

# The Weekly Bottom Line

May 1, 2020

## Highlights of the Week

### United States

- The S&P 500 is on track to end the week flat, erasing some earlier momentum as economic data and earnings reports released throughout the week revealed the extent of the pandemic's impact.
- The U.S. economy contracted by 4.8% annualized in the first quarter, ending the longest economic expansion in its history. The stage is set for an even steeper decline in the second quarter due to longer and broader shutdowns.
- The Federal Reserve left its policy rate unchanged at the 0 to 0.25 percent target range this week. It reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to support the economy.

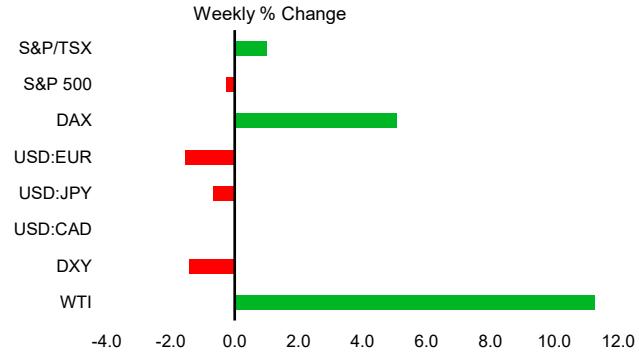
### Canada

- Several provinces announced strategies to reopen their economies this week. Policy makers will have to tread carefully as new pandemic cases and deaths remain elevated.
- Oil prices remain weak and volatile. Excess supply and limited storage continue to cast a dark cloud over the oil market.
- Small business sentiment in April improved nationally, but stark differences remain across provinces.

This Week in the Markets				
	Current*	Week Ago	52-Week High	52-Week Low
<b>Stock Market Indexes</b>				
S&P 500	2829	2837	3386	2237
S&P/TSX Comp.	14553	14420	17944	11228
DAX	10862	10336	13789	8442
FTSE 100	5763	5752	7687	4994
Nikkei	19619	19262	24084	16553
<b>Fixed Income Yields</b>				
U.S. 10-yr Treasury	0.61	0.60	2.54	0.54
Canada 10-yr Bond	0.52	0.58	1.76	0.52
Germany 10-yr Bund	-0.59	-0.47	0.03	-0.86
UK 10-yr Gilt	0.25	0.29	1.22	0.16
Japan 10-yr Bond	-0.02	-0.02	0.08	-0.29
<b>Foreign Exchange Cross Rates</b>				
C\$ (USD per CAD)	0.71	0.71	0.77	0.69
Euro (USD per EUR)	1.10	1.08	1.15	1.07
Pound (USD per GBP)	1.25	1.24	1.33	1.15
Yen (JPY per USD)	106.8	107.5	112.1	102.4
<b>Commodity Spot Prices**</b>				
Crude Oil (\$US/bbl)	18.9	16.0	63.3	-37.6
Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)	1.66	1.81	2.87	1.50
Copper (\$US/met. tonne)	5160.3	5118.7	6270.0	4625.0
Gold (\$US/troy oz.)	1696.3	1729.6	1730.5	1270.7

\*As of 12:07 PM on Friday. \*\*Oil-WTI, Cushing, Nat. Gas-Henry Hub, LA (Thursday close price). Copper-LME Grade A. Gold-London Gold Bullion. Source: Bloomberg.

### Downbeat Sentiment Weighs on U.S. Equities, while Oil Prices Recover from Last Week's Lows



Note: Data as of 12:40 PM ET, Friday, May 01, 2020.

Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics

Global Official Policy Rate Targets	
	Current Target
Federal Reserve (Fed Funds Rate)	0.00 - 0.25%
Bank of Canada (Overnight Rate)	0.25%
European Central Bank (Refi Rate)	0.00%
Bank of England (Repo Rate)	0.10%
Bank of Japan (Overnight Rate)	-0.10%

Source: Central Banks.

