



Economics

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"Applying a flipping tax on foreign investors might be a step in the right direction."

<https://economics.cibccm.com/economicsweb>

THE WEEK AHEAD

May 16-20, 2016

Should We Tax Foreign Real Estate Buyers?

by Benjamin Tal

The issue of foreign investment in the real estate markets of Vancouver and Toronto dominates cocktail party conversations. The good news is that we are not alone. Newspaper headlines in Australia, New Zealand and the UK are very similar to ours. The bad news is that policy makers in those countries are as confused about the issue as we are.

That confusion however, did not stop those countries from taking action. In Australia, since the summer of 2015, foreign investors can receive permission only if they are developing or building new housing stock—and that property must be for their personal use. In New Zealand, new legislation introduced a capital gains tax on properties sold within two years of purchase. And the UK recently introduced a property capital gains tax of up to 28%. It's way too early to assess the impact of those changes, but there are some early signs from Australia showing that it's working; the share of foreign buyers in new housing demand fell from 16% in Q3 2015 to the current 12%.

What about us? CMHC is currently working hard to get a better understanding of the magnitude of the issue; the BC government is also doing something about it, but the process is still in its infancy.

Meanwhile, in order to get a better understanding of this market I attended a dinner with over 20 real estate brokers and agents who deal exclusively with foreign buyers. After all, if you really want to get an understanding of this market, you have to talk to the people who are involved in the transactions. Relying on Statistics Canada will not do in this case.

I asked many questions and after a few bottles of wine I got some answers. And the picture that is emerging is as follows: pure foreign investment is probably much smaller than perceived by

many. However, a satellite family situation is probably more common than perceived. That's a case in which the money comes from outside the country, but family members—mostly wives, children or students—reside in Canada. Flipping is not the main motivation here and their down payment is often significant.

There is a clear sense of urgency among many Chinese residents to send money out of the country, given the risk of a large scale devaluation of the yuan. But the main focus of those real estate agents was on QDII2 (Qualified Domestic Individual Investors 2)—a pilot program that is currently being tested in five cities, including Shanghai. The program allows individuals with net financial assets of at least 1 million yuan to invest up to 50% of those assets in foreign markets.

That can potentially give a significant boost to what's allocated to international property markets. And with the 20% depreciation of the loonie relative to the yuan, Toronto and Vancouver look very attractive. Accordingly, the consensus in the room was that the next few years will see even more foreign money entering Canadian real estate markets.

So what to do? It's true that we do not have all the information we need, and we must accelerate the process of collecting that information. While we wait, we can start dealing with the speculative aspect of foreign investment. We don't know how big it is, but we know it's not constructive. We know that flipping is not the main motivation among foreign investors, but it does exist. Applying a flipping tax on foreign investors might be a step in the right direction. It won't solve the problem, but it might be an effective way to remove the most problematic element of foreign investment in Canadian real estate.



