19
CAR & TRUCK SALES 8:30 AM 000's (AR) TOTAL DOM.BUILT CAR SALES NOV 1,505 431 DEC 1,544 453 JAN WAGE SETTLEMENTS 10:00 AM (%) PVT. PUB. TOT. NOV 1.3 2.4 2.0 DEC 1.6 2.3 1.8 JAN	SURVEY OF MANUFACTURING 8:30 AM SHIPMENTS M Y NOV 0.1 -10.5 DEC 1.6 -0.1 JAN LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY 8:30 AM	WHOLESALE TRADE 8:30 AM	INT'L TRANSACTIONS IN SECURITIES C\$BN, NET 8:30 AM BONDS MONEY STOCKS TOT MARKET NOV 12.9 -1.9 -0.4 10.6 DEC 9.5 0.5 1.2 11.2 JAN	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 19 7:00 AM M (NSA) Y DEC -0.3 1.3 JAN 0.3 1.9 FEB RETAIL TRADE 8:30 AM (Current\$) M Y NOV -0.5 1.0 DEC 0.4 6.7 JAN
22	23	24	25	26
	LEADING INDICATOR 8:30 AM	3-Yr BOND AUCTION		

All data seasonally adjusted except where noted "NSA". M: per cent change from previous month. Q: per cent change from previous quarter at annual rates. Y: per cent change from year earlier. AR: Annual Rate. YTD: Year to date. Release dates are provided by sources outside CIBC World Markets Inc. Dates are subject to change. Sources for historical data: Statistics Canada, CMHC, Human Resources Development Canada and the Bank of Canada.

U.S. RELEASE AND EVENT DATES February/March 2010



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
22	23	24	25	26
	S&P/CASE-SHILLER HOUSE PRICE INDEX 9:00 AM CONSUMER CONFIDENCE 10:00 AM 2-Yr NOTE AUCTION BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (10:40)	NEW HOME SALES 10:00 AM 5-Yr NOTE AUCTION	DURABLE GOODS ORDERS 8:30 AM M Y NOV -0.4 -7.0 DEC 1.9 -1.6 JAN 3.0 10.2 7-Yr NOTE AUCTION INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	GDP 26 8:30 AM (AR) REAL IMPLICIT GDP DEFULATOR 09:Q3(F) 2.2 0.4 09:Q4(A) 5.7 0.6 09:Q4(P) 5.9 0.4 CHICAGO PMI 9:45 AM MICHIGAN SENTIMENT (F) 10:00 AM EXISTING HOME SALES 10:00 AM
PERS. INCOME & OUTLAYS 1 8:30 AM SAVING INCOME CONS RATE M M AR NOV 0.5 0.7 4.5 DEC 0.4 0.2 4.8 JAN ISM MFG SURVEY 10:00 AM COMP. PRICES INDEX DEC 54.9 61.5 JAN 58.4 70.0 FEB 2, 5, 7-Yr NOTE SETTLEMENT	2 LIGHT VEHICLES SALES MIL (AR) Y DEC 11.201 8.7 JAN 10.757 12.2 FEB BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (10:40)	3 ADP SURVEY 8:15 AM ISM NON-MFG SURVEY 10:00 AM Beige Book	4 NON-FARM PRODUCTIVITY Q/Q (AR) Y/Y 8:30 AM 09:Q3 (R) 7.2 3.8 09:Q4 (P) 6.2 5.1 09:Q4 (R) FACTORY ORDERS 10:00 AM M Y NOV 1.0 -2.0 DEC 1.0 3.6 JAN 3, 10-Yr NOTE ANNOUNCEMENT 30-Yr BOND ANNOUNCEMENT INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	5 EMPLOY. SITUATION 8:30 AM NON-CIV AVG FARM UNEMP HRLY PAYROLL RATE EARN (000s) M % Y DEC -150 10.0 2.4 JAN -20 9.7 2.5 FEB CONSUMER CREDIT 3:00PM
8	9	10	11	12
	3-Yr NOTE AUCTION BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (10:40)	10-Yr NOTE AUCTION TREASURY BUDGET 2:00 PM	GOODS & SERVICES BALANCE (BOP) \$B 8:30 AM GDS SERV TOT NOV -48.4 12.0 -36.4 DEC -51.8 11.7 -40.2 JAN 30-Yr BOND AUCTION MONEY SUPPLY M-2 4:30 PM M Y DEC 0.2 3.45 JAN -0.7 1.9 FEB INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	RETAIL SALES 8:30 AM M Y DEC -0.1 5.5 JAN 0.5 4.7 FEB MICHIGAN SENTIMENT (P) 10:00 AM BUSINESS INVENTORIES 10:00 AM
15	16	17	18	19
NET CAPITAL INFLOWS TICS 9:00 AM CAPACITY UTIL/IND. PROD. 9:15 AM LEV M Y DEC 71.9 0.7 -2.2 JAN 72.6 0.9 1.0 FEB 10-, 30-Yr NOTE SETTLEMENT	HOUSING STARTS 8:30 AM MIL (AR) M DEC 0.575 -0.7 JAN 0.591 2.8 FEB FOMC Rate Announcement BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (10:40)	PRODUCE PRICE INDEX 8:30 AM M (SA) Y (NSA) DEC 0.4 4.4 JAN 1.4 4.6 FEB	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 8:30 AM M (SA) Y (NSA) DEC 0.2 2.7 JAN 0.2 2.6 FEB CURRENT ACCOUNT BAL. 8:30 AM PHILADELPHIA FED INDEX 10:00 AM LEADING INDICATOR 10:00 AM 2, 5, 7-Yr NOTE ANNOUNCEMENT INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	
22	23	24	25	26
	EXISTING HOME SALES 10:00 AM 2-Yr NOTE AUCTION BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (10:40)	DURABLE GOODS ORDERS 8:30 AM M Y DEC 1.9 -1.6 JAN 3.0 10.2 FEB NEW HOME SALES 10:00 AM 5-Yr NOTE AUCTION	7-Yr NOTE AUCTION INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	GDP 26 8:30 AM (AR) REAL IMPLICIT GDP DEFULATOR 09:Q3(F) 2.2 0.4 09:Q4(P) 5.9 0.4 09:Q4(F) CORPORATE PROFITS 8:30 AM MICHIGAN SENTIMENT (F) 10:00 AM

All data seasonally adjusted except where noted "NSA". M: per cent change from previous month. Q: per cent change from previous quarter at annual rates. Y: per cent change from year earlier. AR: Annual Rate. YTD: Year to date. Release dates are provided by sources outside CIBC World Markets inc. Dates are subject to change. Sources for historical data: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Federal Reserve Board.

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