Weekly commentary on economic and financial market developments

April 21, 2011

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## Regional Outlook of the Euro Zone Periphery

 Ambitious fiscal consolidation and policy coordination continue in the euro zone periphery in order to restore fiscal sustainability, and to alleviate the sovereign credit turmoil.

### Improved Governance: Decisive Joint Intervention to Address Fiscal & Debt Shocks

European political leaders are showing a greater sense of unity and cohesiveness in managing the financial and political shocks linked to fiscal and debt sustainability in selected countries within the euro zone's periphery. Investors are beginning to reward the effectiveness by which multilateral financial schemes can be designed and executed. Financial assistance is being provided to three of the so-called group of PIGS (Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain). The joint programmes — the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) and the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) — established by the European Union (EU), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Commission incorporate rigorous conditions aimed at restoring fiscal health and secure financial stability within the euro zone. The effective lending capability of the EFSF will be enlarged to €440 billion (lending to Greece did not come from this facility, only those to Ireland and Portugal, which total around €160 billion). The permanent ESM will be established in 2013 with a lending capability of \$600 billion. When announcing the forthcoming multilateral support to Portugal in April, the official communiqué released by the EU Finance Ministers stressed that the adjustment program to be endorsed by the new Portuguese government will require ambitious fiscal consolidation, growth and productivity enhancement reforms, and measures to safeguard financial stability. Massive bond issuance will complement the multilateral arrangements as primary sources of funding for European economies in fiscal distress.

### Diverging Growth Prospects Within the Euro Zone; Further Monetary Tightening in Sight

Widening growth differentials remain in place within the euro zone. Germany's economic strength (real GDP is expected to expand by 2.7% in 2011) contrasts sharply with the fragile economic conditions and high unemployment rates present in the PIGS countries, linked to the fiscal tightening needed to place government finances on a sustainable path. Worth noting, however, is that Portugal, Ireland and Greece represent only 6% of the euro zone's economy, while Spain accounts for around 11% of the regional GDP. Spain is the only economy within this group will record a modest expansion in 2011/12 while Portugal, Ireland and Greece will continue to suffer from negative growth rates. In order to fulfill its mandate to secure price stability, the European Central Bank (ECB) recently initiated an orderly process of interest rate normalization. The monetary tightening cycle — the ECB increased its main refinancing rate by 25 bps to 1.25% on April 7<sup>th</sup> — should not derail the growth prospects of the core economies within the euro zone, but might adversely affect the recovery of the peripheral euro zone members, due to increasing costs of funds to businesses and households. Nevertheless, tighter monetary conditions limit inflationary expectations, which should lower the cost of longer term international financing, in turn helping the troubled economies to gain access to favourable funding conditions.

### Safeguarding Financial Stability is a Key Priority in Europe

Systemic risk considerations will continue to affect the European periphery's financial sector, and the ECB remains a primary provider of liquidity to distressed European banks. The ECB's intervention to provide unlimited liquidity highlights the precarious situation still present in both Ireland and Portugal, while the risk of a debt restructuring of Greek debt obligations weighs on the region, both in the context of a persistently fragile UK banking sector. The tightening of credit conditions due to the introduction of a more stringent regulatory framework under the new Basle III rules also provides an economic growth-deterrent, as



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deleveraging remains in place in most of these peripheral economies. Since May 2010, the ECB has conducted liquidity-neutral interventions in distressed government debt markets under the Securities Markets Programme (SMP); to date, the programme has accumulated €77 billion in peripheral debt.

### Consolidation of Currency Regime Despite Financial Market Turbulence

Successive sovereign debt and financial sector shocks within the euro zone have provided a solid test to the currency union. The euro (EUR) is here to stay; in fact, market trends point towards an appreciating exchange rate versus the US dollar (USD) in the near term. The recovery in the core European economies together with the financial assistance provided to Greece, Ireland and now Portugal, has helped the EUR gather strength versus the USD. The relative fiscal position of the euro area as a whole against that of the US, the UK, and Japan remains favourable, despite significant fiscal imbalances within the PIGS group.

## Persistent Sovereign Debt Shocks Lead to Deteriorating Creditworthiness

International rating agencies are on alert, placing the four peripheral European countries under review for further sovereign debt rating downgrades. At present, financial market metrics imply that Spain, the top-rated credit within the PIGS group, will avoid the degree of contagion that affected other distressed economies. However, recent shifts in market trends have not prevented the rating agency community from keeping a "negative" outlook on the Spanish sovereign credit. Until now, Moody's has downgraded Spain by two notches from the top rating category. At the other extreme is Greece, which is now rated as a speculative-grade economy, four notches below the investment-grade threshold. The risk of a debt restructuring increases Greece's vulnerability of even further rating erosion. It is worth noting the velocity by which the systemic crisis in the banking sector ended in a rapid downgrade of Ireland's sovereign debt ratings — down nine notches from "AAA"-rate status since July 2009. Finally, the latest casualty of investors' anxiety, Portugal, has also suffered from multiple downgrade revisions, yet it still maintains an investment-grade position. Besides uncertain growth prospects, implementation risk (due to demanding fiscal adjustment plans) remains a key factor influencing the ratings outlook.

For more detailed analysis on the economic outlook of Portugal, Ireland, Greece, and Spain, please refer to the *Europe - Regional Economic Outlook* report, published on Monday April 18<sup>th</sup> at <a href="http://www.scotiacapital.com/English/bns\_econ/europe.pdf">http://www.scotiacapital.com/English/bns\_econ/europe.pdf</a>.



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## Canadian Consumers Hit By Widespread Price Increases

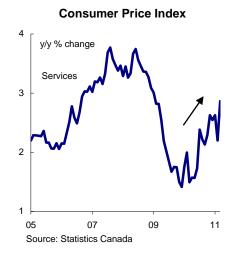
 Widespread consumer price increases in March are likely to raise some alarm bells, and suggest rising energy and non-energy commodity prices are beginning to infiltrate broader price trends. For the time being, however, underlying inflation should be kept in check by continued excess capacity, Canadian dollar strength, a highly competitive retail sector and well anchored inflation expectations.

The latest inflation report from Statistics Canada confirmed what any Canadian on the street will attest: household budgets are being squeezed by rising prices. A jarring 0.8% m/m increase in overall consumer prices in March lifted the headline inflation rate to a 2½-year high of 3.3% y/y — up a full percentage point from the prior month and breaching the upper limit of the Bank of Canada's (BoC) 1-3% target range.

Not surprisingly, the biggest contributors to the acceleration in inflation are rising costs for energy and, more recently, food. Excluding energy & food, inflation is tracking more than a full percentage point lower at 2.1% y/y. As we have highlighted before, the transmission of rising oil prices to the energy component of the CPI is largely coincident. The roughly 45% rise in oil prices since last September has added close to a percentage point to overall inflation. In contrast, rising agricultural prices generally take more time, around 9-12 months, to feed through to retail food prices. The roughly 40% rise in agricultural prices (measured by Scotiabank's Commodity Price Index) since last May is just now beginning to appear on grocery store shelves. If agricultural prices hold around current levels, retail food inflation should rise through the latter half of 2011.

Meanwhile, core consumer prices (CPIX) increased a hefty 0.5% m/m, booting underlying inflation from 0.9% y/y to 1.7% y/y. Caution is advised in interpreting this latest jump, given the role of several unusual factors, including the lingering price level effect of 2010 Winter Olympic pricing, recent electricity rebates in Ontario, and the impact of HST-related tax refunds by businesses in B.C. and Ontario. Unseasonable weather conditions can also effect normal seasonally pricing patterns. Looking past these temporary influences, we expect core inflation is tracking around 1½%, indicating continued excess capacity in the broader domestic economy and well within the BoC's comfort zone.

Nonetheless, it is worth noting the widespread nature of the price increases in March. Seasonally-adjusted prices rose m/m in virtually all major product categories. Even the cost of clothing and footwear rose sharply last month, suggesting rising input costs



(e.g. cotton) may be infiltrating final prices here as well. While a high-import category that should ostensibly benefit from a strengthening Canadian dollar, the majority of Canada's textile imports (over 60%) come from China and other emerging Asian nations, whose currencies are for the most part rising as well.

We expect retailers are trying to test their pricing power in the face of rising manufacturing and wholesale costs. However, such attempts may ultimately prove unsuccessful given the recent softening in consumer confidence and spending. Indeed, rising food and gas prices, and their negative implications for purchasing power, suggest greater price sensitivity on the part of consumers. Increasing competition from new entrants to the marketplace, combined with the risk of cross-border sales leakage, will also limit the pricing power of many retailers.

While the strong Canadian dollar should ultimately restrain inflationary pressures for many import-intensive consumer goods, price developments in a broad range of domestic-oriented services are not nearly as well contained (see chart). Providers of many energy-intensive services are showing some of the largest increases, including domestic services such as home cleaning, moving & storage and lawn maintenance (7.0% y/y),



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personal care services such as dry cleaning and hair salons (6.2% y/y), child care (4.2% y/y), dental & eye care (3.8% y/y), car rentals (4.1% y/y), airfares (12.2% y/y), rail & bus transportation (4.8% y/y), taxis (3.9% y/y), postal services (8.0% y/y) and spectator sports (4.9% y/y). Also rising is the cost of many regulated or less elastic services, including home insurance (4.9% y/y), car insurance (4.7% y/y), tuition fees (3.8% y/y), parking fees (8.2% y/y), cable (7.1% y/y) and internet (3.7% y/y).