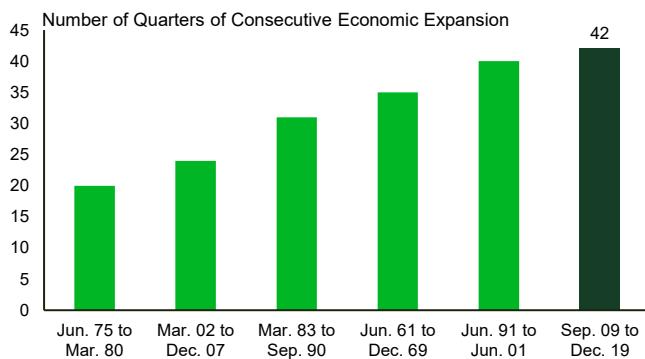
## U.S. - COVID-19 Ends the Longest Expansion in U.S. History

Financial markets erased some of their earlier momentum this week as economic data and earnings reports released throughout the week showed the pandemic's impact. As of writing, the S&P500 is on track to end the week flat. The index ended a turbulent month of April up by 12.7%, but is still down about 10% on the year.

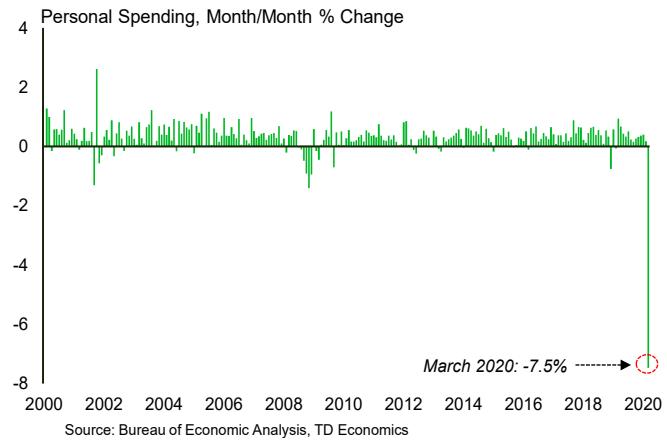
As the number of COVID-19 fatalities breached 60,000 in the U.S., the devastating impact of the pandemic was on full display in economic data released throughout this week. First quarter GDP contracted by 4.8% annualized, ending the longest economic expansion in the history of the United States (Chart 1). The details were as stark as the headline number suggests, with a contraction in personal consumption expenditures and non-residential fixed investment the biggest drags on GDP. Bucking the trend was residential investment, which advanced by 23.5% annualized as a spell of unusually warm weather helped to lift construction activity at the outset of the year. The stage is set for a steeper GDP decline in the second quarter, considering that shutdowns only went into full effect around mid-March.

The hit to consumer spending, which represents roughly two-thirds of economic output, was even more evident in the March personal income and spending data. Personal spending declined by 7.5% month-on-month in March, the largest single-month contraction on record (Chart 2). Personal income fell by a more moderate 2%, weighed down by a decline in compensation. With over 20 million Americans filing for unemployment benefits since the beginning of April, the hit to spending will worsen in the near-term. A sliver of good news was that the number of initial jobless

**Chart 1: COVID-19 Ended the Longest Economic Expansion in U.S. History**



**Chart 2: Record Decline in March Personal Spending only the Beginning**



claims declined for the third straight week, but still topped 3.9 million last week. Looking ahead, next week's employment data release for the month of April promises to be one for the history books, with the unemployment rate likely to be well into the double-digits.

Elsewhere, manufacturing sentiment continued to weaken in April as the ISM Manufacturing Index dove deeper into contractionary territory at 41.5. The declines were broad-based across sub-indices, with new orders, production and employment recording the largest drops. By contrast, a strengthening in supplier deliveries prevented the index from falling further. This increase, however, points to supply shortages rather than stronger demand. Going forward, an increasing number of states looking to ease virus-containment orders in the coming weeks should eventually provide a fillip to the manufacturing sector. Boeing and BMW, for instance, will be reopening their manufacturing plants on May 4 with enhanced safety protocols.

