



Economics

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THE WEEK AHEAD

April 16-20, 2018

No Rush

by Benjamin Tal

If you're keeping track, Governor Poloz has yet another reason for sleepless nights—a cheery and confident corporate Canada.

You see, until the release of the better-than-expected Business Outlook Survey (BOS) earlier this week, the Bank's party line probably went something like, "yes we are at full capacity, yes we are starting to see some wage pressure and yes we are re-learning how to spell inflation, but headwinds from the US are way too strong, and are working to weaken business confidence. Therefore, we're comfortable staying put until we have more clarity."

But now, the Bank's beloved survey of Canada's large corporations reveals a picture of tranquility. Despite all the noise, corporate Canada is not panicking—the opposite is the case. That development is clearly making the Bank's message more complicated. So much so, that our clients are asking if we are still comfortable with our call that the Bank will stay on hold until July.

The short answer is yes, we are still comfortable with that call. Admittedly, after the euphoric surge in the BOS in the fourth quarter of last year, we expected that the Trump factor would bring the index back down to earth. That didn't happen. But of course, for each survey pointing in one direction I can show you one (and in this case two) that tells a different tale. While the BOS is currently hovering at a level miles above its long-term average, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business' (CFIB) business barometer index has been relatively flat over the past year. And the latest Statistics Canada investment

intentions survey suggests a decline in business spending in 2018—not exactly a picture of confidence.

Beyond the realm of subjective surveys, hard data recently haven't been so impressive. GDP declined in January and the labour market lost 40K jobs in the first quarter. The pipeline saga is big enough to have macro-economic implications, and yes, NAFTA is looking better, but we are probably much further from a final agreement than the Mexican Foreign Minister would like you to think. Either way, a new NAFTA will be less supportive for corporate Canada than the old one, mainly given the negative impact of the recent tax changes in the US on our competitiveness.

As important are the potential negative effects of the escalating trade war between China and the US. It's difficult to picture a situation in which Canada benefits from such a development. Being caught in the crossfire, corporate Canada will feel the pain from different directions—be it through reduced US consumer purchasing power due to tariff induced inflation, or stiffer competition in the US and elsewhere as American firms look for new destinations to replace lost business to China.

And then you have the housing market which is currently going through its biggest test since 2008. The combination of rate hikes to date and tighter qualification rules is still being digested by the market. The Bank would prefer to space out rate hikes to have sufficient time to assess the damage.

So we'll stick to our call and wait eagerly to read between the lines of the Bank's statement next week.