For the time being, continued excess capacity, Canadian dollar strength, a highly competitive retail sector and well anchored inflation expectations should prevent a major breakout in underlying inflation. Indeed, we expect core inflation could fall back slightly in April given the tougher year-ago comparison for March. Nonetheless, the trend is biased higher as excess capacity is gradually absorbed, and rising manufacturing costs continue to pressure wholesale and retail margins. Headline inflation may well move even higher in the coming months before stabilizing in the second half of the year, assuming energy and non-energy commodity prices stabilize around current levels.



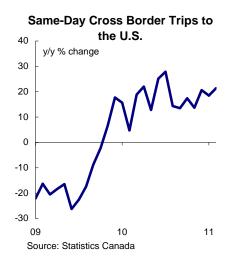
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## Challenging Year Ahead for Canadian Retailers

"Can I help you find anything? Anything?" Customers proving to be hard to convince.

Retail sales numbers for the month of February highlight some of the difficulty faced by Canadian retailers. While a m/m advance of 0.4% is a decent gain, this proved to be just enough to offset losses incurred the month prior. Overall, Canadians have pulled back their expenditures so far this year, and while there are signs of improvement, retailers are faced with a number of challenges that will limit gains.

Given the import intensity of the retail industry, the strong Canadian dollar offers a means to widen margins, but it also presents a genuine threat in the form of intensified online and cross-border competition. Travel data released this week highlight the extent to which cross-border shopping has increased in a post-recession high-dollar climate, with a y/y gain of 21.4% marking the 12<sup>th</sup> straight double digit increase in Canadian cross-border traffic. Although rising fuel costs have ebbed travel somewhat, it is evident that consumers are increasingly aware of price differentials south of the border.



Online shopping and the proliferation of smart phones have increased this challenge, as price comparisons can be made almost instantaneously. With many U.S. sites now offering generous shipping terms, Canadian retailers now find non-traditional competitors extending their grasp into the Canadian market. This is particularly the case for travel tickets, books, clothing and jewelry – the most common items purchased online by Canadians.

While the clothing and footwear component of CPI jumped 2.1% m/m in March, this amounted to a y/y increase of only 0.3%, such was the extent of discounting in the latter half of 2010. The Retail Council of Canada reports that while many retailers adopted a conservative inventory management strategy, they still found themselves overstocked after the holiday season. March may well have marked the month where excess inventories were finally purged, re-establishing some pricing power on new stock. However, price increases on clothing and electronics will be limited.

The Retail Council of Canada reports that while conversion ratios—the amount of sales over the number of customers—are favourable, traffic at most retailers remains low. This is an indication that shoppers are researching and targeting specific items, giving the retailer limited power to attract the customer's attention to any new or complimentary items, and promotions are constraining their ability to push them to higher margin items.

Continued employment gains will support moderate sales growth this year, but consumer attitudes will remain cautious. Retailers are faced with value-conscious consumers who remain weary of increasing their debt burdens in the current economic climate. Product differentiation and loyalty programs will remain key strategies to gain market share in a low-price environment.

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## Trimming Personal Income Tax Expenditures — A Tough Agenda

## Trimming U.S. personal income tax expenditures is likely to prove only slightly less contentious than other fiscal repair options

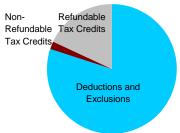
Personal as well as corporate tax expenditure cuts are now a critical component in fiscal repair strategies for Washington. The President's suggested "Debt Failsafe" trigger stipulates across-the-board cuts in both direct expenditures and spending through the tax code. A tax expenditure is defined as the revenue foregone as a result of preferential tax treatment for a specific activity, sector or region. For individuals, tax expenditures include income exempted and deductions allowed from personal taxable income, deductions from taxes payable, lower tax rates and the deferral of taxes on specific items. Personal income tax (PIT) expenditures often have laudable objectives. In the table below, some of the largest U.S. PIT expenditures relate to: encouraging desired activities such as retirement saving; assisting individuals in adversity such as medical expense deductions; or furthering common public goals such as the Life Long Learning Credit or charitable contribution deductions.

Yet, an assessment of tax expenditures against the criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, equity, administrative and compliance costs and fiscal impact is prompting their curtailment. Tax expenditures have frequently proven to be far less transparent than direct spending, expensive to properly monitor and poorly targetted, in part because over time they can spur counterproductive behaviour. In aggregate, they can render the tax code overly complex, their bottom-line cost is often larger than expected, their combined impact on economic and social goals is difficult to assess and, by substantially narrowing the tax base, they can generate significant inequities. OECD estimates across 26 nations indicate tax expenditures in 2010 relative to GDP of 1% or less in Portugal, Korea, Germany and Switzerland and 7% or more in the U.S., Guatemala, Italy and Australia. For Canada, tax expenditures are estimated at about 2% of GDP. Efforts to restrict tax expenditures include Germany's revision of its largest 20

expenditures, the Netherlands' fiveyear review, Japan's use of sunset clauses and Korea's cap<sup>1</sup>.

In the U.S., opposition to PIT expenditure cuts could be mitigated with a phased implementation. Other nations' experience suggest several alternate approaches. To limit complaints from specific interests, the Slovak Republic finally implemented a wholesale reduction of all its tax expenditures. One option, a partial reduction of the PIT expenditure, is already suggested for mortgage interest deductibility. Some countries have converted deductions to tax credits calculated at the lowest marginal PIT rate or placed a nominal cap on the tax expenditure per individual. And finally, if the overall savings permit, a sweetener, such as a general PIT reduction, is possible.

## U.S. Federal Personal Income Tax Expenditures



Fiscal 2007-11 estimate. Source: U.S. Joint Committee on Taxation, Scotia Economics.

## Selected Major U.S. Federal PIT Expenditures

US\$ billions	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	FY2012 <sup>1</sup>
Net exclusion of pension contributions and earnings <sup>2</sup>	146.8
Mortgage interest deductibility, owner-occupied homes	98.6
Deductibility of state/local property taxes on owner-occupied homes	24.9
Deductibility of non-business state/local taxes not on owner-occupied home	s 48.6
Capital gains, step-up basis at death	61.5
Deduction of charitable contributions:	
Education	4.9
Health	4.9
Other	43.1
Net imputed rental income exclusion	50.6
Exclusion of interest on state/local bonds	37.0
Exclusion of social security benefits <sup>3</sup>	32.6
Exclusion of interest on life insurance savings	22.7
Exclusion of benefits/allowances for armed forces personnel	13.7
Child credit	10.6
Medical expenses deductibility	10.0
Earned income tax credit	8.5
Exclusion of workers' compensation benefits	7.4
Lifetime Learning tax credit	5.5
<sup>1</sup> Fiscal year and Sontomber 20, 2012. <sup>2</sup> Employer plans: 401/k) plans: Individual Potics	mont

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Fiscal year-end September 30, 2012. <sup>2</sup> Employer plans; 401(k) plans; Individual Retirement Accounts; low and moderate income savers credit; and Keogh plans. <sup>3</sup> For retired workers; disabled workers; and spouses, dependents and survivors. Source: Office of Management and Budget, President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2012.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Tax expenditure growth in Korea cannot exceed 0.5% of the three-year average of tax expenditures relative to the sum of tax expenditures plus tax revenues.

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## Asian Currency Gains Aimed at Cushioning the Effect of Elevated Oil Prices

- Regional monetary conditions will continue to tighten as rising inflationary pressures have Asian monetary authorities on edge.
- While further interest rate increases are expected, exchange rates will bear a significant share of the load.

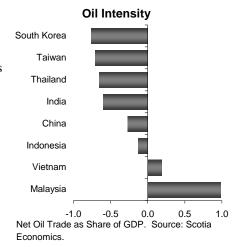
Asian currencies will bear a significant amount of the monetary policy tightening weight as they are aimed at cushioning the impact of elevated fuel, food and raw material imports. Inflationary concerns top the agendas of Asian monetary authorities' as economies currently operate at output levels that surpass those observed in mid-2008, the peak of the previous business cycle. Home-grown momentum evident in declining unemployment rates is thus colliding with the surge in imported price pressures.

Recent exchange rate trends reaffirm the perception that currency appreciation would have to play a significant role in mitigating the effect of elevated oil and raw materials costs. After a bout of volatility during the first three months of the year, regional exchange rates have either recovered or reaffirmed previous appreciation trends (refer to first chart). We expect to see more of this through the remainder of the year. While monetary normalization will continue as central banks move benchmark interest rates back to pre-crisis levels, the nature of the inflationary shock implies that a significant dose of foreign exchange appreciation will need to be part of the recipe. Although economies are running at close to full speed on the back of solid exports and domestic demand momentum, there not yet any evidence of wageprice spirals, which highlights the imported content of the current bout of price pressures. Therefore, unless inflationary expectations become contaminated, currency appreciation would be the most effective monetary response.