Week Ahead Calendar And Forecast

	CANADA			UNITED STATES			
	CIBC	Consensus	Prior	CIBC	Consensus	Prior	
Monday May 16			1.5%				
	9:00 AM EXISTING HOME SALES (Apr) (M)						
Tuesday May 17							
	AUCTION: 3-M BILLS \$8.6B, 6-M BILLS \$3.2B, 1-YR BILLS \$3.2B CASH MANAGEMENT BUYBACK (Jun'16 - Aug'17) - \$1.0B						
	8:30 AM MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS M/M (Mar) (M)	-2.5%	-1.7%	-3.3%			
Wednesday May 18							
	AUCTION: 30-YR CANADAS \$1.75B						
	8:30 AM INT'L. SEC. TRANSACTIONS						
Thursday May 19							
	8:30 AM WHOLESALE TRADE M/M (Mar) (M)	-0.7%	0.5%	-2.2%			
Friday May 20							
	8:30 AM RETAIL TRADE TOTAL M/M RETAIL TRADE EX-AUTO M/M CPI M/M CPI M/M (Bank of Canada core) CPI Y/Y CPI Y/Y (Bank of Canada core)	-1.1% -0.7% 0.2% 0.0% 1.6% 2.0%	-0.7% -0.4% 0.4% 0.1% 1.7% 2.0%	0.4% 0.2% 0.6% 0.7% 1.3% 2.1%			
	9:00 AM NEW YORK FED (EMPIRE) (May) (M)						
	10:00 AM MAHB HOUSING INDEX (May) (L)						
	4:00 PM NET CAPITAL INFLOWS (TICS) (Mar) (L)						
	Speaker: 7:00 PM Neel Kashkari (Minneapolis)						
	AUCTION: 4-WEEK BILLS \$45B (prev)						
	8:30 AM HOUSING STARTS SAAR BUILDING PERMITS SAAR CPI M/M CPI M/M (core) CPI Y/Y CPI Y/Y (core)	11.44K 11.38K 0.4% 0.2% 1.2% 2.1%	1125K 1132K 0.4% 0.2% 1.1% 2.1%	1089K 1076K 0.1% 0.1% 0.9% 2.2%			
	9:15 AM INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION M/M CAPACITY UTILIZATION	0.5% 75.1%	0.3% 75.0%	-0.6% 74.8%			
	Speaker: 1:15 PM Rob Kaplan (Dallas, President) Speaker: 12:00 PM John C Williams (San Francisco) Dennis Lockhart (Atlanta)						
	7:00 AM MBA-APPLICATIONS (May 13) (L)						
	2:00 PM Minutes of Apr. 27th FOMC Meeting						
	8:30 AM INITIAL CLAIMS CONTINUING CLAIMS CHICAGO FED NAT. ACTIVITY INDEX PHILADELPHIA FED						
	10:00 AM LEADING INDICATORS M/M (Apr) (M)						
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Week Ahead's Market Call

by Andrew Grantham

The coming week could see further good news regarding the rebound in **US** growth, with housing starts and industrial production data expected to rebound more than the consensus expects. However, the Fed will need the good news to keep rolling in before being comfortable hiking interest rates, particularly with the annual rate of core CPI likely to ease further to 2.1% for April. That's why, even with improving news on the growth front, we still favour a September rather than June hike.

While the US data appears to be taking a turn for the better, next week's figures are likely to show the tide turning the other way in **Canada**. Given the disappointing trade figures released a couple of weeks ago, we are poised for softness in both manufacturing shipments and potentially wholesale trade activity for March. With retail sales running hotter than incomes during the mild winter, that sector could also see a pull-back. Against that backdrop of disappointing growth indicators, another 2% reading for core inflation in April will be largely overlooked.

Week Ahead's Key Canadian Number:**Consumer Price Index—April**

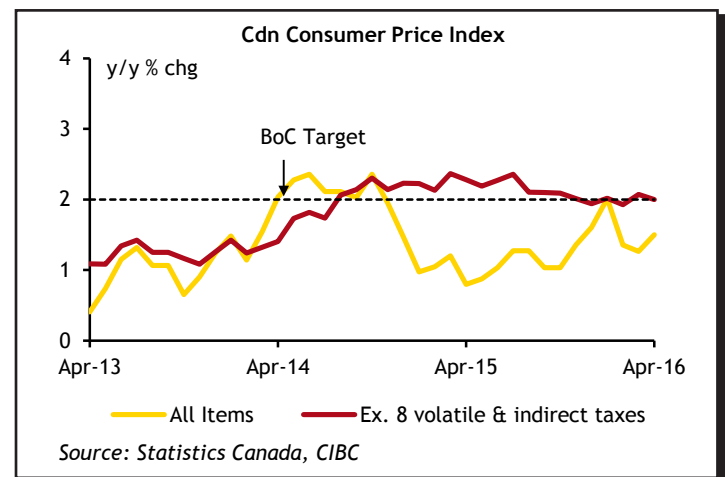
(Friday, 8:30 a.m.)