With large swaths of the economy currently in the doldrums, policymakers remain on high alert. During its scheduled policy statement this week, the Fed left the federal funds rate unchanged at 0 to  $\frac{1}{4}$  percent. Importantly, it reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to support the economy. It also expanded its Main Street Lending Program by allowing larger businesses to participate and lowering the minimum-loan requirements to help more small businesses. Such continued support will be much needed to help bolster the chance of a successful economic rebound in the months ahead.

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## Canada - Reopening Cautiously

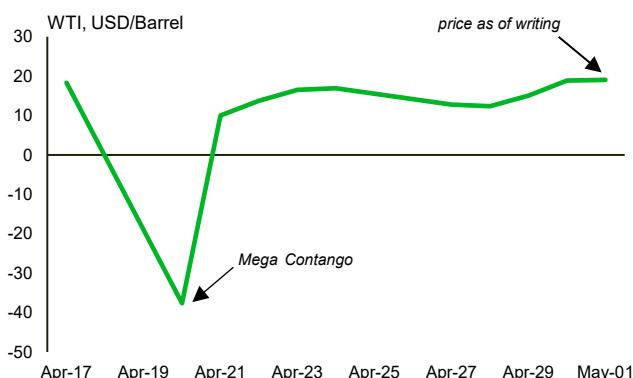
This was a milestone week, as several provinces announced strategies to reopen their economies. Ontario and Quebec were first out of the gate. Ontario's exit strategy has three phases; Phase One will allow small gatherings and opening of select workplaces; Phase Two will permit the reopening of certain service industries; and Phase Three will allow the opening of all public places. No timeline was given for the phases. Quebec was more forthcoming. It will allow retail outlets to resume activity as soon as May 4, and manufacturing to resume on May 11, albeit with some restrictions. Quebec's elementary schools and daycares will also reopen on May 11, but high schools, colleges and universities will not reopen until end-August.

Manitoba will also begin its multi-phase reopening plan on May 4. Newfoundland and Labrador will reopen starting May 11, while Alberta and PEI's gradual relaunch plan will start today. Still, not every province is as keen to remove restrictions. British Columbia extended its state of emergency for an additional two weeks as cases continue to rise.

Provinces made it clear that further details on the timeline would depend on health outcomes. While allowing businesses to reopen will relieve pressure on provinces' economies, they will need to tread carefully. New cases and deaths remain elevated (Chart 1). Provinces' success in reopening will hinge on a consistent decrease in new cases, death rates, and hospitalizations.

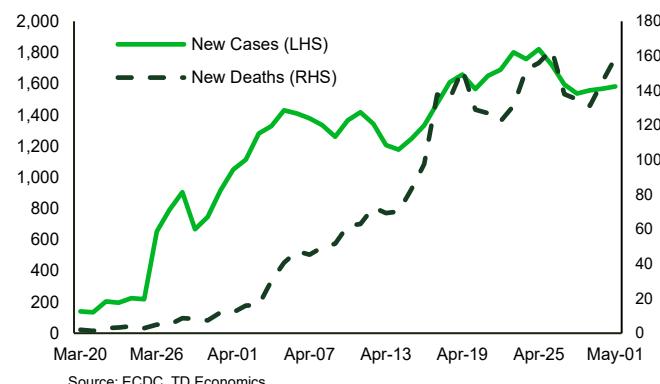
Elsewhere in markets, oil prices started this week on an erratic note. After going sub-zero last week, oil prices have moved back into positive territory (Chart 2). Still, fears of

**Chart 1: Oil Prices Remain Weak and Volatile**



Source: Chicago Mercantile Exchange, TD Economics

**Chart 2: New Cases and Deaths Still Remain Elevated**



Source: ECDC, TD Economics.