The effect of elevated oil prices on Asian economies will differ depending on their international oil trade position relative to GDP. This ratio attempts to measure how intensively oil is used to produce a unit of output. While most Asian countries are net oil importers, some have positive net oil exports, like Malaysia and Vietnam (refer to second chart). A measure of oil intensity can thus indicate how capable the economy will be to cushion the blow of elevate world oil prices.

To illustrate how oil price exposure is affecting currencies in differing ways, the cases of South Korea and Malaysia are worth highlighting. The Korean won's (KRW) year to date (ytd) 3.8% appreciation against the US dollar is consistent with the economy's high dependence on oil imports. Malaysia, on the other hand, is in a privileged position, as its net oil exporter status implies it is benefiting from the recent bout of elevated energy costs. This is consistent as well with a 1.7% ytd appreciation of the Malaysian ringgit (MYR), and a second place in the MYR's position in the regional currency chart. Finally, the appreciation of the Thai baht (THB) (the leader of the pack in the first chart) can be regarded under this light as an effective measure to withstand imported inflationary pressures given the country's relative oil intensity.





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## Peru Elections Update: Building Support

### The following article was published on April 20, 2011.

The campaign has been proceeding slowly in the ten days since leftist-candidate Humala captured a larger than expected vote in the first-round election. In particular, attempts at the formation of alliances have had only limited success. Toledo met with Humala on Saturday but has not met with Fujimori; on Sunday, some of Toledo's advisors also met with Humala, and the author of Toledo's economic plan, Kurt Burneo, now appears willing to work with Humala's campaign. While Toledo himself insists that he will not endorse a particular candidate, some members of his party clearly may do so, and a future alliance in Congress seems possible as well. Felix Jimenez, Humala's economic advisor, previously served as a director of Public Credit under the Toledo government, which provides another potential link between the two candidates. After a meeting Monday afternoon, a number of former government officials, economists, and academics seemed prepared to join Humala's party.

In order to entice such support, Humala's idealogical stance continues to moderate. Over the weekend, the spokesperson for Humala's party said that they are willing to make changes to their government plan if those are necessary to achieve a true national consensus and ensure the governability of the country. A cynical interpretation of this noble stance is that Humala is willing to make whatever changes are necessary in order to win; afterwards, it is anyone's guess what he will do. Humala's policies remain ambiguous, and perhaps intentionally so. In an interview on Sunday, Humala said that the nationalization of firms called for in his government plan does not actually mean nationalization in the "economic sense" but rather in the "political sense"; he endorses public policies that ensure that economic activity generates economic development. Obviously, that can mean anything. In an interview with CNN Mexico on Monday night, Humala rejected any fondness for the Venezuelan model, and the only type of revolution that Humala wanted to discuss was a revolution in education. One, so far minor, roadblock to Humala's moderation that has appeared recently is that it is not clear whether electoral rules allow candidates to alter a previously submitted government plan, a plan which in Humala's case has generated much criticism.

In terms of alliances, Fujimori has grown closer to former rival Kuczynski. Even without a formal alliance, it is reasonable to expect that she should be able to capture many Kuczynski voters based on economic ideology. Meanwhile, she continues to deflect attacks on her father's administration, which predictably have grown stronger now that there are only two candidates remaining. Caretas magazine published a list of 78 Fujimoristas that are either in jail or have received suspended sentences for corruption and human rights violations. The list includes the prime minister, five other ministers, congressmen, and of course the former president. Keiko repeatedly insists that she will not pardon her father if she is elected. Her attitude to her father's administration remains fluid, however. Sometimes she praises that government as the best in the country's history, while other times she recognizes that mistakes were made. Her support base in the first round came from those who had a favourable impression of her father, but of course she needs to widen her base for the second round.

Thus, both candidates offend a portion of the electorate, a relationship demonstrated in terms of high rejection rates in prior polls. In a Datum poll published April 3<sup>rd</sup> (prior to the first round of elections), 33% of voters said they would never vote for Humala while 18% said they would never vote for Fujimori. In contrast, rejection rates according to an Ipsos poll from the same date were 41% for Humala and 40% for Fujimori. A difference between the two polls is that the Ipsos poll allowed voters to say they would never vote for more than one candidate. There may well be voters who said they would never vote for either Humala or Fujimori prior to the first round who may now be forced to decide over the next two months between these two candidates.

The next important data point is likely to be the Ipsos-Apoyo poll scheduled for publication on Sunday, which will be the first Ipsos poll since the completion of first round elections. Still, Peruvian election history shows that much can change in two months, and the final outcome could differ substantially from an early poll.



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### A Notable Week for Asian FX

 This week has brought key developments in EM Asian FX, including the signs of greater CNY flexibility from the PBoC, THB-supportive Bank of Thailand hawkishness, and sharp USD weakness; these factors have helped push the USD to new lows vs. EM Asia and favour continued gains in our recommended basket trade.

It has been something of a notable week for Asian FX, notable in the sense that we've seen a rather key global macro event and a couple of monetary policy developments that have further served to push breakouts in certain Asian FX pairs versus the USD, and underscore a trading theme that we have been engaged in for the past month.

First came the shift in S&P's ratings outlook for the US, changing the outlook for the world's most important AAA sovereign from stable to negative. This created a quite a hiccup for markets on Tuesday, pushing global equities down over 1.5% and providing the usual paradoxical risk-aversion based boost to the USD. However, as we close off the week it is the USD that is in broad retreat as risk thirst has returned with a vengeance, with the greenback being been pushed to a new low on a trade-

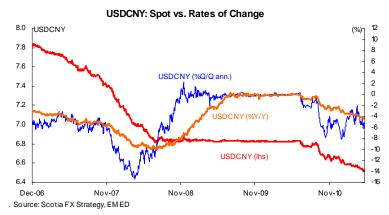


weighted basis against EM Asian FX (see first chart).

The post knee-jerk risk aversion driven USD move displayed the market's return to fundamental normality in its view that the risk of the world's preeminent AAA sovereign losing its AAA status is not something that should benefit the currency. Indeed, S&P indicated a one-in-three chance that such a ratings downgrade would take place within two years, a very stark warning indeed. It remains to be seen whether this places enough political pressure on the battling Democrats and Republicans to come to an agreement that would benefit the country. However what may be more likely is that we would have to wait for the next President to take office and show a lack of commitment to structural fiscal reform for S&P to "pull the trigger" so to speak. All we can say with certainty at this point is that the ratings move does nothing but undermine the USD side of the USD/EM Asian FX macro view, helping our trade-weighted index to a new decade-plus low.

Another notable event for the EM Asian FX space was the statement posted to the PBoC's website by Deputy Governor Hu Xiaolian, noting that the 4% inflation target poses challenges and that China will increase the

flexibility of the yuan to help ease imported price inflation. While this should engender greater aggressiveness in shorting CNY NDFs, it also means that regional policymakers should be more tolerant of strength in their own currencies versus the USD, as China's FX leadership helps to allow others to maintain price competitiveness vis-à-vis China. This is important as it allows regional policymakers to also address inflationary pressures that they are dealing with. Looking at spot USDCNY, it seems like there has been



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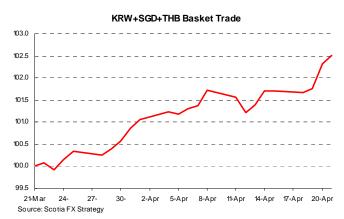
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an increment in the pace of appreciation thus far in April, with the y/y pace of depreciation in the pair (or CNY appreciation) at 4.5% and accelerating. Looking at a more "real time" measure of the rate of change (though also more volatile), the 3mth/3mth annualized rate of USDCNY depreciation has hit a new 3 month high at 6.2%, in line with what policymakers have been signaling following the high 5.4% y/y print on inflation (see second chart). Again, this is a more volatile measure and less descriptive of the longer term trend, but it does seem to capture a new short term urgency in CNY appreciation.

This ties in nicely with what we've seen out of Thailand on the side of policy this week. The anticipated 25bp rate increase was realized, along with a very constructive policy statement that bodes well for further currency gains and monetary tightening. In fact, on the back of the statement USDTHB managed to trade sustainably below the 30.00 level for the first time in months. This was matched by notable price action in USDMYR as that pair managed to break lower towards the 3.00 level on the back of another uptick in Malaysian inflation. This is a positive development for MYR bulls (MYR logged its most prominent two-day gain in a month to end the week) as it shows the degree to which Bank Negara Malaysia is required to engage in further policy tightening via measured increases in its policy rate and the exchange rate, considering inflation (at 3% y/y) is now running even further above its decade average.

