

GLOBAL ECONOMICS CANADIAN GDP NOWCAST

December 21, 2018

October GDP Boosts Q4-2018 Nowcast to 2.07%, ex Q4 Oil Patch Impact

This note is part of a series that will be published after important data releases, documenting mechanical updates of the nowcast for Canadian GDP coming from the Scotiabank nowcasting model. The evolution of this nowcast will inform Scotiabank Economics' official macroeconomic outlook.

The model, which uses a mix of Canadian and US variables at monthly and quarterly frequencies to predict Canadian GDP growth in the current/most recent quarter, is described in the related note here.

- Kicking off 2018Q4, Canadian GDP by industry registered surprising growth of +0.3 m/m in October, the strongest pace since May 2018.
- The rebound comes on the heels of a month-on-month decline in September and is broadly based, with 15 out of 20 sectors expanding.
- With a strong bounce-back of GDP at the start of the quarter, the mechanical update to the nowcast for Q4-2018 lands at 2.07% Q/Q SAAR.
- Note, however, that the model update does not take into account crude oil production cuts in Q4 in Canada, which were announced even before the government of Alberta mandated a decrease of 325kbpd, the latter starting in Q1. The impact from the cuts on Q4 GDP growth is estimated to be in the 0.2–0.3ppts range, which would imply Q4 GDP growth at a more modest 1.7–1.8%.

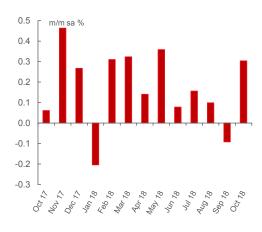
Table 1: Canadian GDP Nowcast, Q4-2018

	Nowcast Date	Q4-2018 GDP Growth, %
Previous Nowcast	18-Dec-18	1.57
Revisions		-0.02
Wholesale trade, Canada, October		-0.06
GDP by Industry, Canada, October		+0.51
Manufacturers' Shipments, US, November		+0.07
Current Nowcast	21-Dec-18	2.07

CONTACTS

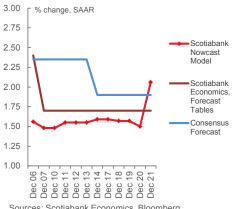
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Chart 1: GDP by Industry, Canada



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Haver Analytics.

Chart 2: The Evolution of the Scotiabank Economics Q4-2018 Nowcast



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Bloomberg, Haver Analytics.



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