

October 14, 2020

Phase 2 and the US Election

- Global growth has been modestly marked down as COVID-19 roars back, but a solid recovery is still expected in 2021.
- A more targeted approach to virus management should dramatically reduce the impact of the virus relative to the first phase.
- Economic repair from the effects of the pandemic may be occurring more rapidly in Canada than in the US.
- The US election has the potential to substantially affect the forecast, but the extent to which this may occur depends critically on who wins the Presidency and controls the Senate.

The sharp rise in COVID-19 cases is leading to a modest scaling-back of growth forecasts owing to markdown of near-term economic prospects, but a phase-1 like collapse of economic activity will be avoided. We currently expect global GDP to fall by 4.1% in 2020 and rebound by 5.4% next year. Our previous forecast was for a decline of 3.9% this year and a rebound of 5.6% in 2021. The rise in infections also serves as a stark reminder that downside risks to the outlook remain very high and that it will take many quarters to recover lost output. Sustained policy support remains essential to assist firms and households, and premature withdrawal of fiscal support, as seems to be occurring in the US, will slow the pace at which the global economy rebounds next year.

Policymakers seem to have taken the lessons from the first phase of the pandemic to heart. Though the virus has come back with a vengeance in many countries, as feared and expected, the response of authorities has been far more targeted and parsimonious. Full-scale lockdowns of economies have not been implemented even as this second wave seems more broad-based than the initial outbreak of COVID-19. Moreover, households seem better adapted to life in pandemic, though employment remains well below pre-pandemic levels. Global indicators of household spending, for instance, continue to point to a rebound in consumption.

The pace of the rebound observed in 20Q3 was never going to be sustainable, as it reflected a one-time boost in growth as economies re-opened from depressed levels of activity. We are now transitioning to a slower phase of the recovery, as the slow grind to return to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity continues. Unemployment rates remain well above pre-COVID levels with impacts disproportionately affecting low-wage service sector employees, and many industries remain under intense pressure. The pace of this transition will be dictated by the evolution of the virus, how governments respond to it, the extent to which business and household behaviour continues to evolve, and the nature of government supports.

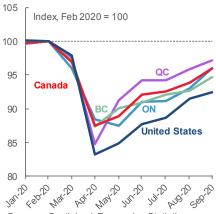
In the very short run, we have scaled back our forecast for economic activity during 20Q4 and 21Q1. In the US this reflects lower fiscal support and virusrelated drag, which will reduce growth in 20Q4 to 1.9% SAAR relative to the 5%

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Chart 1

Full Time Employment Levels



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics



October 14, 2020

we had forecast in our last update. In Canada, we now expect growth of 2.4% SAAR in 20Q4, well below the 5.1% we anticipated in our last forecast. This flows exclusively from the resurgence of the virus and containment measures instituted by some provinces. These revisions are partly offset in 2021 by the inclusion of extended wage subsidies and more generous employment insurance benefits, but growth next year is nevertheless expected to rebound less aggressively than previously assessed (now 5.4% vs 5.6% previously). There is likely to be upside risk to the amount of fiscal support provided next year given the Federal Government's clearly expressed intentions in the Speech from the Throne. We will assess and incorporate new initiatives if they are announced in the upcoming budget.

Importantly from a Canadian perspective, it appears the repair from the impact of the pandemic may be occurring more rapidly than in the US. The number of full-time employees has recovered much faster in Canada than it has in the US, for instance (chart 1). This almost certainly reflects Canada's more effective approach to managing the virus and its public health and economic consequences.

Our outlook does not incorporate the potential impact of the US election. It appears, at this point, that Mr. Biden will defeat President Trump. A President Biden, however, would be unable to alter the course of fiscal policy if Republicans maintain control of the Senate. In fact, it could well be that Senate Republicans block attempts by the new administration to support the economy as it continues to process the impacts of the pandemic. As Chairman Powell has noted many times, there remains a clear need for extensive fiscal support in the US economy. The current politicking around the extension of employment benefits is a taste what may come if Mr. Biden wins and the Republicans keep the Senate. If so, that would be negative for the outlook. Conversely, a Democratic Senate would likely be much more supportive of enhanced fiscal support, which could lead us to raise our forecast for next year. Finally, while President Trump seems unlikely to win at the moment, a victory is not out of reach. A second Trump mandate would likely see more fiscal support given the President's newfound appreciation for stimulus. One thing is certain: the electoral distraction will be over soon, and a return to governing and a focus on the needs of the economy will be a welcome relief from the past few weeks.