The resumption of USD selling, the Thai policy move and the seeming willingness amongst Chinese policymakers to tolerate CNY gains in order to fight inflation, have greatly benefitted our long (in equal parts) SGD, THB and KRW trade against the USD. We initiated our position on March 22nd (See March 22nd, Scotia Asian FX Update) with a targeted gain of 2% to 2.5% by the end of April which we predicated on three elements. First, the downside volatility in emerging market assets following the Japanese tragedy provided an opportunity to short the USD via the EM Asian FX space. Given the stabilization in markets by the 22nd, along with the solid fundamentals and the high gearing of KRW to the risk trade, a long KRW position looked attractive. To temper the "high beta" propensity of a long KRW position, we included two other currencies, both of which possessed solid fundamental outlooks and key monetary policy triggers over our trade horizon. The Monetary Authority of Singapore was due to make one of its biannual policy decisions in mid April, one in which we expected a hawkish tilt to be played out through SGD given the inflation and growth dynamics in the country, marking SGD for inclusion in the basket. In addition, hawkish talk from Thai policymakers, the trajectory of core inflation, the still very supportive external balances along with a low volatility profile to THB made the baht an obvious target.

Since we initiated our trade recommendation, KRW and SGD have been the top two best performing currencies against the USD out of the 10 EM Asian currencies we follow, with THB rounding out the top five in fifth place. This has led to excellent performance in our basket trade, pushing it to the upper end of our 2% to 2.5% range (currently at 2.5%- see third chart). However, we have just seen the catalyst for our THB portion of the trade play out and expect further THB strength following Thursday's policy decision and the break of 30.00 in USDTHB. This, along with the new multi-year low in the USD against EM Asian



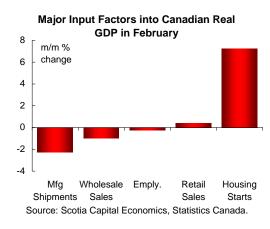
FX, implies that the risk-reward profile continues to favour holding the position over the next few sessions. We set a downside stop at the 1.2% return level, however we feel that we are only likely to see such a retracement under a very sharp short term spike in risk aversion. Revisiting the trade in a week's time, before our end of month target and directly before the next FOMC meeting is our favoured approach.

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## Key Data Preview

## **CANADA**

A rebound in price-adjusted retail sales and further gains in housing starts will hopefully keep real **GDP** out of the red in February, resulting in a flat, rather than negative print. However, the risk is skewed to the downside after real wholesale sales, aggregate hours worked, net exports and manufacturing shipments all contracted during the month. Add to this the fact that condos, rather than singles, accounted for a large portion of the increase in housing starts, resulting in a smaller impact on growth. Should this come to fruition, February's report will be the first non-positive report in four months. Nonetheless, with the strong gain in January, real GDP is still on track to post the largest quarterly expansion since Q1 2010.

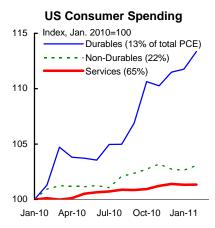


After a small correction last Fall, Canadian resale house prices have started to increase once again, with another gain expected in the **Teranet/National Bank Home Price Index** — the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. S&P/Case-Shiller measure of resale house prices — in February. This revival, however, will likely be short-lived as tighter mortgage regulations, rising borrowing costs, constrained household balance sheets and already record-high home ownership rates limit housing growth.

### **UNITED STATES**

Thursday's **GDP report** will provide the initial estimate of first-quarter GDP. Data released to date leave intact soft growth. Our forecast predicts a gain of 2.0% q/q annualized, more moderate than the prior quarter's 3.0% print, in part due to weaker consumer spending, on services in particular — which account for the largest slice (65%) (see chart 2). Estimates range broadly from 1.0% to 2.9%. Most support is still likely to come from business investment in machinery and equipment and to a lesser extent household consumption, although inventories, too, should provide some boost on a weak base effect.

Our call is for **personal income** (Friday) to post a gain of 0.4% m/m in March, on higher labour earnings, dividend payouts and rental income, dampened by lower unemployment benefits, at the State level in particular. We are looking for modest growth of 0.4% m/m in **personal consumption**, as headline retail sales — which account for 40% of overall household spending — moder-



Source: US BEA, Scotia Capital Economics.

ated in March to the slowest pace since mid-2010. Unseasonably warmer weather may have lowered the demand for utilities. The personal savings rate is worth monitoring as US consumers remain cautious.

**Durable goods orders** (Wednesday) are expected to have advanced in March, with our forecast looking for a headline gain of 3.0% m/m — partly supported by a weak base effect — and a core (ex. transportation) advance of 2.2%. Industry data corroborate this view on stronger commercial aircraft and motor vehicles bookings, defense procurement and capital spending intentions as well as the boost to foreign orders from a weaker US dollar.

**New home sales** (Monday) — considered a more timely gauge of demand in the housing market than resale activity — have been moving along the floor since mid-2010, after the expiry of the extended first-time homebuyers' tax credit. Our forecast is looking for a gain of 10% m/m to 275k annualized units, as new home sales fell a sharp 17% in the prior month.

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## **EUROPE**

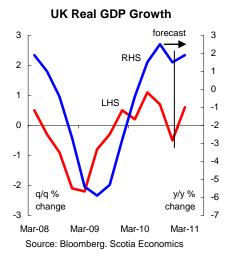
The UK will release its first estimate for first-quarter 2011 real GDP growth on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Output dropped by 0.5% q/q (up by 1.5% y/y) in the final quarter of 2010, partly reflecting adverse weather conditions. We anticipate a rebound of 0.6% q/q (1.9% y/y) in the January-March period. Indeed, purchasing managers' indices for the manufacturing, construction, and services sectors indicate significant acceleration in activity from the final quarter of 2010. We assess that growth in consumer spending and investment likely returned to positive territory in the January-March period, while government expenditure continued to reflect ongoing fiscal consolidation efforts.

### LATIN AMERICA

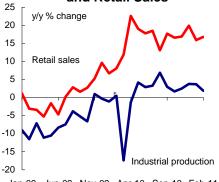
For the coming week (25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April), Chile will be at the centre of investors' attention as it will be releasing relevant economic information, such as industrial production and retail sales. After three consecutive months of improvement, industrial production growth decelerated from 4.0% y/y to 1.9% y/y in February due to a weaker manufacturing sector, despite strong local and external demand. Other indicators, such as mining production and electricity generation, have also shown some signs of moderation. However, retail sales have been supporting economic growth, expanding 16.8% y/y in February. We expect the Chilean economy to remain strong, with growth of 6.0% in 2011.

## **ASIA**

Taiwan's unemployment rate is expected to remain on track to converge towards pre-crisis levels as a result of the economy's continuing recovery. The fall in the jobless rate is supporting domestic demand momentum, while better-than-expected export performance is still propelling manufacturing output. The story is similar across most Asian economies, where notwithstanding the gains experienced by currencies during the past twelve months, export sectors remain relatively healthy. We expect the unemployment rate in Taiwan to have fallen to 4.3% in March, from the previous 4.5%.

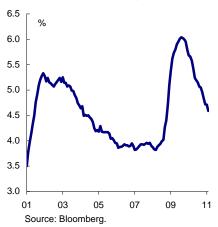


# Chilean Industrial Production and Retail Sales



Jan-09 Jun-09 Nov-09 Apr-10 Sep-10 Feb-11 Source: Bloomberg.

### **Taiwan's Unemployment Rate**



## Key Indicators for the week of April 25 - 29

**Global Views** 

North America							
Country	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Period</u>	BNS	Consensus	Latest
US	04/25	10:00	New Home Sales (MoM)	MAR	10.0	12.0	-16.9
US	04/25	10:00	New Home Sales (000s)	MAR	275	280	250
US	04/25	10:30	Dallas Fed Manf. Activity	APR		12.7	11.5
MX	04/26	09:00	Retail Sales (INEGI) (YoY)	FEB		3.2	3.0
US	04/26	09:00	S&P/CS Composite-20 (YoY)	FEB	-3.0	-3.2	-3.1
US	04/26	10:00	Consumer Confidence	APR		64.4	63.4
US	04/26	10:00	Richmond Fed Manufact. Index	APR	20.0	20.0	20.0
US	04/27	07:00	MBA Mortgage Applications (WoW)	22-Apr			5.3
US	04/27	08:30	Durable Goods Orders (MoM)	MAR	3.0	2.0	-0.6
US	04/27	08:30	Durables Ex Transportation (MoM)	MAR	2.2	2.2	-0.3
US	04/27	08:30	Cap Goods Orders Nondef Ex. Air (MoM)	MAR			-0.7
MX	04/27	09:00	Global Economic Indicator IGAE (YoY)	FEB		4.7	5.9
MX	04/27	09:00	Trade Balance (USD mns)	MAR P		432.9	274.7
CA	04/27	09:00	Teranet/National Bank HPI (MoM)	FEB	0.1	0.1	0.4
US	04/27	12:30	FOMC Rate Decision	27-Apr	0.3	0.3	0.3
US	04/28	08:30	Chicago Fed Nat Activity Index	MAR			0.0
US	04/28	08:30	GDP (QoQ, Annualized)	1Q A	2.0	1.8	3.1
US	04/28	08:30	Initial Jobless Claims (000s)	23-Apr	395		403
US	04/28	08:30	Continuing Claims (000s)	16-Apr	3680		3695
US	04/28	10:00	Pending Home Sales (MoM)	MAR	1.3	1.5	2.1
CA	04/29	08:30	Gross Domestic Product (MoM)	FEB	0.0	0.0	0.5
US	04/29	08:30	Employment Cost Index	1Q		0.5	0.4
US	04/29	08:30	PCE Core (MoM)	MAR	0.1	0.1	0.2
US	04/29	08:30	Personal Spending (MoM)	MAR	0.4	0.5	0.7
US	04/29	08:30	Personal Income (MoM)	MAR	0.4	0.4	0.3
US	04/29	09:45	Chicago Purchasing Manager Index	APR		69.2	70.6
US	04/29	09:55	U. of Michigan Confidence	APR F		70.0	69.6
US	04/29	10:00	Annual Revisions: Retail Sales				
MX	04/29	13:00	Central Bank Monetary Policy Minutes				