Week Ahead Calendar And Forecast

CANADA		UNITED STATES	
	CIBC	Consensus	Prior
Monday April 16			
Tuesday April 17	AUCTION: 3-M BILLS \$5.9B, 6-M BILLS \$2.3B, 1-YR BILLS \$2.3B CASH MANAGEMENT BUYBACK (Aug '18 - Sep '19) - \$0.5B		AUCTION: 3-M BILLS \$48B, 6-M BILLS \$42B
	8:30 AM INT'L SEC. TRANSACTIONS (Feb) (M) MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS M/M (Feb) (M) 0.6% \$5.7B -1.0%		8:30 AM NEW YORK FED (EMPIRE) (Apr) (M) RETAIL SALES M/M (Mar) (H) 0.3% RETAIL SALES (X-AUTOS) M/M (Mar) (H) 0.1% RETAIL SALES CONTROL GROUP M/M (Mar) (H) 0.4%
			10:00 AM BUSINESS INVENTORIES M/M (Feb) (L) 0.6% NAHB HOUSING INDEX (Apr) (L) 70
			2:00 PM NET CAPITAL INFLOWS (TICS) (Feb) (L) \$62.1B
			Speaker: 1:15 PM Raphael Bostic (President, Atlanta) AUCTION: 4-WEEK BILLS \$45B (prev)
			8:30 AM HOUSING STARTS SAAR (Mar) (M) 1271K BUILDING PERMITS SAAR (Mar) (H) 1330K
			9:15 AM INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION M/M (Mar) (H) 0.3% CAPACITY UTILIZATION (Mar) (M) 77.9%
			Speaker: 5:40 PM Raphael Bostic (President, Atlanta) Speaker: 1:10 PM Charles L. Evans (President, Chicago) Speaker: 11:00 AM Patrick Harker (President, Philadelphia) Speaker: 10:00 AM Randal K. Quarles (Governor) Speaker: 9:15 AM John C. Williams (President, San Francisco)
Wednesday April 18	10:00 AM BANK OF CANADA RATE ANNOUNCE: BOC MONETARY POLICY REPORT	(Apr) (H) 1.25 1.25% 1.25%	7:00 AM MBA-APPLICATIONS (Apr 13) (L) -1.9%
Thursday April 19	11:15 AM Stephen S. Poloz (Governor) & Carolyn Wilkins (Sr. Deputy Gov.) AUCTION: 2-YR CANADAS \$3.0B		2:00 PM FED'S BEIGE BOOK
	8:30 AM ADP PAYROLLS REPORT		Speaker: 4:15 PM Randal K. Quarles (Governor) Speaker: 3:00 PM William C. Dudley (President, New York)
			8:30 AM INITIAL CLAIMS (Apr 14) (M) 226K CONTINUING CLAIMS (Apr 7) (L) 1871K PHILADELPHIA FED (Apr) (M) 22.3
			10:00 AM LEADING INDICATORS M/M (Mar) (M) 0.3%
			Speaker: 6:45 PM Loretta Mester (President, Cleveland) Speaker: 9:30 AM Randal K. Quarles (Governor) Speaker: 8:00 AM Lael Brainard (Governor)
Friday April 20	8:30 AM RETAIL TRADE TOTAL M/M 0.1% 0.3% RETAIL TRADE EX-AUTO M/M (Feb) (H) 0.9% CPI M/M (Mar) (H) 0.5% 0.6% CPI Y/Y (Mar) (H) 2.5% 2.2% CPI Core- Common Y/Y% (Mar) (M) 1.9% CPI Core- Median Y/Y% (Mar) (M) 2.1% CPI Core- Trim Y/Y% (Mar) (M) 2.1%		
		H, M, L = High, Medium or Low Significance	
		SAAR = Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate	Consensus Source: Bloomberg

Week Ahead's Market Call

by Andrew Grantham

The **Bank of Canada** will have to upgrade its forecast for inflation in the April MPR, but with growth indicators disappointing it will have to downgrade its GDP projections. Provided economic data starts to show some of the optimism indicated within the Business Outlook Survey, a July hike is still our base-case expectation. Manufacturing and retail sales should be positive, but not the barnburners that may be anticipated following a lackluster few months. While an on-hold BoC could weigh slightly on rate expectations and the C\$, another upside surprise on inflation come Friday would see those expectations ratcheted up again.

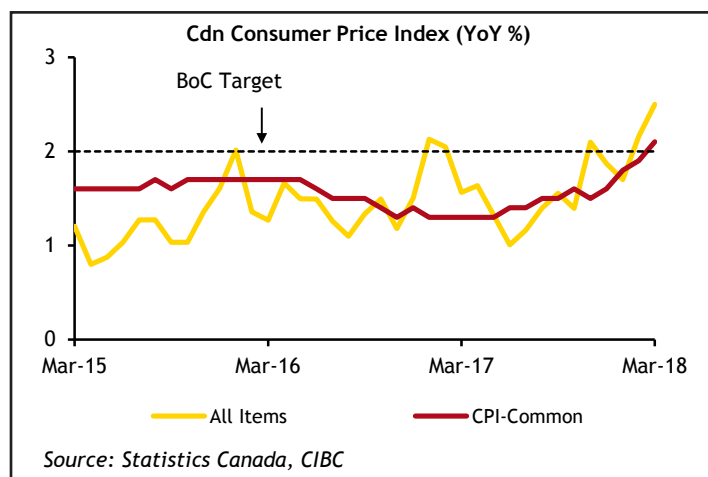
In the US, we're expecting to see moderate, but slightly below consensus, growth in most of the key data including retail sales, industrial production and housing starts. Unless there's a major miss versus forecasts, market reaction will be driven more by developments on the trade front, or from Fed speakers in relation to whether they echo the seemingly more hawkish sentiment from this week's minutes.