Nick Exarhos (416) 956-6527

	CIBC	Mkt	Prior
CPI m/m NSA	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%
CPI yr/yr	1.6%	1.7%	1.3%
Ex 8 volatile items m/m NSA	0.0%	0.1%	0.7%
Ex 8 volatile items yr/yr	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%

Firmer gasoline prices in April will see headline inflation increase by 0.2% NSA (0.2% SA). With a weak year-ago reading dropping out of the calculation, that should drive the annual rate in CPI to 1.6%.

Although headline is headed higher, core inflation is likely to slide in April. Pass-through from the Canadian dollar is set to have an ever decreasing impact in boosting core, as the Canadian dollar's slide has stalled, and even reversed partially in recent months. Food prices—an area particularly sensitive to currency fluctuations—are likely to decelerate from their current pace near 4% year-on-year.



As a result look for a flat reading on core in April (0.1% SA), with the annual rate decelerating a tick to 2.0%.

Forecast Implications—Energy prices are likely to rebound further as we head into the later part of 2016 and into 2017. That should see headline inflation rise to the 2½% range, signaling to investors that inflation won't be tame forever—something that should cause a re-pricing in the bond market. Core is likely to slide a bit more in the months ahead as pass-through from the Canadian dollar dissipates. However, it shouldn't trend too far below 2%, as firmer growth in the back half of 2016 starts the process of closing the output gap, and drives underlying inflationary pressures higher.

Other Canadian Releases:**Manufacturing Shipments—March**

(Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.)

Canada was always going to suffer from a slowdown in US imports, and we saw the results in March's trade figures. Exports were down by 4.8%, with manufactured shipments down only slightly less. Weak energy prices played a role, but even stripping out petroleum products, manufactured exports slid by just over 4%. That doesn't bode well for the factory sector's figures released next Tuesday, where we are expecting a 2.5% decline. And with inventories still high in the US, a meaningful recovery may be only down the road.

Retail Trade—March

(Friday, 8:30 a.m.)

Nothing seems to be stopping Canadian shoppers. Although February retail sales were only up by 0.4%, stripping out the effect of weak prices reveals a 1.5% volume gain. Adding that to January's strong results, and shoppers were indeed off to the races in 2016. However, watch out for stumbling blocks ahead. Auto sales appear to have slowed in March, while the rest of retailing appears to have run ahead of what income growth would have suggested. Look for a 1.1% headline decline, with a 0.7% drop coming ex-autos. Wholesale trade released on Thursday should also show a 0.7% decline, meaning that another soft GDP print is coming for March.

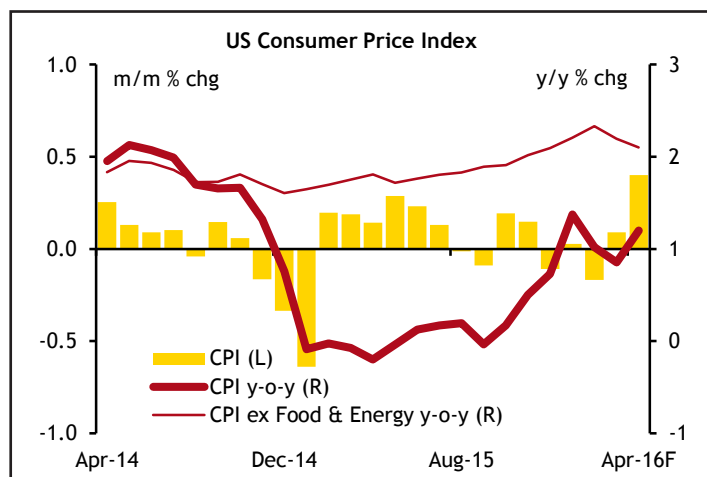
Week Ahead’s Key US Number:

Consumer Price Index—April

(Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.)

Andrew Grantham (416) 956-3219

	CIBC	Mkt	Prior
Headline CPI m/m	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%
Headline CPI yr/yr	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%
Core CPI m/m	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Core CPI yr/yr	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%



Readings for headline and core CPI will start to converge in April. However, importantly for Fed policy, some of that convergence is likely to come from a further deceleration in the latter.