Note: Data Presented as a 3-day moving average

last week's negative prices prompted major selling of the June contract led by a major exchange-traded index. Excess supply and limited storage continue to cast a dark cloud over the oil market.

In terms of economic data, the CFIB Business Barometer improved to 46.4 (up from 37.7 two weeks ago). The improvement in sentiment is likely due to government support measures that came into effect in April. However, there are two caveats to keep in mind. First, the improvement in sentiment is compared to abysmal data in the weeks prior. Second, it masks considerable regional divergence. In Quebec, Newfoundland & Labrador and New Brunswick, sentiment weakened.

The Canadian Survey of Business Conditions – a joint effort between Statistics Canada and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce – shed additional light on how businesses are dealing with the pandemic. The results are bleak; about 51% of businesses cannot operate more than 90 days without a source of revenue; 38% have reduced working hours; and 41% have laid off staff.

Finally, we have a new Bank of Canada governor. Tiff Macklem, former senior-deputy governor and dean of Rotman School of Business will replace Stephen Poloz. Macklem comes with decades of monetary policy experience at the Bank of Canada that will undoubtedly come in handy as he helms the ship through unchartered monetary policy waters.

Sohaib Shahid, Senior Economist

## U.S.: Upcoming Key Economic Releases

### U.S. ISM Non-manufacturing - April\*

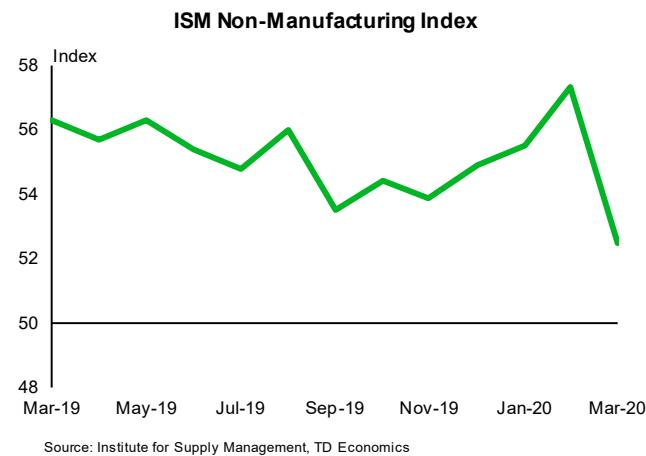
Release Date: May 5

Previous: 52.5

TD Forecast: 41.0

Consensus: 37.3

We forecast a large drop in the ISM non-manufacturing index to 41.0 in April, which would bring it to its lowest level since the financial crisis. The index remained above 50 in March (52.5 after 57.3), even as Markit's services PMI and regional Fed indexes signaled contraction, but a sizable drop looks likely after the Markit and regional indexes fell sharply again, even with a rise in the supplier deliveries part. The March data likely mainly reflected responses received before activity began to plunge around mid-month.