## Key Indicators for the week of April 25 - 29

Europe							
Country	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Perio</u>	od BNS	Consensus	Latest
FR	04/22	02:45	Business Confidence Indicator	API	۲	109	109
IT	04/22	04:00	Retail Sales s.a. (MoM)	FE	3	0.2	-0.3
SP	04/25	03:00	Producer Prices (MoM)	MA	R		0.9
SP	04/25	03:00	Producer Prices (YoY)	MA	R		7.6
FR	04/25	12:00	Jobseekers- Net Change (000s)	MA	R	-10.0	-2.1
FR	04/25	12:00	Total Jobseekers (000s)	MA	R		2701.1
EC	04/26	05:00	Euro-Zone Govt Debt/GDP Ratio	201	0		79.2
UK	04/26	06:00	CBI Business Optimism	API	₹	10.0	7.0
GE	04/27	02:00	GfK Consumer Confidence Survey	MA	Υ	5.8	5.9
FR	04/27	02:45	Consumer Confidence Indicator	API		83.0	83.0
ΙΤ	04/27	04:00	Consumer Confidence Ind. sa	API	₹	105.0	105.2
UK	04/27	04:30	GDP (QoQ)	1Q.	A 0.6	0.5	-0.5
UK	04/27	04:30	BBA Loans for House Purchase	MA	R	30450	29923
EC	04/27	05:00	Industrial New Orders NSA (YoY)	FEI	3	21.7	21.9
EC	04/27	05:00	Industrial New Orders SA (MoM)	FEI	3	1.7	1.2
UK	04/27	19:01	GfK Consumer Confidence Survey	API	₹	-27.0	-28.0
GE	04/27		Consumer Price Index (MoM)	APR	P	0.2	0.5
GE	04/27		Consumer Price Index (YoY)	APR	Р	2.4	2.1
GE	04/27		CPI - Brandenburg (MoM)	API	₹		0.5
GE	04/27		CPI - Brandenburg (YoY)	API	₹		2.0
GE	04/27		CPI - Bavaria (MoM)	API	₹		0.5
GE	04/27		CPI - Bavaria (YoY)	API	۲		2.1
GE	04/27		CPI - Baden Wuerttemberg (MoM)	API	₹		0.5
GE	04/27		CPI - Baden Wuerttemberg (YoY)	API	₹		2.1
GE	04/27		CPI - Hesse (MoM)	API	۲		0.4
GE	04/27		CPI - Hesse (YoY)	API	۲		1.8
GE	04/27		CPI - EU Harmonised (MoM)	APR	P 0.1	0.2	0.6
GE	04/27		CPI - EU Harmonised (YoY)	APR	P 2.5	2.6	2.3
GE	04/27		CPI - North Rhine-West. (MoM)	API	₹		0.5
GE	04/27		CPI - North Rhine-West. (YoY)	API	₹		2.0
GE	04/27		CPI - Saxony (MoM)	API	٦		0.5
GE	04/27		CPI - Saxony (YoY)	API	₹		2.0
FR	04/28	02:45	Consumer Spending (MoM)	MA	R	0.2	0.9
SP	04/28	03:00	Mortgages on Houses (YoY)	FE	3		-7.9
GE	04/28	03:55	Unemployment Change (000's)	API	۲	-40.0	-55.0
GE	04/28	03:55	Unemployment Rate (s.a)	API	₹	7.0	7.1
ΙΤ	04/28	04:00	Business Confidence	API	۲	103.6	103.8
SP	04/28		Total Housing Permits (MoM)	FE	3		-15.3
FR	04/29	02:45	Producer Prices (YoY)	MA	R	6.4	6.3
SP	04/29	03:00	CPI (EU Harmonised) (YoY)	APR	Р	3.4	3.3
SP	04/29	03:00	Retail Sales (Real) (YoY)	MA	R		-4.8
SP	04/29	03:00	Unemployment Rate (Survey)	10		20.7	20.3
EC	04/29	04:00	Euro-Zone M3 s.a. (Yo Y)	MA	R	2.2	2.0
IT	04/29	04:00	Unemployment Rate (SA)	MAR	Р		8.4
EC	04/29	05:00	Euro-Zone CPI Estimate (YoY)	API	R 2.7	2.7	2.6
EC	04/29	05:00	Euro-Zone Consumer Confidence	APR	F	-11.4	-11.4
EC	04/29	05:00	Euro-Zone Unemployment Rate	MA	R 9.9	9.9	9.9
IT	04/29	05:00	CPI - EU Harmonized (MoM)	APR	Р	0.6	2.2
IT	04/29	05:00	CPI - EU Harmonized (YoY)	APR	P 2.8	2.5	2.8
IT	04/29	06:00	PPI (MoM)	MA			0.6
IT	04/29	06:00	PPI (YoY)	MA			5.7
BP	04/29		Base Rate	MA			0.19
RU	04/29		Russia Refinancing Rate	29-A			8.00
SP	04/29		Current Account (€ bns)	FEI	•		-6.6
			•				

Forecasts at time of publication.
Source: Bloomberg, Scotia Economics.



## Key Indicators for the week of April 25 - 29

Asia Pac	ific						
<u>Country</u> TA	<u>Date</u> 04/22	<u>Time</u> 04:00	Event Unemployment Rate - sa	<u>Period</u> MAR	<u>BNS</u> 4.3	Consensus 4.5	<u>Latest</u> 4.6
VN	APR 24-27		Exports YTD (YoY)	APR			33.7
VN	APR 24-27		Imports YTD (YoY)	APR			23.8
VN	APR 24-27		CPI (YoY)	APR			13.9
СН	APR 24-28		Leading Index	MAR			101.1
PH	APR 24-29		Budget Deficit/Surplus (PHP bns)	MAR			-21.5
SI	04/25	01:00	CPI (YoY)	MAR		5.1	5.0
TA	04/25	04:00	Industrial Production (YoY)	MAR		10.8	13.3
SK	04/25	17:00	SK Consumer Confidence	APR			98.0
VN	APR 25-29		Industrial Output YTD (YoY)	APR			14.1
VN	APR 25-29		Retail Sales YTD (YoY)	APR			22.6
SI	04/26	01:00	Industrial Production SA (MoM)	MAR		22.6	-2.0
SK	04/26	17:00	Business Survey- Manufacturing	MAY			95.0
SK	04/26	17:00	Business Survey- Non-Manufacturing	MAY			83.0
SK	04/26	19:00	GDP at Constant Price (QoQ)	1Q P		1.8	0.5
JN	04/26	19:50	Retail Trade SA (MoM)	MAR		-6.0	0.8
PH	04/26	21:00	Trade Balance (USD mns)	FEB			-1312.0
AU	04/26	21:30	Consumer Prices (QoQ)	1Q	1.0	1.2	0.4
AU	04/26	21:30	Consumer Prices (YoY)	1Q	2.9	3.0	2.7
AU	04/26	21:30	RBA Trimmed Mean (QoQ)	1Q		0.7	0.3
AU	04/26	21:30	RBA Trimmed Mean (YoY)	1Q		2.1	2.2
СН	04/26	22:00	Industrial Profits YTD (YoY)	MAR			49.4
NZ	04/27	17:00	RBNZ Official Cash Rate	28-Apr	2.50	2.50	2.50
SK	04/27	19:00	Current Account (USD mns)	MAR			1178.0
SK	04/27	19:00	Goods Balance (USD mns)	MAR			1583.0
JN	04/27	19:15	Markit/JMMA Manufacturing PMI	APR			46.4
JN	04/27	19:30	Overall Hhold Spending (YoY)	MAR		-8.0	-0.2
JN	04/27	19:30	Jobless Rate	MAR		4.8	4.6
JN	04/27	19:30	Natl CPI (YoY)	MAR		0.0	0.0
JN	04/27	19:30	Natl CPI Ex Food, Energy (YoY)	MAR		-0.6	-0.6
JN	04/27	19:50	Industrial Production (MoM)	MAR P		-11.1	1.8
JN	APR 27-28		BOJ Target Rate	28-Apr	0.10	0.10	0.10
JN	04/28	00:00	Vehicle Production (YoY)	MAR			-5.5
JN	04/28	01:00	Housing Starts (YoY)	MAR		0.4	10.1
JN	04/28	01:00	Construction Orders (YoY)	MAR			19.5
TH	04/28	03:00	Mfg. Production Index ISIC (SA)	MAR			188.5
HK	04/28	04:30	Trade Balance (HKD mns)	MAR		-39.8	-25.1
NZ	04/28	18:45	Trade Balance (NZD mns)	MAR		200.0	194.0
SK	04/28	19:00	Industrial Production (MoM)	MAR			-2.3
SK	04/28	19:00	Leading Index (YoY)	MAR			2.4
AU	04/28	21:30	Private Sector Credit (MoM)	MAR		0.4	0.5
SI	04/28	22:00	Unemployment Rate (sa)	1Q P		2.0	2.2
TH	04/29	03:30	Business Sentiment Index	MAR			52.3
TH	04/29	03:30	Current Account Balance (USD mns)	MAR			3823
TH	04/29	03:30	Total Trade Balance (USD mns)	MAR			2031
TA	04/29	05:00	GDP - Constant Prices (YoY)	1Q P		5.0	6.9
HK	04/29	05:00	Govt Mthly Budget Surp/Def (HKD bns)	MAR			-9.5
Latin Am	erica						
Country	<u>Date</u>	Time	Event	<u>Period</u>	BNS	Consensus	Latest
BZ	04/25	07:30	Central Bank Weekly Economists Survey	<u> </u>		300011043	
BZ	04/26	09:30	Current Account - Monthly (USD mns)	MAR		-4900	-3391
BZ	04/26	09:30	Foreign Investment (USD mns)	MAR		4950	7727
BZ	04/28	07:00	FGV Inflation IGP-M (MoM)	APR		0.6	0.6
BZ	04/28	07:00	FGV Inflation IGP-M (YoY)	APR		10.7	11.0
BZ	04/28	07:30	COPOM Monetary Policy Meeting Minutes	,		. =	
CL	04/28	08:00	Industrial Production (YoY)	MAR		22.5	1.9
CL	04/28	08:00	Industrial Sales (YoY)	MAR			3.8
CL	04/28	08:00	Copper Production Total (volume)	MAR			368243
CL P7	04/28	08:00	Retail Sales (YoY)	MAR		 9.4	16.8
BZ	04/28		Central Govt Budget (BRL bns)	MAR		8.4	2.6
CL	04/29	08:00	Unemployment Rate	MAR		7.4	7.3
BZ CO	04/29 04/29	09:30 12:00	Net Debt (% of GDP) Urban Unemployment Rate	MAR MAR		39.9 12.2	39.9 13.2
co	04/29	12.00	Overnight Lending Rate	29-Apr	3.75	3.75	3.50
	_	liantin:	J <del>J</del>	,			
r-orecasts a	at time of publ	ication.					