Even though the recent pull-back in the US\$ should soon begin to relieve the downward pressure on imported goods prices, a 0.2% monthly print for core CPI (following a 0.1% reading in March) won't be enough to hold the *status quo* for the year-over-year pace thanks to unfavourable base effects. The annual rate of core inflation could ease to 2.1%, which would be the lowest reading so far this year.

However, rebounding energy prices and a possible firming in food as well, should see headline inflation moving in the other direction again. A 0.4% rise in April

would see the year-over-year rate pick up to 1.2%, from 0.9% in March.

Forecast Implications—The slight slowing in core CPI is another reason why we don't think the Fed will have enough ammunition to raise interest rates in June. However, with core inflation not entirely sheltered from rising energy prices (ie. through airline fares) and with the deflationary influence of past US\$ strength starting to fade, core CPI should have accelerated again by the time September's Fed meeting comes around.

Market Impact—The deceleration in core inflation is expected by the consensus, but could still be slightly positive for fixed income if realized as markets further reduce the odds of a June hike.

Other US releases:

Industrial Prod. & Capacity Utilization—April

(Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.)

US industrial production has had a rough time of it in recent months. But while one of the negatives remains, specifically falling oil output, two other contributors to recent softness should have turned a corner in April. Manufacturing hours worked suggest a moderate rise

in output, while more normal seasonal temperatures should see adjusted utilities demand rebound as well. Both combined could drive a 0.5% gain in industrial production, despite the continued headwind from the oil sector.

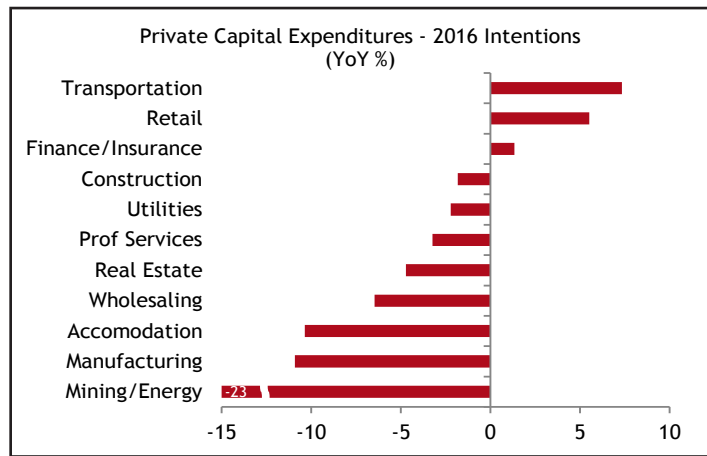
Equity Insights

Nick Exarhos

Cdn Businesses Have Tight Grip on Purse Strings

Canadian businesses are still cutting capital spending plans for 2016. Manufacturers' capital spending intentions are now at the lowest level since 2013, despite the lift from the cheaper C\$. Mining/energy is set for another pullback, with cap-ex plans down to roughly half the 2014 level. In general, the picture for the private sector is one focused on driving down costs, not one seeking topline growth. But there are some areas that buck the trend, with transportation companies still planning to invest. And there's little surprise given the trend in sales, that retailers are looking to drive stronger revenue growth. For investors, the decision will be whether to target firms trying to drive efficiencies or the few areas focused on growth for the years ahead.

