

April 17, 2020

#### **Global Devastation**

- COVID-19 is resulting in massive revisions to forecasts. Incoming data confirm the global economy is in a deep recession. Output will fall between 30–50% in annualized terms in many countries during the second quarter. Global economic output is expected to fall by 2.8%—the worst showing since the Great Depression.
- Signs of an imminent peak suggest economies may begin to re-open in the latter half of the second quarter. This should lead a rebound in growth in the second half of 2020 and into 2021, but levels of economic activity will remain well below those observed in late 2019 until early 2022. A rebound in growth rates should not be confused with a return to normal.
- In Canada, the deep contraction in the first half of 2020 is likely to lead to a roughly 9% fall in GDP this year, even though economic growth is expected to rebound in the second part of the year.
- Downside risks dominate an already grim outlook. In the absence of effective treatments and vaccines, populations are at risk of a reactivation of the virus even if we have passed peak infection rates.

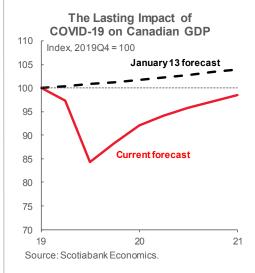
The costs of COVID-19 are mounting rapidly. The scale of the devastation is breathtaking. At the time of writing, more than 2 million individuals have contracted the virus, and nearly 150,000 of those have perished. Many more infections and deaths are expected. From an economic perspective, the full scope of the damage is beginning to appear in economic data. It is clear the global economy is in a deep recession. In China, for instance, the level of economic activity fell by close to 7% in Q1 relative to the same period last year. Purchasing managers' indices are showing sharp drop-offs in activity around the world. Employment insurance claims are skyrocketing as layoffs mount in a broad range of countries. In Canada, March GDP fell by 9% (not annualized!) relative to February, even though lockdown measures were only implemented in the second half of the month. Across much of the industrialized world, economic activity is expected to fall in the 30–50% range in the second quarter.

Much of the economic damage is necessary, reflecting measures deemed required by public health officials to slow the spread of the virus to avoid overwhelming national healthcare systems. There are hopeful signs that these measures are starting to bear fruit, as infection rates seem to be stabilizing in a number of countries. This suggests we may be nearing the peak of the virus. As a consequence, governments are slowly starting to develop plans for how to reopen their economies. As health officials note, however, some form of distancing measures will be required for a number of weeks after COVID-19 has peaked. It will take time for life to return to normal.

We currently assume that global economies gradually re-open in the latter half of the second quarter. In Canada, for instance, we believe this will occur in the back half of May, following the current guidance (or hopes) of Premiers Legault and Ford. If this happens, we expect a strong rebound in Canadian economic activity in the second half of the year.

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Even if this rebound occurs, levels of economic activity in much of the global economy will remain well below those observed in 19Q4 owing to the severity of the downturn and what is likely to be a gradual return to normalcy. Social distancing, whether mandated by governments or not, is likely to remain in some shape or fashion for an extended period of time. Take air travel as an example. It may well be that travel restrictions are lifted in the summer, but it is highly likely that some proportion of air travellers will refrain from flying for quite a while. Moreover, a resumption of activity in some sectors will lead to very strong growth rates in the near term even if the level of activity is low.

In Canada, we expect economic activity to contract by 44% in 20Q2 owing to COVID-19-related disruptions. As this follows a 10% decline in 20Q1, rebounds of 21% and 18% in the final quarters of the year are not powerful enough to prevent a 9% decline in GDP in 2020. As can be seen from Chart 1, a rebound in the second half of this year and a robust 6.5% next year will leave the level of economic activity below that observed in 19Q4 through next year. Relative to our pre-COVID forecasts done in January, a portion of the output loss can never recovered. The same will be true in every country affected by the virus.

Unfortunately, risks to this grim outlook are tilted to the downside. There is yet no effective treatment for the virus, nor is there a vaccine. The latter may take another year yet to develop. That leaves populations exposed to a reactivation of the virus as temperature cools in the fall. A return of aggressive containment measures later this year cannot be ruled out. Moreover, as policymakers work to re-open economies and lift restrictions, it may well be that this is done too soon in some cases, and in so doing lead to increases in infection rates.