October 14, 2020

nternational	2010-19	2019	2020f	2021f	2022f	2010–19	2019	2020f	2021f	2022		
		Re	al GDP			Consumer Prices						
		(annua	l % chan	ge)			(y/y % change, year-end)					
World (based on purchasing power parity)	3.7	2.9	-4.1	5.4	3.9							
Canada	2.2	1.7	-5.7	4.1	3.1	1.7	2.1	0.1	1.9	2		
United States	2.3	2.2	-3.9	4.0	3.1	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.2	2		
Mexico	2.7	-0.3	-9.1	3.0	1.8	4.0	2.8	3.9	4.1	3.		
United Kingdom	1.8	1.3	-9.7	5.9	2.7	2.2	1.3	0.7	1.4	1.		
Eurozone	1.4	1.3	-8.3	5.3	2.5	1.3	1.3	0.5	1.0	1.		
Germany	1.9	0.6	-6.3	4.9	2.6	1.3	1.5	0.5	1.3	1.		
France	1.4	1.5	-9.7	6.3	2.9	1.1	1.5	0.4	1.1	1.		
China	7.9	6.1	2.1	8.5	6.0	2.5	4.5	2.3	2.5	2.		
India	7.2	4.8	-8.0	7.0	7.4	6.7	7.4	4.8	4.4	5.		
Japan	1.4	0.7	-4.9	2.7	1.0	0.6	0.8	-0.4	0.5	1.		
South Korea	3.5	2.0	-1.6	3.1	2.9	1.8	0.7	0.8	1.7	1.		
Australia	2.7	1.8	-3.6	2.7	2.7	2.1	1.8	0.4	1.6	2.		
Thailand	3.8	2.4	-7.1	5.0	4.0	1.5	0.9	-0.7	1.4	1.		
Brazil	1.4	1.1	-5.3	2.9	2.7	6.0	3.8	2.8	4.8	4.		
Colombia	3.8	3.2	-7.5	5.0	4.0	3.9	3.2	2.0	3.0	3.		
Peru	4.8	2.1	-11.5	8.7	4.0	3.0	1.9	1.5	2.0	2.		
Chile	3.6	1.1	-5.2	5.1	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.4	3.0	3.		
Argentina	1.8	-2.1	-10.8	4.3	3.6	23.0	53.8	28.7	42.6	36.		
Commodities												
		(annu	al averag	e)								
WTI Oil (USD/bbl)	74	57	39	48	52							
Brent Oil (USD/bbl)	82	64	43	50	55							
WCS - WTI Discount (USD/bbl)	-18	-14	-12	-15	-15							
Nymex Natural Gas (USD/mmbtu)	3.39	2.53	2.12	2.70	2.55							
Copper (USD/lb)	3.10	2.73	2.74	3.00	3.10							
Zinc (USD/lb)	1.02	1.16	1.00	1.10	1.05							
Nickel (USD/lb)	7.00	6.31	6.07	6.50	6.35							
Aluminium (USD/lb)	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90							
Iron Ore (USD/tonne)	101	93	100	85	75							
Metallurgical Coal (USD/tonne)	179	185	130	140	150							
Gold, (USD/oz)	1,342	1,393	1,775	1,850	1,850							
	21.64	16.21	20.25	22.00	22.00							