Investment Intentions Muted Across Most Industries

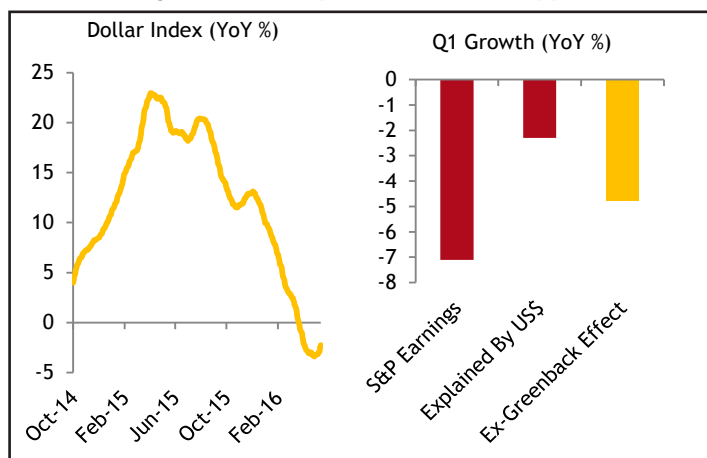


Source: Statistics Canada, CIBC

Don't Pass the Buck on Soft US Earnings

Given the global reach of many S&P 500 companies, a strong dollar was always going to impact the profitability of S&P 500 firms. So with the greenback tracking double-digit gains for more than a year, firms could be forgiven for a weaker trend in earnings. And with the currency weakening slightly over the last few months, the dollar is likely to swing to providing a modest boost ahead. However, given the sensitivity of foreign receipts to the US dollar calculated by the Federal Reserve, and S&P profit margins, we can only ascribe a third of the expected Q1 decline in earnings to the dollar. We will need better topline growth, better consumer spending, and a firmer domestic economy to power a stronger performance in US equities.

Dollar Impact Should Wane (L), But Its Strength Doesn't Explain All of Q1 Disappointment (R)

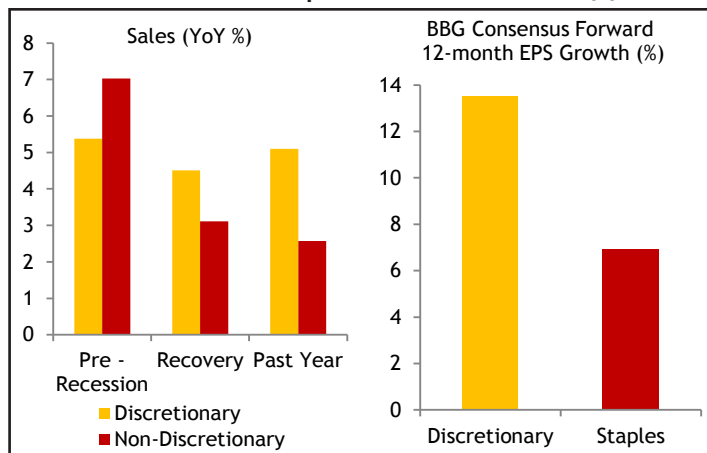


Source: FactSet, Bloomberg, CIBC

US Consumer Stocks: Too Little Expected from Staples?

It's no secret that consumer-related names in the US have had a rough go recently. Indeed, before today's strong numbers we were starting to wonder if there was ever going to be a resurgence in consumer spending. But money saved on essentials has allowed spending on discretionary goods and services to track a pace that's closer to what prevailed before the recession, something the market expects to continue. However, with a rebound likely for the consumer ahead—something we got a taste of in this morning's data release—a rising tide is likely to lift even essential spending. Consumer stocks could now offer value, especially as spending rebounds further.

Less Spending on Essentials (L), With More of the Same Expected in Related Stocks (R)



Source: BEA, Bloomberg, CIBC

Currency Currents

Andrew Grantham and Royce Mendes

Expected Q2 Weakness—More than Just Alberta Fire

The weak data we think is just around the corner for Canada, rather than an overly pessimistic view of the disruption caused by the Alberta fires, is the reason why we think GDP will disappoint in Q2. Indeed, the downgrade to our forecast due to the fires (around 1%-pt from Q2) is very close to that of the consensus. Our weaker starting point, though, means we are projecting a modest pull-back in GDP vs the slight growth expected by the street. We think that first quarter growth was flattered by one-off factors such as the mild weather, and signs of weakness heading into the spring could come as early as next week, when we are anticipating below-consensus readings for manufacturing, wholesale and retail sales. A turn in the data flow in Canada, and better economic news stateside, would see rate spreads move in favour of the US again and weigh on the C\$.