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nternational	2010–18	2018	2019	2020f	2021f	2010–18	2018	2019	2020f	202	
			al GDP		<b>Consumer Prices</b>						
		(annua	al % chan	ge)		(y/y % change, year-end)					
World (based on purchasing power parity)	3.8	3.7	3.1	-2.8	5.9						
Canada	2.2	2.0	1.6	-9.1	6.5	1.7	2.0	2.1	-0.8	1	
United States	2.3	2.9	2.3	-6.3	7.0	1.7	2.2	2.0	-0.3	2	
Mexico	3.0	2.1	-0.1	-8.4	1.1	4.1	4.8	2.8	3.6	3	
United Kingdom	1.9	1.3	1.4	-6.1	3.9	2.2	2.1	1.4	0.5	1	
Eurozone	1.4	1.9	1.2	-7.1	4.1	1.3	1.5	1.3	0.0	1	
Germany	2.1	1.5	0.6	-6.6	4.8	1.3	1.6	1.5	0.4	1	
France	1.4	1.7	1.3	-6.9	3.9	1.1	1.6	1.6	-0.5	1	
China	7.9	6.8	6.1	1.6	8.5	2.5	1.8	4.5	2.9	2	
India	7.2	5.5	5.3	2.1	8.2	7.3	2.1	7.4	3.0	4	
Japan	1.4	0.3	0.7	-3.8	2.3	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.1	C	
South Korea	3.4	2.7	2.0	-1.6	3.1	1.8	1.3	0.7	0.3	1	
Australia	2.7	2.7	1.8	-4.0	3.1	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.1	1	
Thailand	3.8	4.1	2.4	-5.4	4.4	1.5	0.4	0.9	-0.2	1	
Brazil	1.4	1.3	1.1	-3.3	2.5	6.0	3.8	4.3	6.3	7	
Colombia	3.8	2.5	3.3	0.6	3.6	3.9	3.2	3.8	3.2	3	
Peru	4.8	4.0	2.2	-2.3	4.5	3.0	2.2	1.9	1.1	2	
Chile	3.6	4.0	1.1	-2.1	2.9	3.2	2.6	3.0	2.8	3	
Argentina*	1.8	-2.5	-2.2	-5.6	4.2	19.8	47.6	53.8	45.7	46	
Commodities											
		(annı	ıal averag	e)							
WTI Oil (USD/bbl)	74	65	57	30	40						
Brent Oil (USD/bbl)	82	72	64	33	42						
WCS - WTI Discount (USD/bbl)	-18	-26	-14	-16	-21						
Nymex Natural Gas (USD/mmbtu)	3.39	3.07	2.53	1.95	2.40						
Copper (USD/lb)	3.10	2.96	2.72	2.25	2.75						
Zinc (USD/lb)	1.02	1.33	1.16	0.90	1.00						
Nickel (USD/lb)	7.00	5.95	6.32	5.40	6.00						
Aluminium (USD/lb)	0.89	0.96	0.81	0.90	0.90						
Iron Ore (USD/tonne)	101	70	94	77	70						
Metallurgical Coal (USD/tonne)	179	207	184	134	140						
Gold, (USD/oz)	1,342	1,268	1,393	1,650	1,700						
Silver, (USD/oz)	21.64	15.71	16.21	16.50	18.00						