October 14, 2020

North America	2010-19	2019	2020f	2021f	2022f	2010-19	2019	2020f	2021f	2022f		
			Canada			United States						
	(an	nual % ch	nange, unl	ess noted)	(annual % change, unless noted)						
Real GDP	2.2	1.7	-5.7	4.1	3.1	2.3	2.2	-3.9	4.0	3.1		
Consumer spending	2.5	1.6	-8.3	3.0	3.1	2.4	2.4	-4.5	4.1	3.0		
Residential investment	2.4	-0.5	-5.6	6.2	4.8	4.4	-1.7	2.1	4.5	2.2		
Business investment*	2.4	-0.4	-10.8	7.2	3.0	5.0	2.9	-4.8	5.7	4.7		
Government	1.3	1.8	-0.9	2.1	2.5	0.0	2.3	2.4	2.9	2.5		
Exports	3.4	1.3	-11.4	7.1	4.2	3.8	-0.1	-14.9	7.0	4.6		
Imports	3.6	0.6	-16.3	6.6	4.3	4.5	1.1	-13.6	8.1	4.3		
Nominal GDP	3.9	3.6	-4.9	6.5	5.5	4.0	4.0	-3.0	5.3	5.2		
GDP deflator	1.7	1.9	0.9	2.3	2.4	1.7	1.8	0.9	1.2	2.0		
Consumer price index (CPI)	1.7	1.9	0.6	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.4	2.1	2.1		
Core inflation rate**	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.9		
Pre-tax corporate profits	6.2	-0.1	-21.4	5.7	4.6	5.2	0.3	-14.1	7.4	5.2		
Employment	1.3	2.1	-5.1	5.2	2.4	1.5	1.4	-5.6	2.5	2.1		
Unemployment rate (%)	6.9	5.7	9.5	7.7	6.5	6.2	3.7	8.4	7.0	6.3		
Current account balance (CAD, USD bn)	-57.3	-47.0	-34.9	-39.8	-39.8	-411	-480	-566	-594	-613		
Merchandise trade balance (CAD, USD bn)	-13.6	-18.4	-25.9	-31.5	-31.2	-764	-864	-833	-910	-959		
Federal budget balance (FY, CAD, USD bn) ***	-18.7	-17.8	-410.0	-125.0	-75.0	-827	-960	-3,311	-1,868	-1,327		
percent of GDP	-1.1	-0.8	-18.7	-5.4	-3.0	-4.8	-4.5	-15.9	-8.5	-5.8		
Housing starts (000s, mn)	201	209	206	174	185	0.99	1.30	1.29	1.38	1.41		
Motor vehicle sales (000s, mn)	1,820	1,917	1,568	1,800	1,908	15.7	16.9	14.2	15.8	16.5		
Industrial production	2.4	-0.8	-8.5	8.6	2.4	2.1	0.9	-8.0	8.0	3.4		
			Mexico									
		(annu	ıal % chan	ge)								
Real GDP	2.7	-0.3	-9.1	3.0	1.8							
Consumer price index (year-end)	4.0	2.8	3.9	4.1	3.9							
Current account balance (USD bn)	-19.8	-4.4	11.8	-17.3	-23.9							
Merchandise trade balance (USD bn)	-5.6	5.4	18.0	-6.3	-10.4							

Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, CMHC, BEA, BLS, Bloomberg. *For Canada it includes capital expenditures by businesses and non-profit institutions. ** US: core PCE deflator; Canada: average of 3 core measures published by the BoC. *** In order to align with US reporting, as of the August 2020 issue of Scotiabank's Forecast Tables, Canadian Federal and Provincial Budget Balances for FY2020/21 are noted in calendar year 2020, FY2021/22 in calendar year 2021.

Quarterly Forecasts	2019		2020				2021		2022				
Canada	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3e	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f
Real GDP (q/q ann. % change)	0.6	-8.2	-38.7	46.0	2.4	5.3	2.2	1.2	3.0	4.1	3.3	2.9	2.9
Real GDP (y/y % change)	1.5	-0.9	-13.0	-4.7	-4.2	-0.9	12.6	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.3
Consumer prices (y/y % change)	2.1	1.8	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.8	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0
Avg. of new core CPIs (y/y % change)	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	6.3	13.0	10.0	8.7	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.4	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.1
United States													
Real GDP (q/q ann. % change)	2.4	-5.0	-31.4	30.0	1.9	5.6	3.4	4.2	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.7
Real GDP (y/y % change)	2.3	0.3	-9.0	-3.5	-3.6	-1.0	9.7	3.8	4.1	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.8
Consumer prices (y/y % change)	2.0	2.1	0.4	1.3	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2
Total PCE deflator (y/y % change)	1.5	1.7	0.6	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
Core PCE deflator (y/y % change)	1.6	1.8	1.0	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.5	3.8	13.0	8.8	7.7	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.0
Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada,	BEA, BLS, Bloom	berg.											