Forecasts at time of publication. Source: Bloomberg, Scotia Economics.



## Global Auctions for the week of April 25 - 29

## North America

Country	Date	<u>Tim e</u>	Event
US	04/25	11:00	U.S. Fed to Purchase USD6-8 Bln Notes/Bonds
US	04/25	11:30	U.S. to Sell 3-Month Bills
US	04/25	11:30	U.S. to Sell 6-Month Bills
CA	04/26	10:30	Canada to Sell CAD7.7 Bln 98-Day Bills
CA	04/26	10:30	Canada to Sell CAD2.9 Bln 168-Day Bills
CA	04/26	10:30	Canada to Sell CAD2.9 Bln 350-Day Bills
US	04/26	11:00	U.S. Fed to Purchase USD1.5-2.5 Bln Notes/Bonds
US	04/26	11:30	U.S. to Sell 4-Week Bills
US	04/26	13:00	U.S. to Sell 2-Year Notes
CA	04/27	12:00	Canada to Sell 3-Year Notes
US	04/27	13:00	U.S. to Sell 5-Year Notes
US	04/28	11:00	U.S. Fed to Purchase USD5-7 Bln Notes/Bonds
US	04/28	13:00	U.S. to Sell 7-Year Notes
US	04/29	11:00	U.S. Fed to Purchase USD5-7 Bln Notes/Bonds

## Europe

Country	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
NE	04/26	04:00	Netherlands to Sell Bond
DE	04/26	04:15	Denmark to Sell 2% 2014 Bonds
DE	04/26	04:15	Denmark to Sell 3% 2021 Bonds
EC	04/26	04:30	Spain to Sell 3M and 6M Bills
ΙΤ	04/26	05:00	Italy to Sell Bills & Zero Coupon Notes
SZ	04/26	05:30	Switzerland to Sell 3-Month Bills
FR	04/26	09:00	France to Sell Bills
IT	04/27	05:00	Italy to Sell I/L Bonds
SW	04/27	05:10	Sweden to Sell Bills
GE	04/27	05:15	Germany to Sell EU6 Bln 10-Year Notes
IT	04/28	05:00	Italy to Sell Bonds/Floating Rate Notes
UK	04/28	06:10	U.K. to Sell Bills

Source: Bloomberg, Scotia Economics.



## Global Auctions for the week of April 25 - 29

## Asia Pacific

Country	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
SI	04/25	00:00	Singapore to sell 91-Day T-Bills
MA	04/25	00:00	Bank Negara to Sell MYR1 Bln 91-Day Islamic Notes
MA	04/25	00:00	Bank Negara to Sell MYR1 Bln 120-Day Notes
MA	04/25	00:00	Bank Negara to Sell MYR1 Bln 210-Day Notes
SK	04/25	22:30	Korea to Sell KRW1 Tln 20-Year Bonds
TH	04/25	23:00	Bank of Thailand to Sell THB28 Bln 28D Bills
TH	04/25	23:00	Bank of Thailand to Sell THB22 Bln 91D Bills
TH	04/25	23:00	Bank of Thailand to Sell THB15 Bln 182D Bills
TH	04/25	23:00	Bank of Thailand to Sell THB30 Bln 364D Bills
HK	04/25	23:30	Hong Kong to Sell HKD25.782 Bln 91-D Bills
HK	04/25	23:30	Hong Kong to Sell HKD3 Bln 364-D Bills
JN	04/25	23:45	Japan to Sell 2-Year Bond
TA	04/26	00:30	Taiwan to Sell TWD40 Bln 5-Year Bonds
PH	04/26	01:30	Philippines Plans to Sell PHP9.0 Bln 10-Yr Bonds Due 2021
ID	04/26	04:30	Indonesia to Sell 15-Yr to Maturity Government Sukuk
ID	04/26	04:30	Indonesia to Sell 5-Yr to Maturity Government Sukuk
ID	04/26	04:30	Indonesia to Sell 10-Yr to Maturity Government Sukuk
TH	04/26	23:00	Thailand to Sell THB8 Bln Bonds due 2025
JN	04/26	23:35	Japan to Sell 3-Month Bills
SI	04/27	00:00	Singapore To Sell S\$3.6 billion 365-Day T-Bills
IN	04/27	07:30	India to Sell INR 40Bln 91-Day Bills
IN	04/27	07:30	India to Sell INR 20Bln 182-Day Bills
AU	04/27	20:30	Australia Plans to Sell Treausry Bills
TH	04/27	23:00	Bank of Thailand to Sell THB15 Bln 3-Year FRN
NZ	04/28	22:30	New Zealand Plans to Sell Government Bonds
TA	04/29	00:30	Taiwan to Sell TWD30 Bln 91-Day T-Bills



## **Events for the week of April 25 - 29**

## **North America**

Country	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
US	04/27	12:30	FOMC Rate Decision
US	04/27	14:15	Bernanke Speaks at Fed Press Conference
US	04/28	08:30	Fed's Williams Speaks at Community Affairs Conference
US	04/29	12:30	Bernanke Speaks at Fed Community-Affairs Conference

Europe			
Country IT EC	<u>Date</u> 04/26 04/26	<u>Time</u> 06:30 08:00	<u>Event</u> Berlusconi, Sarkozy Press Conferece at Villa Madama, Rome ECB's Gonzalez-Paramo Speaks in Cordoba, Spain
EC	04/27	04:00	ECB's Orphanides presents Annual Report 2010 on Economy
EC	04/27		EU's Rehn Gives Speech at Finland's Parliament
HU	04/28	06:30	Hungary Economy State Secretary Csefalvay Speaks
LX	04/28		ECB's Mersch Speaks At Event in Luxembourg
EC	04/29	02:00	EU's Vimont Speaks at European Policy Centre
BP	04/29		Base Rate
RU	04/29		Refinancing Rate

## **Asia Pacific**

Country	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	Event
NZ	04/27	17:00	RBNZ Official Cash Rate
JN	APR 27-28		BOJ Target Rate

## Latin America

CountryDateTimeEventCO04/29Overnight Lending Rate

Source: Bloomberg, Scotia Economics.