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North America	2010-18	2018	2019	2020f	2021f	2010-18	2018	2019	2020f	2021	
		(	Canada		United States						
	(annual % change, unless noted)					(annual % change, unless noted)					
Real GDP	2.2	2.0	1.6	-9.1	6.5	2.3	2.9	2.3	-6.3	7.0	
Consumer spending	2.6	2.1	1.6	-6.4	4.5	2.4	3.0	2.6	-5.1	6.3	
Residential investment	2.7	-1.5	-0.5	-13.4	5.0	4.8	-1.5	-1.5	-6.0	6.	
Business investment*	2.4	1.8	-0.8	-17.1	12.2	5.2	6.4	2.1	-13.9	13.	
Government	1.2	3.4	1.6	1.5	2.6	-0.3	1.7	2.3	2.2	2.	
Exports	3.6	3.1	1.2	-10.0	11.9	4.1	3.0	0.0	-9.6	10.	
Imports	3.9	2.6	0.3	-3.2	7.2	4.9	4.4	1.0	-3.9	8.	
Nominal GDP	3.9	3.9	3.6	-12.5	8.1	4.0	5.4	4.1	-5.3	8	
GDP deflator	1.7	1.8	1.9	-3.9	1.7	1.7	2.4	1.7	1.1	1.	
Consumer price index (CPI)	1.7	2.3	1.9	0.5	0.8	1.8	2.4	1.8	0.7	1.	
Core inflation rate**	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.1	0.6	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.1	1.	
Pre-tax corporate profits	5.8	2.5	0.3	-20.9	5.8	4.6	3.4	0.0	-9.7	3.	
Employment	1.2	1.3	2.1	-8.4	7.4	1.4	1.6	1.4	-6.0	4.	
Unemployment rate (%)	7.0	5.8	5.7	10.9	7.9	6.5	3.9	3.7	9.3	8.	
Current account balance (CAD, USD bn)	-58.4	-55.5	-45.4	-83.0	-52.3	-421	-491	-494	-583	-57	
Merchandise trade balance (CAD, USD bn)	-13.0	-22.1	-18.2	-63.0	-36.3	-754	-887	-865	-912	-95	
Federal budget balance (FY, CAD, USD bn)	-19.4	-19.0	-14.0	-26.6	-200.0	-813	-779	-960	-2,680	-1,45	
percent of GDP	-1.0	-0.9	-0.6	-1.3	-9.2	-4.6	-3.8	-4.5	-13.2	-6.	
Housing starts (000s, mn)	200	213	209	159	208	0.96	1.25	1.30	1.23	1.3	
Motor vehicle sales (000s, mn)	1,810	1,983	1,922	1,342	1,474	15.5	17.2	16.9	12.6	13.	
Industrial production	2.7	3.1	-1.1	-11.8	7.0	2.2	4.0	0.9	-9.3	5.	
		ı	Mexico								
		(annua	al % chan	ge)							
Real GDP	3.0	2.1	-0.1	-8.4	1.1						
Consumer price index (year-end)	4.1	4.8	2.8	3.6	3.7						
Current account balance (USD bn)	-21.2	-23.0	-2.4	-8.1	-4.0						
Merchandise trade balance (USD bn)	-6.8	-13.6	5.8	2.7	5.0						

**Quarterly Forecasts** 2019 2020 2021 Canada Q4 Q1f Q2f Q3f Q4f Q1f Q2f Q3f Q4f 0.3 -10.1 -43.9 9.1 7.2 5.5 6.2 Real GDP (q/q ann. % change) 21.3 17.8 Real GDP (y/y % change) -1.4 -15.4 -11.5 -7.9 -3.3 13.7 9.8 7.0 1.5 Consumer prices (y/y % change) 2.1 2.0 0.4 0.3 -0.8 -1.2 8.0 1.5 1.9 Avg. of new core CPIs (y/y % change) 1.7 0.4 0.7 0.9 2.1 1.3 1.0 0.4 0.5 **United States** Real GDP (q/q ann. % change) 2.1 -7.5 -39.0 25.9 16.3 10.0 6.3 4.4 3.5 Real GDP (y/y % change) 2.3 -0.4 -12.4 -7.7 -4.7 -0.4 14.4 9.2 6.0 Consumer prices (y/y % change) 2.0 2.1 8.0 0.1 -0.3 0.7 1.4 2.1 2.8 Total PCE deflator (y/y % change) 1.4 1.5 0.6 -0.1 -0.4 0.6 1.5 2.1 2.6 Core PCE deflator (y/y % change) 1.6 1.3 0.6 1.5 2.0 Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, BEA, BLS, Bloomberg.