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

(Friday, 8:30 a.m.)

Royce Mendes (416) 594-7354

	CIBC	Mkt	Prior
CPI m/m NSA	0.5%	na	0.6%
CPI yr/yr	2.5%	na	2.2%
CPI-common	2.1%	na	1.9%



On the back of higher oil prices, Canadian inflation is set to reach its fastest pace in more than six years. Even the Bank of Canada's core common component measure will indicate that consumer prices are now tracking slightly above the midpoint of the central bank's 1-3% target. But don't expect that to materially alter the pace of rate hikes in Canada.

Policymakers are contending with uncertainties that have the potential to open up slack in the economy, leaving reason to err on the side of caution. Furthermore, at least part of the recent rise in apparent inflationary pressures has been due to Ontario's minimum wage hike, something the Bank of Canada will likely view as less indicative of an economy that is overheating.

Forecast Implications—Headline inflation looks set to average roughly 2½% over the remainder of 2018, but the pace of interest rate hikes isn't likely to see a commensurate acceleration based on that alone. The outlook for monetary policy will be highly contingent on incoming growth numbers, which have looked somewhat sluggish of late, and the evolution of trade negotiations with the US.

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

(Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.)

Factory shipments likely rebounded in February, but not enough to fully offset losses from the prior month. Already-released data on exports lead us to believe that a bounceback is in store across a number of durable goods categories. That said, weak auto production numbers leave us somewhat cautious on forecasting too strong a number. As a result, expect factory sales to have advanced a decent, if not spectacular, 0.6% when February's data is released. Looking ahead, additional investment will be needed to see progress continue unabated, as the sector is faced with little spare capacity.

Retail Trade—February

(Friday, 8:30 a.m.)

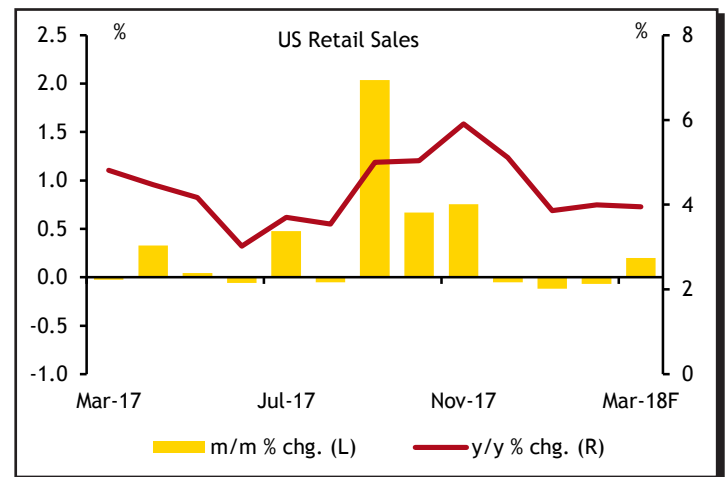
Retail sales were by no means booming to open the year, but they were one of the few sectors in the economy to actually make progress. Early indications are that gains were even more meagre in February. Data already in hand lead us to believe that auto sales will weigh on total spending for the second month in a row, while gasoline prices don't suggest filling stations will move the needle either way. As a result, our forecast for a modest 0.1% increase in retail sales is contingent on the ex-auto and gas figures growing at a trend-like pace. A weak reading on retail sales would mean the sector won't be a major driver of an overall economic rebound in February.

Week Ahead's Key US Number:**Retail Sales—March**

(Monday, 8:30 a.m.)