October 14, 2020

	2019		2020)		2021					202	2022	
Central Bank Rates	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f
Americas						(%, en	d 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 5.00	0.25 0.25 4.25	0.25 0.25 4.25	0.25 0.25 4.25	0.25 0.25 4.25	0.25 0.25 4.25	0.25 0.25 4.25	0.25 0.25 5.00	0.25 0.25 5.25	0.25 0.25 5.50	0.25 0.25 5.50
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	2.25 2.75 0.25 0.50 38.00	2.00 1.75 0.25 0.50 38.00	2.00 1.75 0.25 0.50 37.00	2.00 1.75 0.25 0.50 37.00	2.25 1.75 0.25 0.50 37.00	3.25 2.00 0.25 0.50 37.00	4.25 2.75 0.50 0.50 40.00	4.75 3.50 0.50 0.50 42.00	5.25 4.00 0.75 0.75 44.00	5.75 4.00 1.00 1.00 46.00	6.25 4.00 1.00 1.50 48.00
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											
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 1.25	0.25 -0.10 4.05 4.40 0.75 0.75	0.25 -0.10 3.85 4.00 0.50 0.50	0.25 -0.10 3.85 4.00 0.50 0.50	0.25 -0.10 3.85 4.00 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.85 3.50 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.85 3.50 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.85 3.50 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.85 3.50 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.85 3.50 0.50 0.25	0.25 -0.10 3.85 3.75 0.50 0.50	0.25 -0.10 3.85 4.25 0.75 0.75	0.25 -0.10 3.85 4.75 1.00 1.00
Currencies and Interest Rates													
Americas						(end	of period)						
Canadian dollar (USDCAD) Canadian dollar (CADUSD) Mexican peso (USDMXN)	1.30 0.77 18.93	1.41 0.71 23.67	1.36 0.74 22.99	1.33 0.75 22.11	1.32 0.76 23.84	1.30 0.77 24.17	1.30 0.77 24.00	1.28 0.78 24.48	1.28 0.78 24.49	1.27 0.79 24.42	1.26 0.79 23.97	1.25 0.80 23.82	1.25 0.80 23.88
Brazilian real (USDBRL) Colombian peso (USDCOP) Peruvian sol (USDPEN) Chilean peso (USDCLP) Argentine Peso (USDARS)	4.02 3287 3.31 753 59.87	5.21 4065 3.43 854 64.40	5.47 3758 3.54 821 70.46	5.61 3828 3.60 784 76.18	5.61 3654 3.60 770 84.10	5.11 3473 3.57 750 89.90	4.96 3465 3.56 740 95.80	5.07 3458 3.56 730 99.70	5.03 3450 3.55 720 106.10	5.02 3438 3.52 720 108.30	5.02 3425 3.52 720 107.20	5.05 3413 3.52 710 105.00	5.01 3400 3.50 710 101.40
Europe													
Euro (EURUSD) UK pound (GBPUSD)	1.12 1.33	1.10 1.24	1.12 1.24	1.17 1.29	1.18 1.29	1.20 1.30	1.20 1.31	1.21 1.32	1.21 1.33	1.22 1.35	1.23 1.37	1.24 1.39	1.24 1.40
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 0.69 7.01 75.5 1,203 30.9	105 0.72 6.79 73.8 1,170 31.7	105 0.71 6.70 73.0 1,140 31.0	104 0.73 6.60 72.0 1,130 30.5	104 0.73 6.60 72.0 1,130 30.5	102 0.75 6.50 71.0 1,120 30.0	102 0.75 6.50 71.0 1,120 30.0	101 0.75 6.40 70.0 1,110 29.5	101 0.76 6.40 70.0 1,110 29.5	100 0.77 6.30 69.0 1,100 29.0	100 0.77 6.30 69.0 1,100 29.0
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	0.20 0.29 0.36 0.53 0.99	0.12 0.25 0.35 0.56 1.11	0.15 0.25 0.40 0.60 1.20	0.15 0.35 0.55 0.75 1.30	0.15 0.45 0.75 1.00 1.40	0.15 0.50 0.90 1.20 1.50	0.15 0.60 1.10 1.35 1.65	0.15 0.65 1.15 1.40 1.70	0.15 0.70 1.20 1.45 1.75	0.15 0.75 1.30 1.55 1.85	0.15 0.80 1.40 1.60 1.90
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	0.14 0.15 0.29 0.66 1.41	0.09 0.13 0.28 0.68 1.46	0.10 0.15 0.35 0.75 1.55	0.10 0.25 0.50 0.85 1.60	0.10 0.35 0.70 1.10 1.70	0.10 0.45 0.85 1.30 1.80	0.10 0.55 0.95 1.50 1.95	0.10 0.60 1.00 1.50 1.95	0.10 0.65 1.05 1.55 2.00	0.10 0.70 1.10 1.60 2.05	0.10 0.75 1.15 1.60 2.10