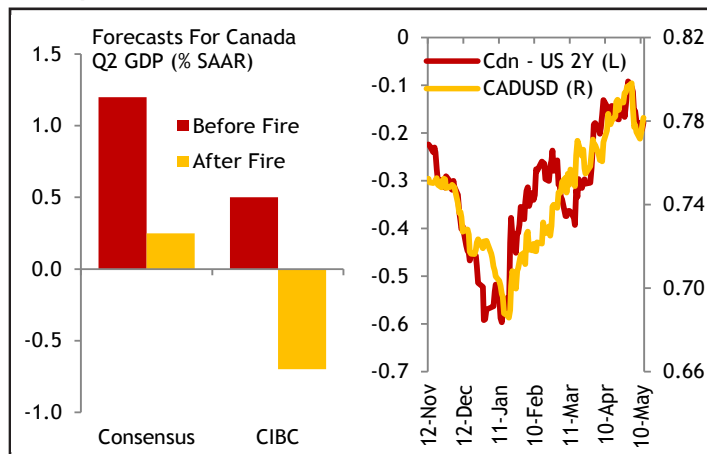
CAD vs NOK: Battle of Oil Currencies

Oil is the other factor that greatly influences the C\$, and recent moves up have coincided with strength in the loonie. Unlike earlier in the year, when markets were pricing in odds of another BoC cut, the C\$ is no longer underperforming the other major oil currency of the Norwegian Krone. However, the difference is that the data flow is starting to improve in Norway, with GDP coming in ahead of expectations last week, while we expect the opposite will soon be true for Canada. That should see CAD underperform NOK and weaken against the US\$, even if oil prices continue a modest recovery.

Carney Adds His Two Pence on Brexit

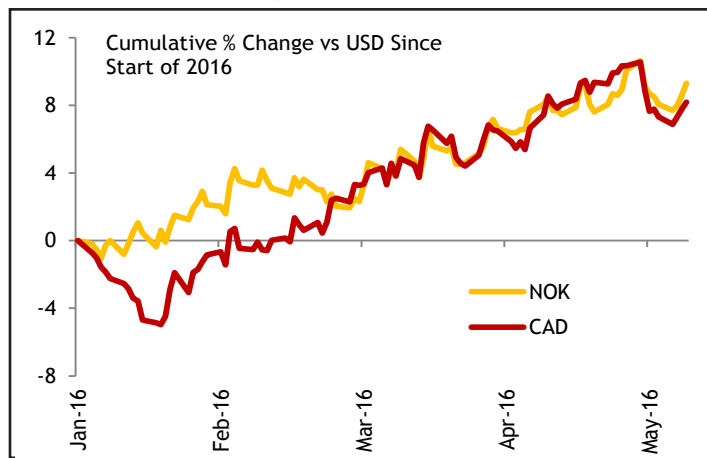
It's unusual for central bankers to intervene in political issues, but when those issues have the potential to change the trajectory of growth, the lines become blurred. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney warned yesterday that, if UK citizens vote to leave the EU, there could be a material slowdown in growth and a rise in inflation in the near term. His statements add to the chorus of voices raising concerns about the upcoming vote. Thus far, the polls remain close, but there is a significant segment that remains undecided. As a result, it's likely that uncertainty surrounding Brexit will weigh on yields and sterling over the course of the next month.

Expecting Soft Q2 Even Before Fire Impact (L); Rate Spreads to Move Back in Favour of the US (R)