Andrew Grantham (416) 956-3219

	CIBC	Mkt	Prior
Retail Sales	0.3%	0.4%	-0.1%
Retail Sales – ex auto	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Retail Sales – control group	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%



After a blockbuster end to 2017, retail sales have started 2018 with a whimper and that likely won't change much in March. A 0.3% gain in headline sales, while better than the marginal declines seen in January and February, would still leave sales broadly unchanged relative to where they ended last year. A rebound in auto sales will reverse only a small part of the declines seen after October's post-hurricane peak. Gasoline prices will weigh on the nominal headline reading.

However, core sales should fare better, particularly with income growth still solid, tax cuts helping spending power and the savings rate not quite as low as it was a couple of months ago. A 0.4% gain for core sales would be the strongest result on that stripped down measure since November.

Forecast Implications—Although the quarter will end on a slightly better note, retail sales suggest that consumer spending will be a much smaller contributor to GDP in Q1, and not just because auto sales were bolstered by replacements late last year. Annualized growth in core retail sales is tracking only around 1¾%, versus around 7½% growth in the fourth quarter. Going forward we would expect spending to accelerate again, albeit without reaching the heights seen in Q4 2017.

Market Impact—We are slightly below the consensus, although not by enough to see much market reaction.

Other U.S. Releases:**Housing Starts—March**

(Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.)

Even though starts fell due to the volatile multiples component in February, and permits were higher, that doesn't necessarily mean a big surge in building is coming in March. The gap between starts and permits hasn't been historically high recently, and the decline in multiples last month was itself a reversion to more normal levels following a spike in January. As such we expect only a modest pick-up in starts to a 1253K pace.

Industrial Production—March

(Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.)

Industrial production was bolstered in February by outsized gains in mining and auto manufacturing, but while the former could see a further gain in March the latter may have moved lower to weigh on the headline growth rate. Working hours figures also suggest a marginal decline in overall manufacturing output. As a result, we expect a more modest 0.2% advance in overall industrial production in March.

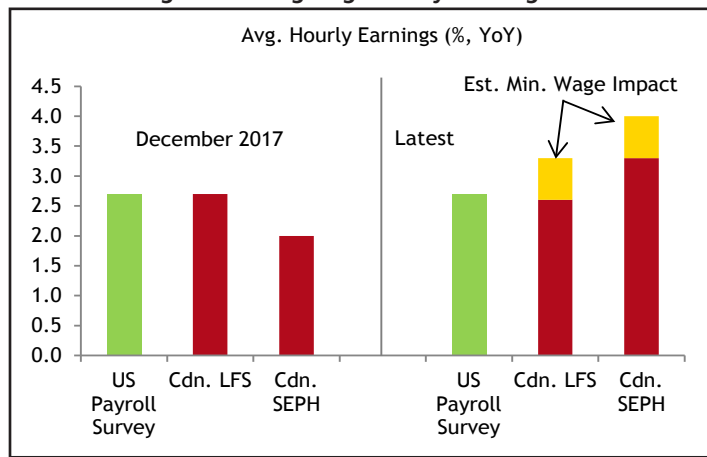
Currency Currents

Royce Mendes and Andrew Grantham

Does the BoC Need to Respond to Evidence of Faster Wage Growth?

As we've shown before, monthly Canadian wage data are so volatile that they aren't viewed as a very reliable indicator. But there's even more reason to believe the Bank of Canada won't be responding too aggressively to the recent rise in those metrics. Average hourly earnings have so far this year been boosted by the legislated hike in Ontario's minimum wage. The implications of a mandated increase versus rising wages that simply come from tight labour markets are likely to be less compelling in the eyes of central bankers. As a result, don't expect the Bank of Canada to be sounding many alarms on wage pressures in next week's Monetary Policy Report, something that could leave the loonie vulnerable to falling market-implied interest rate expectations.

