

Economics

Avery Shenfeld (416) 594-7356

avery.shenfeld@cibc.com

Benjamin Tal (416) 956-3698

benjamin.tal@cibc.com

Andrew Grantham

(416) 956-3219

andrew.grantham@cibc.com

Rovce Mendes

(416) 594-7354

royce.mendes@cibc.com

Katherine Judge

(416) 956-6527

katherine.judge@cibc.com

Taylor Rochwerg

(416) 594-7355

taylor.rochwerg@cibc.com

The Week Ahead

May 25-29, 2020

Say It Ain't So, Joe

by Avery Shenfeld

We're some five months away from the US presidential election, but Canada already has something to fear from its potential winner. He doesn't have an insurmountable polling lead, but Joe Biden does hold a narrow edge in some key swing states. So his negative comments on a key pipeline project have sounded alarm bells in Alberta, and raised the broader question of what trade policy would look like in a Biden administration.

Biden's resistance to the Keystone project dates back to his days as Vice President, when he couldn't depart from Obama's stance. These days, he's trying to be on side with the "green" agenda of one wing of his party, and its easier to take shots at a pipeline aimed at carrying Canadian oil than at a US industrial emitter, or at Americans who fly and drive for that matter.

More broadly, what do we know about Biden's stance on trade and protectionism? Not quite as much as we'd like, with Biden bringing in some more left-leaning Sanders advisors to hammer out the the platform with his more centerist campaign team.

There have been some comforting signals for Canada in his past. Biden was supportive of the new trilateral Canada-US-Mexico deal, and backed the original NAFTA, as well as the Trans-Pacific Partnership in its initial stages. He's since moved away from the TPP, but does want to renegotiate it and engage with China multilaterally towards open trade on a level playing field, which was what the TPP was designed to do. Biden will face pressure from the left wing of his party to adopt a pro-labor agenda, but thus far, the signals from his campaign have been encouraging on the trade file. Biden was able to beat Sanders in bluecollar Michigan despite drawing a clear distinction on trade issues between his view and Sanders' heavily protectionist message. Biden's support for working in concert with allies raises hope that the US will restore the functioning of the WTO as a trade arbiter.

Add it all up, and while the Democrats haven't always been staunch free trade advocates and might not pursue new trade deals aggressively, we would not expect a backsliding on the most important bilateral trade issues with Canada.

The pipeline file, therefore, likely signals less of a protectionist bent than it does an intention to reverse Trump's course on climate change. Should Biden prevail, Canada's task will be to make the case that it's committed to address climate change, that its heavy oil substitutes for exports from a Venezuelan regime that Biden has rejected as illegitimate and oppressive, and that globally, Canada is an alternative to crude from Russia and Middle East suppliers that aren't all on the best of terms with the US.

It will be time, in other words, for some old fashioned diplomacy if, as we expect, that comes back into fashion in a Joe Biden White House. Should the election go the other way, energy exports might have an easier time, but as our cattle exporters heard from Trump this week, other trade impediments might prove more challenging.

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Week Ahead Calendar And Forecast