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	2019		2020	)			202	I	
Central Bank Rates	Q4	Q1	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f
Americas				(%, e	nd of period)	)			
Bank of Canada US Federal Reserve (upper bound) Bank of Mexico	1.75 1.75 7.25	0.25 0.25 6.50	0.25 0.25 5.50	0.25 0.25 5.50	0.25 0.25 5.50	0.25 0.25 5.00	0.25 0.25 5.00	0.25 0.25 5.00	0.25 0.25 5.00
Central Bank of Brazil Bank of the Republic of Colombia Central Reserve Bank of Peru Central Bank of Chile Central Bank of Argentina	4.50 4.25 2.25 1.75 55.00	3.75 3.75 1.25 0.50 38.00	3.00 3.25 0.25 0.50 37.00	3.00 3.25 0.25 0.50 36.00	3.00 3.25 0.25 0.50 36.00	4.00 3.25 0.75 1.00 36.00	4.75 3.75 1.00 1.25 37.00	5.50 4.25 1.25 1.50 38.00	6.00 4.25 1.50 1.50 40.00
Europe									
European Central Bank MRO Rate European Central Bank Deposit Rate Bank of England	0.00 -0.50 0.75	0.00 -0.50 0.10	0.00 -0.60 0.10						
Asia/Oceania									
Reserve Bank of Australia Bank of Japan People's Bank of China Reserve Bank of India Bank of Korea Bank of Thailand	0.75 -0.10 4.15 5.15 1.25	0.25 -0.10 4.05 4.40 0.75 0.75	0.25 -0.10 3.90 4.00 0.50 0.50	0.25 -0.10 3.90 3.75 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.90 3.75 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.90 3.75 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.90 3.75 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.90 4.00 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.90 4.25 0.50 0.25
Currencies and Interest Rates									
Americas				(end	d of period)				
Canadian dollar (USDCAD) Canadian dollar (CADUSD) Mexican peso (USDMXN)	1.30 0.77 18.93	1.48 0.68 21.97	1.42 0.70 24.25	1.39 0.72 24.03	1.38 0.72 24.24	1.37 0.73 24.29	1.35 0.74 24.07	1.33 0.75 24.02	1.32 0.76 24.15
Brazilian real (USDBRL) Colombian peso (USDCOP) Peruvian sol (USDPEN) Chilean peso (USDCLP) Argentine Peso (USDARS)	4.02 3287 3.31 753 59.87	5.25 4065 3.43 860 64.40	4.97 3950 3.49 820 73.40	4.72 3851 3.47 800 79.10	4.84 3654 3.45 790 83.10	4.93 3473 3.42 780 86.20	4.64 3465 3.43 760 87.50	4.52 3458 3.39 740 89.20	4.42 3450 3.40 720 93.10
Europe									
Euro (EURUSD) UK pound (GBPUSD)	1.12 1.33	1.08 1.15	1.09 1.25	1.10 1.27	1.12 1.28	1.13 1.29	1.14 1.30	1.15 1.31	1.16 1.32
Asia/Oceania									
Japanese yen (USDJPY) Australian dollar (AUDUSD) Chinese yuan (USDCNY) Indian rupee (USDINR) South Korean won (USDKRW) Thai baht (USDTHB)	109 0.70 6.96 71.4 1,156 30.0	108 0.61 7.08 75.5 1,219 32.8	108 0.61 6.90 75.0 1,200 32.5	107 0.62 6.80 74.0 1,180 32.0	107 0.63 6.80 74.0 1,180 32.0	106 0.65 6.70 73.0 1,160 31.0	106 0.66 6.70 73.0 1,160 31.0	106 0.67 6.60 72.0 1,140 30.0	105 0.67 6.60 72.0 1,140 30.0
Canada (Yields, %)									
3-month T-bill 2-year Canada 5-year Canada 10-year Canada 30-year Canada	1.66 1.69 1.68 1.70 1.76	0.21 0.42 0.58 0.69 1.30	0.25 0.40 0.50 0.75 1.30	0.25 0.45 0.60 0.90 1.35	0.25 0.55 0.70 1.00 1.40	0.25 0.65 0.85 1.20 1.45	0.25 0.75 1.00 1.30 1.55	0.25 0.85 1.10 1.40 1.65	0.25 0.95 1.20 1.50 1.75
United States (Yields, %)									
3-month T-bill 2-year Treasury 5-year Treasury 10-year Treasury 30-year Treasury	1.51 1.57 1.69 1.92 2.39	0.05 0.25 0.38 0.67 1.32	0.10 0.30 0.45 0.75 1.30	0.10 0.40 0.60 0.85 1.50	0.10 0.55 0.85 1.05 1.65	0.10 0.70 1.00 1.20 1.85	0.10 0.80 1.10 1.30 2.05	0.10 0.90 1.20 1.45 2.05	0.10 1.00 1.30 1.60 2.10