Minimum Wages Boosting Avg. Hourly Earnings in Canada

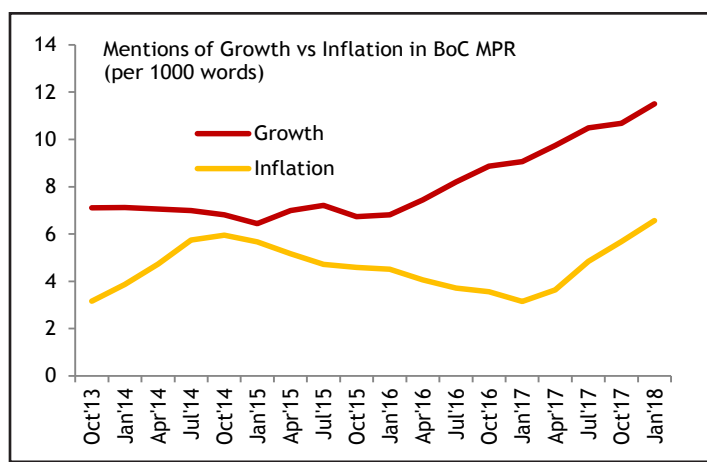


Source: BEA, Statistics Canada, CIBC

BoC: What They've Been Telling US

What was, doesn't always tally with what will be, but judging by mentions of growth versus inflation in previous BoC MPRs, Governor Poloz could put more weight on slowing economic growth than accelerating inflation and decide to keep rates on hold for a few more months. Yes, mentions of inflation have risen and it is no longer the afterthought it was when the economy was struggling following the commodity price shock. However, growth is clearly still higher on the list, and the BoC will have to once again downgrade near-term GDP projections. A still slow-go BoC should help reverse part of the run-up we've seen in the Canadian dollar in recent weeks.

Growth Still Mentioned More than Inflation in BoC MPRs

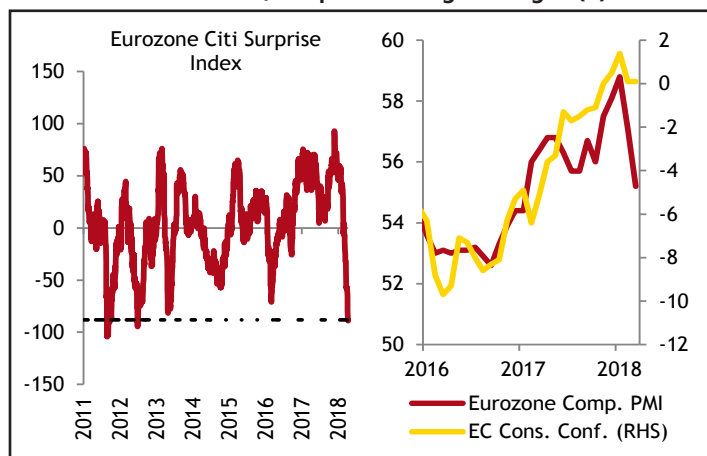


Source: Bank of Canada, CIBC

Eurozone Data Down, But Not Out

European data have been disappointing this year. So disappointing that the widely followed economic surprise index has plunged to its lowest level since the sovereign debt crisis. But those 'surprises' were against lofty expectations that we always thought were too optimistic. That said, many indicators are still pointing toward solid—albeit not spectacular—growth, despite coming off recent highs. As a result, we continue to expect that excess capacity across the monetary union will be soaked up this year. And, with the surprise index having room to rise in the months ahead, look for the euro to continue gaining ground against a US dollar that is clearly on its back foot.

Eurozone Surprise Index at Lowest Since 2012 (L), But Growth Indicators Still Positive, Despite Coming Off Highs (R)



Source: Bloomberg, CIBC

CANADIAN RELEASE AND EVENT DATES

April/May 2018



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY																																																						
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MAR	0.2	1.6	5.8																																																							
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U.S. RELEASE AND EVENT DATES April/May 2018