### U.S Employment – April\*

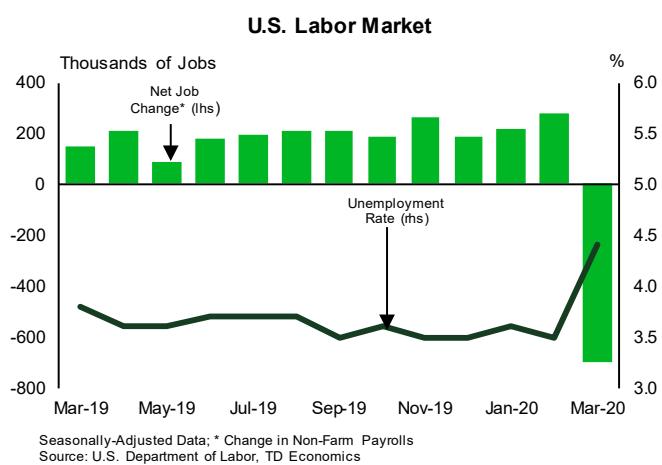
Release Date: May 8

Previous: non-farm payrolls (nfp) -701k; unemployment rate 4.4%

TD Forecast: non-farm payrolls (nfp) -25mn; unemployment rate 15.0%

Consensus: non-farm payrolls (nfp) -21mn, unemployment rate 16.0%

The recent surge in jobless claims is likely to be reflected in a plunge in payrolls and a sharp rise in the unemployment rate, even with measurement challenges potentially leading to the full degree of weakening being understated. Weakness in payrolls could be limited by some of the firms that have been shut down not responding to the BLS survey, while the rise in the unemployment rate could be limited by some job losers reporting that they



have not actively been looking for a new job. However, the data will likely still be dismal. Average hourly earnings were probably boosted by mix shifts, with relatively more weakening in payrolls in low-wage than in high-wage jobs.

\*Forecast by Rates and FX Strategy Group. For further information, contact [TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com](mailto:TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com)

## Canada: Upcoming Key Economic Releases

### Cdn. International Merchandise Trade – March\*

Release Date: May 5

Previous: -0.98bn

TD Forecast: -\$2.9bn

Consensus: -\$2.7bn

TD looks for the international merchandise trade deficit to rise to \$2.9bn in March on a broad pullback in trade flows as COVID-19 and the associated decline in economic activity weighs on both exports and imports. The former should see a larger toll, due in large part to the sharp drop in energy prices, although motor vehicle exports will weigh heavily as well after automakers shut down production in late March. Preliminary production figures were down roughly 33% on the month, which would leave a \$2.5bn hole in the trade balance should exports see a similar decline. However, the impact on the trade balance



will be offset by a significant drop for imports. None of this bodes well for Q1 growth, but we expect the abysmal tracking from StatCan for a 9% drop in industry-level GDP already captures this weakness (and more).

### Canadian Housing Starts – April\*

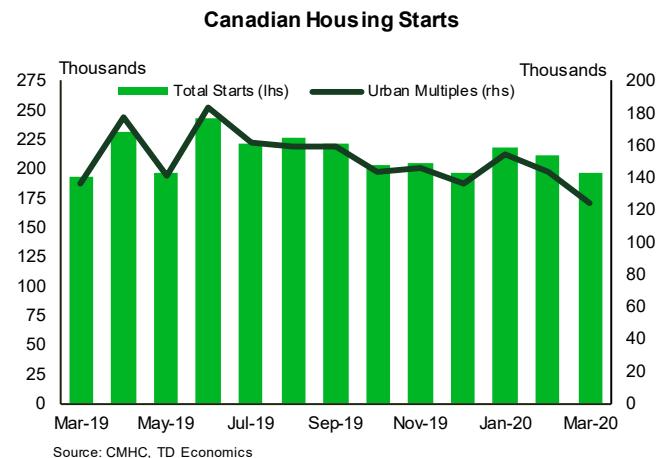
Release Date: May 8

Previous: 195.2k

TD Forecast: 80k

Consensus: 73k

Housing starts are forecast to plummet by nearly 60% to 80k in April as COVID-19 brings residential development to a near-halt. Emergency measures led to the closure of many job sites during late March and early April, but we anticipate the absence of a complete ban on construction will allow some projects to move forward. New development will be the most impacted segment of the construction industry so while the month-over-month pullback is dramatic, we expect monthly GDP will show a more modest pullback for construction.