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The Provinces					(annual %	change ex	cept where	noted)			
Real GDP	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	ВС
2010–18	2.2	0.5	2.0	0.9	0.6	1.7	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.8	2.8
2018	2.0	-3.5	2.6	1.5	0.8	2.5	2.2	1.3	1.3	1.6	2.6
2019e	1.6	2.1	2.8	1.7	0.6	2.7	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.5	2.1
2020f	-9.1	-10.1	-8.1	-8.3	-8.4	-9.0	-9.2	-8.6	-9.4	-10.6	-7.9
2021f	6.5	5.4	6.7	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.7	5.9	6.5	6.1	6.6
Nominal GDP											
2010–18	3.9	3.2	3.9	2.7	2.8	3.7	4.1	4.0	3.3	3.8	4.5
2018	3.9	1.7	4.2	3.3	3.2	4.8	3.7	2.2	1.4	3.8	4.5
2019e	3.6	3.8	4.8	3.5	2.3	4.3	3.8	3.1	2.6	2.1	4.3
2020f	-12.5	-14.5	-10.4	-10.4	-10.5	-12.4	-12.5	-10.4	-13.9	-15.5	-11.4
2021f	8.1	7.5	8.7	8.0	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.0	8.8	8.3	8.5
Employment											
2010–18	1.2	0.5	1.2	0.2	-0.2	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.9	1.5	1.4
2018	1.3	0.5	3.0	1.5	0.3	0.9	1.6	0.6	0.4	1.9	1.1
2019e	2.1	0.6	2.7	2.2	0.8	1.8	2.9	0.9	1.8	0.5	2.6
2020f	-8.4	-11.2	-6.3	-7.7	-7.7	-8.0	-7.7	-7.2	-10.3	-11.4	-8.2
2021f	7.4	5.1	7.8	6.9	6.9	7.4	7.2	6.0	7.5	8.1	7.7
Unemployment Rate (%)											
2010–18	7.0	13.3	10.8	8.8	9.3	7.4	7.3	5.5	5.2	6.1	6.4
2018	5.8	13.8	9.4	7.6	8.0	5.5	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.6	4.7
2019e	5.7	11.9	8.8	7.2	8.0	5.1	5.6	5.3	5.4	6.9	4.7
2020f	10.9	17.8	12.2	11.7	12.0	10.1	10.5	9.6	12.4	14.5	9.5
2021f	7.9	15.2	9.0	9.1	9.2	7.0	7.5	7.6	9.5	11.1	6.3
Housing Starts (units, 000s)											
2010–18	200	2.4	0.8	4.1	2.7	44	70	6.5	6.4	31	33
2018	213	1.1	1.1	4.8	2.3	47	79	7.4	3.6	26	41
2019e	209	0.9	1.5	4.7	2.9	48	69	6.9	2.4	27	45
2020f	159	1.0	1.0	3.7	2.3	38	57	4.9	1.9	21	28
2021f	208	1.6	1.5	4.4	2.6	45	75	6.8	4.4	29	38
Motor Vehicle Sales (units, 000s)											
2010–18	1,810	33	7	52	42	439	725	56	54	241	197
2018	1,983	28	8	51	38	449	853	67	47	226	217
2019e	1,922	30	8	51	40	442	818	56	48	218	204
2020f	1,342 1,474	19	6 7	39 42	28 29	310	575 636	40 42	30 32	135 149	160 176
2021f  Budget Palanees, Fiscal Year En		20 D mn)	1	42	29	341	636	42	32	149	176
Budget Balances, Fiscal Year En	•	,		400	70	4 000	7.405	400	000	0.744	4 505
2019	-14,000	-552	57	120	73	4,803	-7,435	-163	-268	-6,711	1,535
2020f*	-26,600	-944 706	-4 -7	41 55	98	1,900	-9,184	-325	37	-7,540	203
2021f	-200,000	-796	7	55	92	0	-20,500	-220	49	-6,810	227

<sup>\*</sup> NL budget balance in 2020 is net of one-time revenue boost via Atlantic Accord. Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, CMHC, Budget documents; Quebec budget balance figures are after Generations Fund transfers.



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