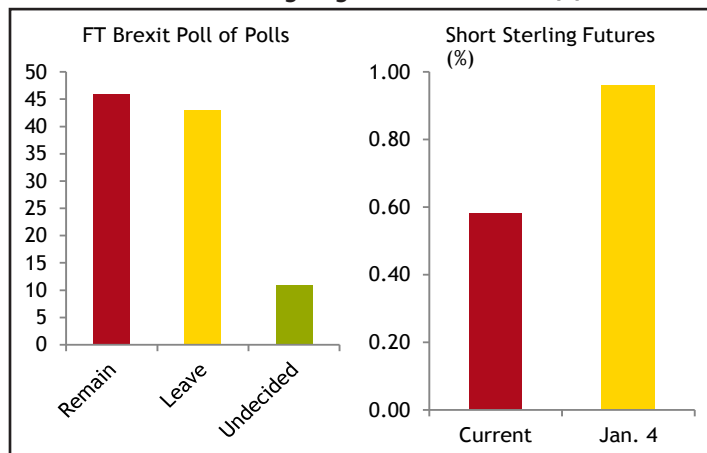
Source: Bloomberg, CIBC

CAD Has Closed The Gap With NOK For Now



Source: Bloomberg, CIBC

Brexit Polls Remain Close (L), Which is One Factor Weighing on Interest Rates (R)



Source: Financial Times, Bloomberg, CIBC

CANADIAN RELEASE AND EVENT DATES MayJune 2016



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY																																																																		
<p>9</p> <p>HOUSING STARTS</p> <p>8:15 AM 000's (AR)</p> <table> <tr> <td></td> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>SINGLES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FEB</td> <td>217</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAR</td> <td>202</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>APR</td> <td>192</td> <td>57</td> </tr> </table>		TOTAL	SINGLES	FEB	217	62	MAR	202	60	APR	192	57	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>NEW HOUSING PRICE INDEX</p> <p>8:30 AM</p>	<p>13</p>																																																						
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<p>30</p> <p>INDUSTRIAL PRICES</p> <p>8:30 AM M (NSA) Y</p> <table> <tr> <td>FEB</td> <td>-1.0</td> <td>-1.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAR</td> <td>-0.6</td> <td>-2.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>APR</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>BALANCE OF INT'L PAYMENTS</p> <p>8:30 AM CURR. ACCT. BAL. \$BN(QR) \$BN(AR)</p> <table> <tr> <td>15:Q3</td> <td>-15.3</td> <td>-61.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15:Q4</td> <td>-15.4</td> <td>-61.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16:Q1</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	FEB	-1.0	-1.3	MAR	-0.6	-2.1	APR			15:Q3	-15.3	-61.2	15:Q4	-15.4	-61.5	16:Q1			<p>31</p> <p>GDP BY INDUSTRY</p> <p>8:30 AM (2002\$)</p> <table> <tr> <td></td> <td>GDP</td> <td>IND.PROD.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>M</td> <td>M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JAN</td> <td>0.6</td> <td>1.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FEB</td> <td>-0.1</td> <td>-0.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAR</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL ACCTS</p> <p>8:30 AM REAL GDP PRICE DEFLECTOR</p> <table> <tr> <td></td> <td>%ch AR</td> <td>%ch AR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15:Q3</td> <td>2.4</td> <td>0.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15:Q4</td> <td>0.8</td> <td>-0.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16:Q1</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		GDP	IND.PROD.		M	M	JAN	0.6	1.3	FEB	-0.1	-0.7	MAR				%ch AR	%ch AR	15:Q3	2.4	0.4	15:Q4	0.8	-0.4	16:Q1			<p>1</p> <p>Saskatchewan Provincial Budget</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL RESERVES</p> <p>8:15 AM \$BN \$BN</p> <table> <tr> <td></td> <td>CHANGE</td> <td>LEVEL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAR</td> <td>0.902</td> <td>82.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>APR</td> <td>7.730</td> <td>83.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAY</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>MERCHANDISE TRADE</p> <p>8:30 AM \$MN 12 MO. BALANCE</p> <table> <tr> <td>FEB</td> <td>-2,468</td> <td>-22,128</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAR</td> <td>-3,414</td> <td>-22,468</td> </tr> <tr> <td>APR</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY</p> <p>8:30 AM</p>		CHANGE	LEVEL	MAR	0.902	82.2	APR	7.730	83.9	MAY			FEB	-2,468	-22,128	MAR	-3,414	-22,468	APR		
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U.S. RELEASE AND EVENT DATES