\*Forecast by Rates and FX Strategy Group. For further information, contact [TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com](mailto:TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com)

## Canada: Upcoming Key Economic Releases

### Canadian Employment – April\*

Release Date: May 8

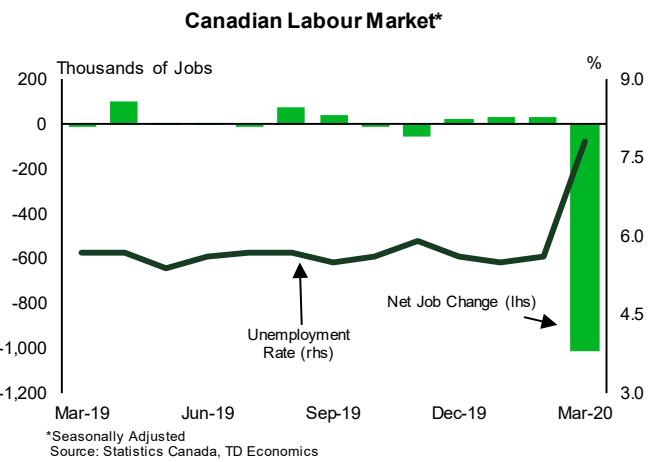
Previous: -1.0m, unemployment rate: 7.8%

TD Forecast: -4.0m, unemployment rate: 18.2%

Consensus: -5.0m, unemployment rate: 20.0%

The April LFS will provide another barometer for COVID-19's impact on the labour market and setting aside any uncertainty over how emergency benefit applications translate into unemployment figures, job losses will be momentous. We forecast a 4m decline for employment, which may prove conservative given 6m Canadians had applied for emergence benefits by the April reference week. However, our forecast includes an allowance for CERB applicants who are only working reduced hours, and also allows for some who were brought back from furlough by firms anticipating reimbursement through wage subsidies; companies could not apply for this program until April 27th, but payments will be retroactive to March 15th.

If realized, job losses of this magnitude would leave total employment 5m below levels from February and push the employment rate to 45.6%, roughly 10% below the



lowest month on record from 1982. This would put the unemployment rate at 18.2% despite an offsetting decline in participation. However, given the potential for a large swing in weekly hours, we will be equally focused on total hours worked to calibrate the implications for Q2 growth.

\*Forecast by Rates and FX Strategy Group. For further information, contact [TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com](mailto:TDRates&FXCommoditiesResearch@tdsecurities.com)

Recent Key Economic Indicators: Apr 27 - May 1, 2020						
Release Date	Economic Indicator/Event	Data for Period	Units	Current	Prior	
<b>United States</b>						
Apr 27	Revisions: Retail Trade					
Apr 28	Advance Goods Trade Balance	Mar	Blns	-64.2	-59.9	
Apr 28	Retail Inventories	Mar	M/M % Chg.	0.9	-0.4	
Apr 28	S&P CoreLogic CS US HPI NSA	Feb	Y/Y % Chg.	4.2	3.9	
Apr 28	Conf. Board Consumer Confidence	Apr	Index	86.9	118.8	
Apr 29	Core Personal Consumption Expenditure	1Q	Q/Q % Chg.	1.8	1.3	
Apr 29	Gross Domestic Product Annualized	1Q	Q/Q % Chg.	-4.8	2.1	
Apr 29	Personal Consumption	1Q	Q/Q % Chg.	-7.6	1.8	
Apr 29	Pending Home Sales	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-20.8	2.3	
Apr 29	FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound)	Apr 29	%	0.25	0.25	
Apr 29	Interest Rate on Excess Reserves	Apr 30	%	0.10	0.10	
Apr 30	Employment Cost Index	1Q	Q/Q % Chg.	0.8	0.7	
Apr 30	Initial Jobless Claims	Apr 25	Thsd	3839.0	4427.0	
Apr 30	Personal Consumption Expenditure Core Deflator	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-0.1	0.2	
Apr 30	Personal Consumption Expenditure Core Deflator	Mar	Y/Y % Chg.	1.7	1.8	
Apr 30	Personal Consumption Expenditure Deflator	Mar	Y/Y % Chg.	1.3	1.8	
Apr 30	Personal Income	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-2.0	0.6	
Apr 30	Real Personal Spending	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-7.3	0.1	
Apr 30	MNI Chicago PMI	Apr	Index	35.4	47.8	
May 1	Markit US Manufacturing PMI	Apr	Index	36.1	36.9	
May 1	ISM Manufacturing	Apr	Index	41.5	49.1	
May 1	Wards Total Vehicle Sales	Apr	Mlns	7.0	11.4	
<b>Canada</b>						
Apr 30	Gross Domestic Product	Feb	M/M % Chg.	0.0	0.2	
Apr 30	Industrial Product Price	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-0.9	-0.6	
May 1	MLI Leading Indicator	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-1.7	0.2	
May 1	Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI	Apr	Index	33.0	46.1	
<b>International</b>						
Apr 27	JN Jobless Rate	Mar	%	2.5	2.4	
Apr 28	JN BOJ Policy Balance Rate	Apr 28	%	-0.10	-0.10	
Apr 29	JN Retail Sales	Mar	Y/Y % Chg.	-4.6	1.6	
Apr 29	CH Manufacturing PMI	Apr	Index	50.8	52.0	
Apr 30	EZ Consumer Price Index	Apr	Y/Y % Chg.	0.4	0.7	
Apr 30	EZ Gross Domestic Product	1Q	Y/Y % Chg.	-3.3	1.0	
Apr 30	EZ Unemployment Rate	Mar	%	7.4	7.3	
Apr 30	MX Gross Domestic Product	1Q	Y/Y % Chg.	-1.6	-0.5	
Apr 30	EZ ECB Deposit Facility Rate	Apr 30	%	-0.50	-0.50	
Apr 30	JN Tokyo Consumer Price Index	Apr	Y/Y % Chg.	0.2	0.4	
Apr 30	JN Jibun Bank Japan PMI Mfg	Apr	Index	41.9	43.7	
May 1	UK Markit UK PMI Manufacturing SA	Apr	Index	32.6	32.9	

Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.

Upcoming Economic Releases and Events: May 4 - 8, 2020						
Release Date	Time*	Economic Indicator/Event	Data for Period	Units	Consensus Forecast	Last Period
<b>United States</b>						
May 4	10:00	Cap Goods Orders Nondef Ex Air	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-	0.1
May 4	10:00	Durable Goods Orders	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-	-14.4
May 4	10:00	Durables Ex Transportation	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-	-0.2
May 4	10:00	Factory Orders	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-9.2	0.0
May 4	10:00	Factory Orders Ex Trans	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-	-0.9
May 5	8:30	Trade Balance	Mar	Blns	-35.0	-39.9
May 5	9:45	Markit US Services PMI	Apr	Index	-	27.0
May 5	10:00	ISM Non-Manufacturing Index	Apr	Index	42.0	52.5
May 6	8:15	ADP Employment Change	Apr	Thsd	-12062.0	-27.0
May 7	8:30	Initial Jobless Claims	May 2	Thsd	-	-
May 7	8:30	Unit Labor Costs	1Q	Q/Q % Chg.	-	0.9
May 8	8:30	Average Hourly Earnings	Apr	M/M % Chg.	0.3	0.4
May 8	8:30	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	Apr	Thsd	-20000.0	-701.0
May 8	8:30	Unemployment Rate	Apr	%	15.1	4.4
May 8	10:00	Wholesale Trade Sales	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-	-0.8
<b>Canada</b>						
May 5	8:30	Int'l Merchandise Trade	Mar	Blns	-	-1.0
May 8	8:15	Housing Starts	Apr	Thsd	-	195.2
May 8	8:30	Hourly Wage Rate Permanent Employees	Apr	Y/Y % Chg.	-	6.1
May 8	8:30	Net Change in Employment	Apr	Thsd	-	-1010.7
May 8	8:30	Unemployment Rate	Apr	%	-	7.8
<b>International</b>						
May 4	4:00	EZ Markit Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	Apr	Index	-	33.6
May 6	5:00	EZ Retail Sales	Mar	Y/Y % Chg.	-	3.0
May 7	7:00	UK Bank of England Bank Rate	May 7	%	-	0.10

Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.

## Disclaimer

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