	CANADA	CIBC	Consensus Pri	Prior	UNTIED STATES		J	CIBC	Consensus	Prior
Monday May 25	BAPF REVERSE AUCTION: \$10B BoC BUYBACKS: 30-YR			Mar	Markets Closed (Memorial Day)					
Tuesday May 26	Speaker: 1:30 PM Stephen S. Poloz (Governor) AUCTION: 3-M BILLS \$14.6B, 6-M BILLS \$5.2B, 1-YR BILLS \$5.2B BOC BUYBACKS: SHORT END	1-YR BILLS \$5.	28		AUCTION: 3-M BILLS \$63B, 6-M BILLS \$54B AUCTION: 2-YR TREASURIES \$44B CASH MANAGEMENT (42-Day) \$65B					
				8:3 CHI	8:30 AM CHICAGO FED NAT.ACTIVITY INDEX	(Apr)	(W)			-4.2
				9:0 HOL S&P S&P S&P	9:00 AM HOUSE PRICE INDEX M/M S&P CORELOGIC CS INDEX S&P CORELOGIC CS Y/Y	(Mar) (Mar) (Mar)	Σ Ξ Ξ		0.6% 3.4%	0.7% 219.8 3.5%
				NEV NEV NEV	10:00 AM CONF.BOARD CONSUMER CONFIDENCE NEW HOME SALES SAAR NEW HOME SALES M/M	(May) (Apr) (Apr)	(H) (M) (M) (M)	92.5 450K	87.0 490K -21.9%	86.9 627K -15.4%
Wednesday May 27	AUCTION: 30-YR RRBs \$0.4B BoC BUYBACKS: RRBS				Speaker: 1:00 PM Neel T. Kashkari (President, Minneapolis) AUCTION: 5-YR TREASURIES \$45B AUCTION: 2-YF FRN \$50 CASH MANAGEMENT (119-Day) \$40B	(siloc				
				CA5 7:0 MBA	САЗН МАЛАGEMENT (273-Day) \$25B 7:00 АМ MBA-APPLICATIONS ((May 22)	(1)			-2.6%
				8:3 RIC	8:30 AM Richmond Fed Manuf. Index	(Мау)	(W)		-40.0	-53.0
				2:0 FED	2:00 PM FED'S BEIGE BOOK					
Thursday				Spe	Speaker: 12:30 PM James Bullard (President, St Louis) AllCTTON: 7-VR TREASURTES \$38R					
May 28	AUCTON: 5-YR CANADAS \$5.5B 8:30 AM CURRENT ACCOUNT BAL. PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & HRS	-\$9.48	α γ	+\$8.88 8.101 600 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000		(May 9) (May 2) (Q1 S) (Q1 S) (Apr P) (Apr P)	8.5.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.	-4.8% -28.3% -15.8%	-4.8% 1.3% -18.0% -15.0%	2438K 25073K -4.8% 1.3% -1.5.3%
				HO:	10:00 AM PENDING HOME SALES M/M Secondary 11:00 AM John C Willings (Provident New V	(Apr)	(W)		-15.0%	-20.8%
Friday Mav 29	BoC BUYBACKS: 2-YR			8:3 ADV	Speaker: 11:00 AM John C. Williams (President, New York) 8:30 AM ADVANCE GOODS TRADE BALANCE	rork) (Apr)		-\$66.1B	-\$64.2B	-\$64.4B
	8:30 AM GDP M/M GDP (Amualized) (Q1) (H) INDUSTRIAL PROD. PRICES M/M (Apr) (M) RAW MATERIALS M/M (Apr) (M)	-8.9% -10.2%	0 0 0 - 0 0	0.0% WHC 0.3% PCE -0.9% PCE -15.6% PCE	RETAIL INVENTORIES M/M WHOLESALE INVENTORIES M/M WHOLESALE INVENTORIES M/M PCE DEFLATOR Y/Y (core) PERSONAL INCOME M/M PERSONAL SPENDING M/M	(Apr) (Apr) (Apr) (Apr) (Apr) (Apr)			0.4% 1.1% -7.0% -12.6%	1.0% -0.8% 1.3% -2.0% -7.5%
				9:4 CHI	9:45 AM CHICAGO PMI	(May)	(M)		40.0	35.4
				10: MIC	10:00 AM MICHIGAN CONSUMER SENTIMENT	(May F)	(н)		73.7	73.7
	H M I = Hich Medium or Low Significance	ow Significance		Spe Not	Speaker: 11:00 AM Jerome H Powell (Chairman) SAAR Secondly AdditionDergy Annual Bate		nan) Consensus Source: Bloomherd	,		
								n		

Week Ahead's Market Call

by Avery Shenfeld

In the US, we'll pause the war on Covid news for Memorial Day reflections on actual wars, but economists and nervous epidemiologists will also be seeing how much people choose to get out and about over the long weekend. Durable orders, home sales and April spending figures will show weakness that would have shocked at any other time. While these April showers won't bring May flowers, markets might take the news in stride given expectations that by June we'll see a partial rebound.

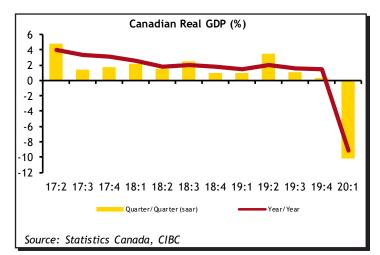
In Canada, Statistics Canada already released a preliminary nowcast estimate for March GDP, and data since then suggests that their -9% figure could be close to the mark. StatsCan released an April advance estimate on the release of the March retail figures, so keep an eye out for an April GDP flash with this release or perhaps in the subsequent week. Canada's current account balance is also due this week, but trade distortions might be making such figures less relevant these days.

Week Ahead's Key Canadian Number: GDP—March & Q1

(Friday, 8:30 a.m.)

Royce Mendes (416) 594-7354

	CIBC	Mkt	Prior
GDP m/m (Mar)	-8.9%	N/A	0.0%
GDP Q1 q/q SAAR	-10.2%	N/A	0.3%



The economy was clearly taking on water by the end of the first quarter, with social distancing measures and forced shutdowns implemented by mid-March necessary to contain the spread of COVID-19. Statistics Canada's flash estimate of GDP for both the month and the first quarter let the cat out of the bag in terms of the rough magnitude of the slowdown, so there shouldn't be too many gasps when the data show an ugly performance.