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9	10 PPI 8:30 AM M (SA) Y (NSA) JAN 0.4 2.6 FEB 0.2 2.9 MAR 0.3 3.0 3, 10-Yr NOTE AUCTION BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)	11 CPI 8:30 AM M(SA) Y (NSA) JAN 0.5 2.1 FEB 0.2 2.2 MAR -0.1 2.4 FOMC Minutes TREASURY BUDGET 2:00 PM 30-Yr BOND AUCTION	12 INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	13 MICHIGAN SENTIMENT (P) 10:00 AM
16 RETAIL SALES 8:30 AM M Y JAN -0.1 3.9 FEB -0.1 4.0 MAR BUSINESS INVENTORIES 10:00 AM NET CAPITAL INFLOWS TICS 4:00 PM	17 HOUSING STARTS 8:30 AM Mn. M/M JAN 1.329 10.1 FEB 1.236 -7.0 MAR CAPACITY UTIL/IND. PROD. 9:15 AM LEV M Y JAN 77.0 -0.2 2.9 FEB 77.7 0.9 4.2 MAR BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)	18 Beige Book	19 PHILADELPHIA FED INDEX 8:30 PM LEADING INDICATOR 10:00 AM 2, 5-, 7-Yr NOTE ANNOUNCE. INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	20
23 EXISTING HOME SALES 10:00 AM 2-Yr NOTE AUCTION	24 S&P CORE LOGIC/CASE-SHILLER HOUSEPRICE INDEX 9:00 AM NEW HOME SALES 10:00 AM CONSUMER CONFIDENCE 10:00 AM 5-Yr NOTE AUCTION BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)	25 7-Yr NOTE AUCTION	26 ADV. TRADE IN INTERNATIONAL GOODS 8:30 AM DURABLE GOODS ORDERS 8:30 AM M Y JAN -3.5 7.1 FEB 3.1 8.9 MAR INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	27 GDP 8:30 AM (AR) REAL IMPLICIT GDP DEFLECTOR 17:Q3(F) 3.2 2.1 17:Q4(F) 2.9 2.3 18:Q1(A) ECI 8:30 AM WAGES & BEN. TOTAL SALARY 17:Q3 0.7 0.7 0.8 17:Q4 0.6 0.5 0.5 18:Q1 CHICAGO PMI 9:45 AM MICHIGAN SENTIMENT (F) 10:00 AM
30 PERS. INC & OUT. 8:30 AM SAVING INCOME CONS RATE M M AR JAN 0.4 0.2 3.2 FEB 0.4 0.2 3.4 MAR CHICAGO PMI 9:45 AM 2, 5-, 7-Yr NOTE SETTLEMENT	1 ISM MFG SURVEY 10:00 AM COMP. PRICES INDEX INDEX FEB 60.8 74.2 MAR 59.3 78.1 APR LIGHT VEHICLES SALES MIL (AR) Y FEB 16,980 -2.0 MAR 17,398 4.0 APR BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)	2 ADP SURVEY 8:15 AM FOMC Rate Decision Fed Chair Powell speaks 30-Yr BOND ANNOUNCEMENT 3, 10-Yr NOTE ANNOUNCEMENT	3 GOODS & SERV. BALANCE (BOP) \$B 8:30 AM GDS SERV TOT JAN -76.7 20.0 -56.7 FEB -77.0 19.4 -57.6 MAR NON-FARM PRODUCTIVITY 8:30 AM Q/Q (AR) Y/Y 17:Q3 (F) 2.6 1.4 17:Q4 (F) 0.0 1.1 18:Q1 (P) FACTORY ORDERS 10:00 AM M(SA) Y(NSA) JAN -1.3 6.6 FEB 1.2 7.1 MAR ISM NON-MFG SURVEY 10:00 AM INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	4 EMPLOY. SITUATION 8:30 AM NON- CIV AVG FARM UNEMP HRLY PAYROLL RATE EARN FEB 326 4.1 2.4 MAR 103 4.1 2.4 APR
7 CONSUMER CREDIT 3:00 PM	8 3-Yr NOTE AUCTION BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55)	9 PPI 8:30 AM M (SA) Y (NSA) FEB 0.2 2.9 MAR 0.3 3.0 APR 10-Yr NOTE AUCTION	10 CPI 8:30 AM M(SA) Y (NSA) FEB 0.2 2.2 MAR -0.1 2.4 APR TREASURY BUDGET 2:00 PM 30-Yr BOND AUCTION INITIAL JOBLESS CLAIMS (8:30)	11 MICHIGAN SENTIMENT (P) 10:00 AM

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