## **Global Central Bank Watch**

### **North America**

Rate	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	Scotia's Forecasts	Consensus Forecasts
Bank of Canada – Overnight Target Rate	1.00	May 31, 2011	1.00	
Federal Reserve – Federal Funds Target Rate	0.25	April 27, 2011	0.25	0.25
Banco de México – Overnight Rate	4.50	May 27, 2011	4.50	

A long string of recent Fed speeches heavily debated the ongoing asset purchase program, kicking off the FOMC blackout communication period ahead of the April 27 policy meeting. We expect that the FOMC will remain on hold at least until early 2012. Although the latest FOMC statement signaled some optimism, policymakers continue to see recent inflation upsides as transitory. Fed Chairman Bernanke will likely elaborate on this point in his quarterly press conference following the two-day FOMC meeting. In Canada, Tuesday's inflation report increased market expectations that the Bank of Canada will start tightening monetary policy at their July rate meeting. We disagree, looking for the first rate hike to occur in October as CAD cheapening of import content and crowding out of core pricing power by virtue of higher energy and grocery bills continue to keep core inflation well anchored.

Europe				
Rate	Current Rate	Next Meeting	Scotia's Forecasts	Consensus Forecasts
European Central Bank – Refinancing Rate	1.25	May 5, 2011	1.25	1.25
Bank of England – Bank Rate	0.50	May 5, 2011	0.50	0.50
Swiss National Bank – Libor Target Rate	0.25	June 16, 2011	0.25	
Central Bank of Russia – Refinancing Rate	8.00	April 29, 2011	8.25	
Hungarian National Bank – Base Rate	6.00	May 16, 2011	6.00	
Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey – 1 Week Repo Rate	6.25	May 25, 2011	6.25	

We expect the Central Bank of Russia to tighten monetary conditions further at the next policy meeting on April 29; the benchmark refinancing rate will likely be raised to 8.25% on the back of persistent inflationary pressures. Consumer price inflation is approaching double-digit levels.

As		

Current Rate	Next Meeting	Scotia's Forecasts	Consensus Forecasts
0.10	April 28, 2011	0.10	0.10
4.75	May 3, 2011	4.75	4.75
2.50	April 27, 2011	2.50	2.50
6.31	TBA		
6.75	May 3, 2011		
0.50	TBA	0.50	
1.75	June 24, 2011	1.75	
2.75	May 5, 2011	2.75	
3.00	May 12, 2011	3.00	
2.75	June 1, 2011	2.50	
6.75	May 12, 2011	6.75	
	0.10 4.75 2.50 6.31 6.75 0.50 1.75 2.75 3.00 2.75	0.10 April 28, 2011 4.75 May 3, 2011 2.50 April 27, 2011 6.31 TBA 6.75 May 3, 2011 0.50 TBA 1.75 June 24, 2011 2.75 May 5, 2011 3.00 May 12, 2011 2.75 June 1, 2011	0.10     April 28, 2011     0.10       4.75     May 3, 2011     4.75       2.50     April 27, 2011     2.50       6.31     TBA        6.75     May 3, 2011        0.50     TBA     0.50       1.75     June 24, 2011     1.75       2.75     May 5, 2011     2.75       3.00     May 12, 2011     3.00       2.75     June 1, 2011     2.50

The Bank of Japan is set to bolster support for the economic recovery with further monetary injections as part of its asset purchase program. We expect the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) to leave the benchmark interest rate at 2.5%. The RBNZ decided in favour of a 50 basis point reduction after the previous meeting on the back of the impacts of the natural disasters suffered through the turn of the year.

## **Latin America**

Rate	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	Scotia's Forecasts	Consensus Forecasts
Banco Central do Brasil – Selic Rate	12.00	June 8, 2011	12.25	
Banco Central de Chile – Overnight Rate	4.50	May 12, 2011	4.75	
Banco de la República de Colombia – Lending Rate	3.50	April 29, 2011	3.75	3.75
Banco Central de Reserva del Perú – Reference Rate	4.00	May 12, 2011	4.25	

We expect the central bank of Colombia to raise its reference rate by 25 basis points to 3.75%. While inflation has eased, from 3.40% y/y in January to 3.17% y/y in March, economic activity maintains strength and international commodity prices remain at high levels.

### **Africa**

Rate	Current Rate	Next Meeting	Scotia's Forecasts	Consensus Forecasts
South African Reserve Bank – Repo Rate	5.50	May 12, 2011	5.50	

Forecasts at time of publication. Source: Bloomberg, Scotia Economics.



	2000-09	2010e	2011f	2012f	2000-09	2010e	2011f	2012f		
Output and Inflation (annual % change)		Real (	GDP		(	Consumer Prices <sup>2</sup>				
World <sup>1</sup>	3.6	4.9	4.4	4.4						
Canada	2.1	3.1	3.1	2.6	2.1	1.8	2.5	2.3		
United States	1.8	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.6	1.6	2.3	1.9		
Mexico	1.9	5.5	4.3	3.8	4.9	4.4	4.1	4.1		
United Kingdom	2.7	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.2	3.7	3.7	2.9		
Euro zone	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.6	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.3		
Japan	0.7	3.9	1.0	2.9	-0.3	-0.5	0.5	1.2		
Australia	3.0	3.0	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.5		
China	10.2	10.3	9.5	9.7	2.0	3.5	4.5	4.0		
India	7.2	8.7	8.5	8.8	5.7	8.4	7.0	5.0		
Korea	4.5	5.8	5.5	5.3	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.0		
Brazil	2.9	7.6	4.0	4.5	6.6	5.9	6.0	5.0		
Chile	3.6	5.2	6.0	5.5	3.4	3.0	4.5	3.0		
Peru	5.1	8.8	7.0	7.2	2.5	2.1	3.5	3.0		
Central Bank Rates (%, end of period)	11Q1	11Q2f	11Q3f	11Q4f	12Q1f	12Q2f	12Q3f	12Q4f		
Bank of Canada	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.25	2.25	2.25		
Federal Reserve	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75	1.25	1.75	2.00		
European Central Bank	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.50		
Bank of England	0.50	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00		
Swiss National Bank	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00		
Bank of Japan	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.50		
Reserve Bank of Australia	4.75	5.00	5.25	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50		
Exchange Rates (end of period)										
Canadian Dollar (USDCAD)	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.93	0.92		
Canadian Dollar (CADUSD)	1.03	1.03	1.04	1.05	1.05	1.06	1.08	1.09		
Euro (EURUSD)	1.42	1.42	1.44	1.45	1.45	1.46	1.47	1.48		
Sterling (GBPUSD)	1.60	1.60	1.61	1.63	1.65	1.67	1.69	1.70		
Yen (USDJPY)	83	79	82	84	86	87	89	90		
Australian Dollar (AUDUSD)	1.03	1.05	1.06	1.08	1.07	1.08	1.09	1.10		
Chinese Yuan (USDCNY)	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8		
Mexican Peso (USDMXN)	11.9	12.2	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.5	12.6	12.7		
Brazilian Real (USDBRL)	1.63	1.64	1.64	1.65	1.67	1.70	1.72	1.75		
Commodities (US\$, annual average)	2000-09	2010	2011f	2012f						
WTI Oil (/bbl)	51	79	102	105						
Brent Oil (/bbl)	50	80	112	115						
Nymex Natural Gas (/mmbtu)	5.95	4.40	4.40	4.75						
Copper (/lb)	1.78	3.42	4.40	4.15			P for 2000-0			
Zinc (/lb)	0.73	0.98	1.09	1.09			es; 2010-12			
Nickel (/lb)	7.11	9.89	11.25	8.90			omics' estir			
Gold, London PM Fix (/oz)	522	1,225	1,425	1,350			2009 PPP-\ 4 countries.			
							nada and th			
Pulp (/tonne)	668	960	1,000	1,000			nada and ti es are annu			
Newsprint (/tonne)	572	607	665	705			or other co			
Lumber (/mfbm)	275	254	270	300			r-end rates.			
•						•				