October 14, 2020

The Provinces					(annual %	change ex	cept where	noted)			
Real GDP	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	ВС
2010–19	2.2	0.9	2.2	1.0	0.7	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.8
2019*	1.7	4.0	4.5	2.1	1.0	2.7	1.6	1.0	-0.8	-0.6	2.8
2020f	-5.7	-6.8	-3.3	-4.3	-3.7	-6.0	-5.7	-3.1	-5.9	-7.3	-4.9
2021f	4.1	3.2	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.3	4.2	3.5	4.0	4.1	3.7
2022f	3.1	1.7	2.9	2.8	2.7	3.2	3.2	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.4
Nominal GDP											
2010–19	3.9	3.3	4.0	2.7	2.8	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.2	3.5	4.5
2019e	3.6	4.0	4.5	3.0	2.9	4.6	3.8	2.8	2.5	0.7	4.4
2020f	-4.9	-8.8	-1.7	-3.3	-2.5	-4.1	-3.7	-2.0	-8.2	-10.0	-3.7
2021f	6.5	5.5	5.5	5.8	5.7	6.5	6.6	4.9	6.9	7.4	5.7
2022f	5.5	3.8	4.9	4.7	4.4	5.4	5.6	4.7	5.6	6.4	5.7
Employment											
2010–19	1.3	0.5	1.4	0.4	-0.1	1.2	1.5	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.6
2019	2.1	0.6	2.7	2.2	0.8	1.8	2.9	0.9	1.8	0.5	2.6
2020f	-5.1	-6.2	-2.2	-4.5	-2.8	-4.8	-4.9	-3.2	-4.4	-6.4	-6.3
2021f	5.2	4.0	4.9	5.0	4.5	5.3	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.6	5.4
2022f	2.4	0.7	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.5
Unemployment Rate (%)											
2010–19	6.9	13.0	10.5	8.6	9.3	7.0	7.0	5.5	5.2	6.2	6.1
2019	5.7	11.9	8.8	7.2	8.0	5.1	5.6	5.3	5.4	6.9	4.7
2020f	9.5	14.2	10.4	10.0	9.7	9.1	9.4	8.1	8.7	11.2	9.1
2021f	7.7	12.9	9.1	8.3	8.3	7.3	7.7	6.4	6.5	9.1	7.1
2022f	6.5	12.2	7.9	7.2	7.3	6.2	6.5	5.3	5.3	7.7	6.0
Housing Starts (units, 000s)											
2010–19	201	2.2	8.0	4.2	2.7	44	70	6.6	6.0	31	34
2019	209	0.9	1.5	4.7	2.9	48	69	6.9	2.4	27	45
2020f	206	8.0	1.0	4.5	3.1	52	78	6.0	3.0	22	35
2021f	174	0.8	1.1	3.9	2.5	42	63	5.7	2.1	25	28
2022f	185	8.0	1.2	4.0	2.5	45	66	6.2	2.5	25	32
Motor Vehicle Sales (units, 000s)						1		1			
2010–19	1,820	33	7	51	41	432	715	55	53	237	194
2019	1,917	34	8	53	41	454	788	53	46	227	214
2020f	1,568	29	7	43	35	381	625	46	40	186	177
2021f	1,800	32	7	50	41	434	714	54	47	218	204
2022f	1,908	33	8	53	43	462	759	56	49	231	215
Budget Balances, (CAD mn)						1		1			
2019	-17,770	-1,386	-4	41	98	1,900	-8,672	5	-319	-12,152	-321
2020f**	-410,000	-1,838	-178	-853	-299	0	-38,538	-2,938	-2,130	-24,159	-12,792
2021f***	-125,000										
2022f	-75,000					1					

^{*} Based on preliminary GDP by industry estimates for all provinces but Quebec and Ontario. ** NL budget balance in 2020 is net of one-time revenue boost via Atlantic Accord.

^{***} In order to align with US reporting, as of the August 2020 issue of Scotiabank's Forecast Tables, Canadian Federal and Provincial Budget Balances for FY2020/21 are noted in calendar year 2020, FY2021/22 in calendar year 2021. Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, CMHC, Budget documents; Quebec budget balance figures are after Generations Fund and Stabilization Reserve transfers.



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