April/May 2016



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9	10	11	12	13
				RETAIL SALES 8:30 AM M Y FEB 0.3 3.6 MAR -0.3 1.7 APR 1.3 3.0 PPI 8:30 AM M (SA) Y (NSA) FEB -0.2 0.0 MAR -0.1 -0.1 APR 0.3 0.1 BUSINESS INVENTORIES 10:00 AM MICHIGAN SENTIMENT (P) 10:00 AM
	3-Yr NOTE AUCTION BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)	TREASURY BUDGET 2:00 PM 10-Yr NOTE AUCTION	30-Yr BOND AUCTION INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	
16	17	18	19	20
	CPI 8:30 AM M(SA) Y (NSA) FEB -0.2 1.0 MAR 0.1 0.9 APR HOUSING STARTS 8:30 AM MIL (AR) M FEB 1.194 6.9 MAR 1.089 -8.8 APR CAPACITY UTIL/IND. PROD. 9:15 AM LEV M Y FEB 75.3 -0.6 -1.8 MAR 74.8 -0.6 -2.0 APR BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)		PHILADELPHIA FED INDEX 8:30 AM LEADING INDICATOR 10:00 AM 2, 5, 7-Yr NOTE ANNOUNCEMENT INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	EXISTING HOME SALES 10:00 AM
3, 10-Yr NOTE SETTLEMENT 30-Yr BOND SETTLEMENT		FOMC Minutes		
23	24	25	26	27
	NEW HOME SALES 10:00 AM 2-Yr NOTE AUCTION BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)	ADV. TRADE IN INTERNATIONAL GOODS 8:30 AM 5-Yr NOTE AUCTION	DURABLE GOODS ORDERS 8:30 AM M Y FEB -3.1 1.6 MAR 0.8 -2.5 APR 7-Yr NOTE AUCTION INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	GDP 8:30 AM (AR) REAL IMPLICIT GDP DEFLATOR 15:Q4(F) 1.4 0.9 16:Q1(A) 0.5 0.7 16:Q1(P) CORPORATE PROFITS 8:30 AM
30	31	1	2	3
MEMORIAL DAY (HOLIDAY) (Markets Closed)	PERS. INC & OUT. 8:30 AM SAVING INCOME CONS RATE M M AR FEB 0.1 0.2 5.1 MAR 0.4 0.1 5.4 APR S&P/CASE-SHILLER HOUSE PRICE INDEX 9:00 AM CHICAGO PMI 9:45 AM CONSUMER CONFIDENCE 10:00 AM 2, 5, 7-Yr NOTE SETTLEMENT BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)	ADP SURVEY 8:15 AM ISM MFG SURVEY 10:00 AM COMP. PRICES INDEX INDEX MAR 51.8 51.5 APR 50.8 59.0 MAY LIGHT VEHICLES SALES MIL (AR) Y MAR 16.460 -3.5 APR 17.320 3.7 MAY 3, 10-Yr NOTE ANNOUNCEMENT 30-Yr BOND ANNOUNCEMENT INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	EMPLOY. SITUATION 8:30 AM NON-CIV AVG FARM UNEMP HRLY PAYROLL RATE EARN (000s) M % Y MAR 208 5.0 2.4 APR 160 5.0 2.5 MAY GOODS & SERV. BALANCE (BOP) \$B 8:30 AM GDS SERV TOT FEB -64.5 -17.6 -47.0 MAR -58.5 -18.1 -40.4 APR FACTORY ORDERS 10:00 AM M(SA) Y(NSA) FEB -1.9 -3.1 MAR 1.1 -4.2 APR ISM NON-MFG SURVEY 10:00 AM	
6	7	8	9	10
	NON-FARM PRODUCTIVITY 8:30 AM Q/Q (AR) Y/Y 15:Q4 (R) -1.7 0.6 16:Q1 (P) -1.0 0.6 16:Q1 (R) CONSUMER CREDIT 3:00 PM 10-Yr NOTE AUCTION BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)	30-Yr BOND AUCTION	INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	MICHIGAN SENTIMENT (P) 10:00 AM TREASURY BUDGET 2:00 PM

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