Expect to see declines across the board, from household spending and housing construction to business investment and exports. There might be a bit more government spending seen as the public sector ramped up its response efforts, but the large support programs don't get counted as government expenditures in GDP, so don't expect that category to show a massive spike. **Forecast Implications** — April will be the worst month for economic activity unless there's a major second wave of the virus, and we might get a sneak peek at the numbers if the flash estimate is released alongside these data. While March and April will leave Q2 looking terrible in terms of GDP, the green shoots showing up in May should actually see a return to growth in the latter part of the quarter.

Other Canadian Releases:

Current Account Balance—Q1

(Thursday, 8:30 am)

The relative stability in Canada's current account deficit is not an indication of what's to come. While the shortfall of \$9.4bn expected for Q1 isn't all that much worse than the \$8.8bn deficit seen at the end of last year, it comes as both imports and exports of goods were declining at a similar pace and, of course, only captures the very beginning of the shutdowns. As a result, expect the second quarter to look worse, with both oil prices and volumes thus far averaging well below those of the first quarter. The slowdowns at factories globally will continue to affect both imports and exports, but the imports of healthcare essentials will weigh on the balance moving forward.

Week Ahead's Key US Number: Durable Goods Orders—April

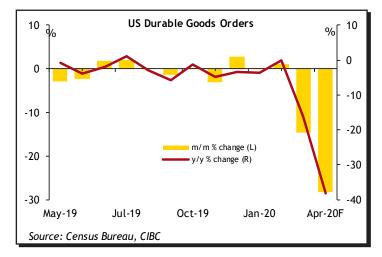
(Thursday, 8:30 a.m.)

Katherine Judge (416) 956-6527

				Prior
Durable Goods Orders m/m	-28.3	%-	18.0%	-15.4%
Ex. Transportation m/m	-15.8	%-	15.0%	-0.6%

With the dark cloud of Covid-19 hanging over the global travel industry, there appears to have been a rush of cancellations of commercial aircraft in April, which will send headline durable goods orders into a nosedive. A record 28.3% monthly drop would leave orders where they last stood during the height of the financial crisis.

Stripping out transportation, new orders should have still fallen off a cliff, by a record 15.8%, echoing the weakness seen in the ISM's new orders component. That would reflect a combination of sharply weaker demand, and supply chain issues amplified by stricter social distancing measures.



Forecast Implications — Despite the beginning of the removal of some social distancing measures, business investment will remain weak amidst open capacity and weak demand. Travel restrictions are expected to be some of the last social distancing measures to be removed, and along with a financially strained aviation industry, commercial aircraft orders should be limited for the rest of this year.

Market Impact — We are a little more negative than the consensus, which could see the USD fall along with bond yields.

Other U.S. Releases:

Advance Goods Trade—April

(Friday, 8:30 am)

With lockdowns in full force in the western hemisphere in April, two-way trade should have deteriorated even further. Export prices tumbled, and along with higher imports of medical goods, that could have left the trade deficit almost \$2bn wider at -\$66.1bn on the month. As restrictions continue to be lifted, a strong greenback will pose an additional challenge for US exporters facing already weak demand.

Personal Income & Outlays—April

(Friday, 8:30 am)

Personal incomes are poised to have dropped by 4.5% in April, reflecting widespread job losses and plummeting hours worked, with some offset from government support programs. In line with the steep drop in retail sales, consumption is poised to have contracted by a staggering 17.9% as businesses shut their doors and unemployment skyrocketed. Although we expect a pickup in consumption over the rest of the guarter as restrictions are gradually eased, elevated unemployment will be the dominating factor, suggesting it will be a protracted recovery for consumer spending. PCE prices could have held up a little better than CPI given that the weights are derived from actual consumer spending patterns, with the rise in food prices partly offsetting drops in other categories to leave headline PCE inflation at 0.5%. Spending on medical services will be the main factor limiting downwards pressure on core PCE, leaving its pace of inflation at 1.3%.