Canada	2010	10Q3		Latest		United States	2010	10Q3		Latest	
Real GDP (annual rates)	3.1	1.8	3.3			Real GDP (annual rates)	2.9	2.6	3.1		
Current Acc. Bal. (C\$B, ar)	-50.0	-67.9	-44.2	0.4	<b>(-</b> 1.)	Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-470	-502	-453	740	/= L\
Merch. Trade Bal. (C\$B, ar)	-9.0	-26.2	0.9		(Feb)	Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-647	-683	-625		(Feb)
Industrial Production	4.7	7.9	6.0	6.9	(Jan)	Industrial Production	5.3	6.7	6.2		(Mar)
Housing Starts (000s)	192	192	179	189	(Mar)	Housing Starts (millions)	0.59	0.59	0.53	0.55	, ,
Employment	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.9	(Mar)	Employment	-0.8	-0.1	0.5	1.0	
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.0	8.0	7.7	7.7	(Mar)	Unemployment Rate (%)	9.6	9.6	9.6	8.8	(Mar)
Retail Sales	5.5	4.0	5.3	3.7		Retail Sales	6.9	6.1	8.1		
Auto Sales (000s)	1560	1609	1553	1573	(Feb)	Auto Sales (millions)	11.5	11.6	12.3	13.1	(Mar)
CPI	1.8	1.8	2.3	3.3	(Mar)	CPI	1.6	1.2	1.3		(Mar)
IPPI	1.0	1.0	2.6	-3.4	(Feb)	PPI	4.2	3.8	3.9	5.8	(Mar)
Pre-tax Corp. Profits	18.4	15.3	16.2			Pre-tax Corp. Profits	36.8	34.8	16.1		
Mexico						Brazil					
Real GDP	5.5	5.3	4.6			Real GDP	6.7	5.9	4.2		
Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-5.7	-7.7	-14.5			Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-47.5	-45.6	-47.9		
Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-3.1	-9.2	-4.6	3.3	(Feb)	Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	20.3	19.6	30.1	18.6	(Mar)
Industrial Production	6.1	6.2	4.7	5.2	(Feb)	Industrial Production	10.5	8.1	3.6	3.1	(Feb)
CPI	4.2	3.7	4.2	3.0	(Mar)	CPI	5.1	5.0	6.1	6.5	(Mar)
Chile						Italy					
Real GDP	5.2	6.9	5.8			Real GDP	1.2	1.4	1.5		
Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	3.6	-0.2	4.9			Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-0.07	-0.05	-0.08	-0.10	(Feb)
Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	12.1	14.7	17.7	14.6	(Mar)	Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-36.6	-22.9	-44.3		(Feb)
Industrial Production	0.6	4.4	2.7		(Feb)	Industrial Production	6.5	7.5	5.1		(Feb)
CPI	1.4	2.2	2.5		(Mar)	CPI	1.6	1.6	1.8		(Mar)
Carmany						France					
Germany	2.5	2.0	4.0				4.7	2.0	47		
Real GDP	3.5	3.9	4.0	4.45.0	/ <b>-</b> \	Real GDP	1.7	2.0	1.7	05.0	/F - I- \
Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	187.9		250.7	145.8	` ′	Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-54.3	-41.8	-94.8		(Feb)
Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	201.5	207.5		187.0	(Feb)	Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-38.7	-42.0	-39.1		(Feb)
Industrial Production	10.0	10.2	11.5	14.7	(Feb)	Industrial Production	5.7	5.0	5.7		(Feb)
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.1	(Mar)	Unemployment Rate (%)	9.8	9.8	9.6		(Feb)
CPI	1.1	1.2	1.5	2.1	(Mar)	CPI	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.0	(Mar)
Euro Zone						United Kingdom					
Real GDP	1.7	1.9	2.0			Real GDP	1.3	2.5	1.5		
Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-77	-43	-41	-156	(Feb)	Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-56.1	-55.7	-62.2		
Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	0.0	43.0	53.2	-16.2	(Feb)	Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-151.3	-159.2	-169.3	-131.1	(Feb)
Industrial Production	7.5	7.3	8.1	7.4	(Feb)	Industrial Production	2.0	3.0	3.3	2.4	(Feb)
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.8	(Feb)	Unemployment Rate (%)	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	(Jan)
CPI	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.7	(Mar)	CPI	3.3	3.1	3.4	4.1	(Mar)
Japan						Australia					
Real GDP	4.0	4.7	2.5			Real GDP	2.7	2.7	2.7		
Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	195.9			238.6	(Feb)	Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	-31.8	-29.3	-34.5		
Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	74.4	72.8	61.3		(Mar)	Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	19.2	27.8	25.7	5.3	(Feb)
Industrial Production	16.6	13.3	6.8		(Feb)	Industrial Production	4.3	4.2	-0.3	0.0	(1 00)
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.1	5.0	5.0		(Feb)	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.2	5.2	5.2	<i>1</i> Q	(Mar)
CPI	-0.7	-0.8	0.1		(Feb)	CPI	2.8	2.8	2.7	4.5	(IVICIT)
China						South Korea					
Real GDP	10.3	9.6	9.8			Real GDP	6.2	4.4	4.7		
Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	30.5	5.0	5.0			Current Acc. Bal. (US\$B, ar)	28.2	39.7	36.6	1/1 1	(Feb)
Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	182.5	260.4	2/0 6	1.7	(Mar)	Merch. Trade Bal. (US\$B, ar)	41.2	42.5	52.1		(Mar)
Industrial Production	13.5	13.3	13.5	14.8	(Mar)	Industrial Production	16.6	12.9	9.9		(Feb)
CPI	4.6	3.6	4.6		(Mar)	CPI	3.0	2.9	3.6		(Mar)
OI I	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.4	(iviai)	OI I	3.0	2.9	5.0	4.1	(ivial)

All data expressed as year-over-year % change unless otherwise noted.

Source: Bloomberg, Scotia Economics.



Interest Rates (%, end of	period)								
Canada	10Q4	11Q1	Apr/14	Apr/21*	United States	10Q4	11Q1	Apr/14	Apr/21*
BoC Overnight Rate	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	Fed Funds Target Rate	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
3-mo. T-bill	1.05	0.96	0.94	0.89	3-mo. T-bill	0.12	0.09	0.07	0.05
10-yr Gov't Bond	3.12	3.35	3.37	3.29	10-yr Gov't Bond	3.29	3.47	3.50	3.38
30-yr Gov't Bond	3.53	3.76	3.78	3.74	30-yr Gov't Bond	4.33	4.51	4.55	4.45
Prime	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	Prime	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
FX Reserves (US\$B)	59.4	57.0	60.2	(Feb)	FX Reserves (US\$B)	122.1	121.4	123.6	(Feb)
Germany					France				
3-mo. Interbank	0.96	1.26	1.31	1.21	3-mo. T-bill	0.40	0.80	0.89	0.99
10-yr Gov't Bond	2.96	3.35	3.43	3.27	10-yr Gov't Bond	3.36	3.71	3.74	3.61
FX Reserves (US\$B)	62.4	62.3	63.0	(Feb)	FX Reserves (US\$B)	52.2	55.8	58.4	(Feb)
Euro-Zone					United Kingdom				
Refinancing Rate	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.25	Repo Rate	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Overnight Rate	0.82	0.90	1.14	1.22	3-mo. T-bill	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
FX Reserves (US\$B)	300.1	300.3	308.9	(Feb)	10-yr Gov't Bond	3.40	3.69	3.69	3.54
ΤΑ Νουσίνου (Ο Ο ΦΕ)	000.1	000.0	000.0	(1 00)	FX Reserves (US\$B)	67.2	68.3	73.5	(Feb)
Japan					Australia				
Discount Rate	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	Cash Rate	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75
3-mo. Libor	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.14	10-yr Gov't Bond	5.55	5.49	5.60	5.51
10-yr Gov't Bond	1.13	1.26	1.30	1.24	FX Reserves (US\$B)	38.1	38.7	36.9	(Feb)
FX Reserves (US\$B)	1077.4	1061.5	1056.8	(Feb)	(				( /
Exchange Rates (end of period	)								
USDCAD	1.00	0.97	0.96	0.95	¥/US\$	81.16	83.13	83.50	81.70
CADUSD	1.00	1.03	1.04	1.05	US¢/Australian\$	102.33	103.29	105.44	107.42
GBPUSD	1.561	1.603	1.635	1.655	Chinese Yuan/US\$	6.59	6.55	6.53	6.49
EURUSD	1.339	1.416	1.449	1.457	South Korean Won/US\$	1125	1100	1086	1081
JPYEUR	0.92	0.85	0.83	0.84	Mexican Peso/US\$	12.360	11.906	11.713	11.607
USDCHF	0.93	0.92	0.89	0.88	Brazilian Real/US\$	1.660	1.632	1.578	1.567
Equity Markets (index, end of p	eriod)								
United States (DJIA)	11578	12320	12285	12474	U.K. (FT100)	5900	5909	5964	6016
United States (S&P500)	1258	1326	1315	1335	Germany (Dax)	6914	7041	7147	7291
Canada (S&P/TSX)	13443	14116	13822	13935	France (CAC40)	3805	3989	3970	4023
Mexico (Bolsa)	38551	37441	37348	36816	Japan (Nikkei)	10229	9755	9654	9686
Brazil (Bovespa)	69305	68587	66486	67058	Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	23035	23528	24014	24138
Italy (BCI)	1048	1120	1134	1111	South Korea (Composite)	2051	2107	2141	2199
Commodity Prices (end of period	od)								
Pulp (US\$/tonne)	960	990	990	990	Copper (US\$/lb)	4.42	4.26	4.23	4.36
Newsprint (US\$/tonne)	640	640	640	640	Zinc (US\$/lb)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.06
Lumber (US\$/mfbm)	308	290	262		Gold (US\$/oz)	1405.50	1439.00	1465.75	1504.00
WTI Oil (US\$/bbl)	91.38	106.72	108.11	111.34	Silver (US\$/oz)	30.63	37.87	40.67	46.26
Natural Gas (US\$/mmbtu)	4.41	4.39	4.21	4.34	CRB (index)	332.80	359.43	360.66	365.26

<sup>\*</sup> Latest observation taken at time of writing. Source: Bloomberg, Scotia Economics.



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### Scotia Economics

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