CANADIAN RELEASE AND EVENT DATES May/June 2020



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
18 VICTORIA DAY (HOLIDAY) (Markets Closed)	19	CPI 20 8:30 AM M Y FEB 0.4 2.2 MAR -0.6 0.9 APR -0.7 -0.2 WHOLESALE TRADE 8:30 AM Bank of Canada Dep. Governor Lane speaks at 2:00 PM ET	21 ADP EMPLOYMENT SURVEY 8:30 AM	22 RETAIL TRADE 8:30 AM (Current\$) M Y JAN 0.6 2.4 FEB 0.3 2.2 MAR -10.0 -8.4
25 Bank of Canada Governor Poloz speaks by videoconference at 3:00 PM ET	26 BALANCE OF INT'L PAYMENTS 8:30 AM CURR. ACCT. BAL. \$BN(QR) \$BN(AR) 19:Q3 -10,864 -5,112 19:Q4 -8,757 -444 20:Q1	27	28	NATIONAL ACCTS 29 8:30 AM REAL PRICE GDP DEFLATOR %ch AR %ch AR 19:Q3 1.1 0.4 19:Q4 0.3 4.1 20:Q1 GDP BY INDUSTRY 8:30 AM (2002\$) GDP IND.PROD. M M JAN 0.2 0.4 FEB 0.0 0.1 MAR M(NSA) Y Y FEB -0.6 -0.3 MAR -0.9 -2.4
1	2	3 LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY 8:30 AM Bank of Canada Interest Rate Announcement	4 MERCHANDISE TRADE 8:30 AM \$MN 12 MO. BALANCE FEB -894 -13,676 MAR -1,411 -12,670 APR	5 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 8:30 AM AVG EMPLOY UNEMP HRLY (HSHOLD) RATE EARN M Y % Y MAR -5.3 -4.0 7.8 6.2 APR-11.0 -15.0 13.0 10.5 MAY IVEY PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX 10:00 AM
8 HOUSING STARTS 8:15 AM 000'S (AR) TOTAL SINGLES MAR 195 58 APR 171 38 MAY BUILDING PERMITS (\$) 8:30 AM M M (RES) (NON-RES) FEB -7.6 -7.6 MAR -13.1 -13.3 JUN	9	10	11 CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION 8:30 AM	12 BALANCE OF INT'L PAYMENTS 8:30 AM CURR. ACCT. BAL. \$BN(QR) \$BN(AR) 19:Q3 -10.9 -43.5 19:Q4 -8.76 -35.0 20:Q1 CAPACITY UTILIZATION 8:30 AM LEVEL (%) TOTAL MANUF. 19:Q3 81.5 78.3 19:Q4 81.2 77.7 20:Q1
SURVEY OF MANUFACTURING 8:30 AM SHIPMENTS MAR -9.2 -12.7 APR	16 INT'L TRANSACTIONS IN SECURITIES C\$BN, NET 8:30 AM BONDS MONEY STOCKS TOT MARKET FEB 22.5 -1.0 -0.9 20.6 MAR 3.1 -6.8 -6.1 -9.8 APR	CPI 8:30 AM M Y MAR -0.6 0.9 APR -0.7 -0.2 MAY	18 ADP EMPLOYMENT SURVEY 8:30 AM WHOLESALE TRADE 8:30 AM	RETAIL TRADE 8:30 AM (Current\$) M Y FEB 0.3 2.2 MAR -10.0 -8.4 APR

All data seasonally adjusted except where noted "NSA". M: per cent change from previous month. Q: per cent change from previous quarter at annual rates. Y: per cent change from year earlier. AR: Annual Rate. YTD: Year to date. Release dates are provided by sources outside CIBC World Markets Inc. Dates are subject to change. Sources for historical data: Statistics Canada, CMHC, Human Resources Development Canada and the Bank of Canada.

U.S. RELEASE AND EVENT DATES May/June 2020

STARTS B:30 AM FEB STARTS 1.557 FOMC Minutes B:30 AM LEADING INDI D:00 AM B:30 AM LEADING INDI D:30 AM B:30 AM LEADING INDI D:30 AM B:30 AM LEADING INDI B:30 AM LEADING INDI B:30 AM LEADING INDI NET CAPITAL INFLOWS TICS 4:50 PM B:30 AM LEADING INDI B:30 AM LEADING INDI B:30 AM LEAD	MONDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
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8 9 10 WHOLESALE TRADE S:30 AM M(SA) Y (NSA) 10:00 PM MAR -0.4 1.5 MAY -0.8 0.3 MAR FOMC Rate Decision MAY -0.2 MAY -0.8 0.3 MAY -0.8 0.3 MAY -0.4 1.5 BOT (9:00) REDBOOK (8:55) INITIAL JOBLESS CL 15 16 17 RETAIL SALES 8:30 AM MY 8:30 AM MY MAY MAR -8.3 -5.7 APR -16.4 -21.6 MAY MAR MAR Stant S 8:30 AM Mn. 4:00 PM Y MAR 4:00 PM Y MAR	ISM MFG SURVEY 10:00 AM COMP. PRICES INDEX INDEX MAR 49.1 37.4 APR 41.5 35.3	FEB -61.0 21.2 -39.8 MAR -65.6 21.2 -44.4	5 EMPLOY. SITUATION 8:30 AM NON- CIV AVG FARM UNEMP HRLY PAYROLL RATE EARN MAR -870 4.4 3.4 APR -20,500 14.7 7.7 MAY CONSUMER CREDIT 3:00PM
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MAR 73.2 -4.5 -4.9 APR 64.9 -11.2 -15.0 MAY BUSINESS INVENTORIES 10:00 AM		PHILADELPHIA FED INDEX 8:30 PM LEADING INDICATOR 10:00 AM	CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE B:30 AM

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