

The Weekly Bottom Line

April 28, 2023

Highlights

United States

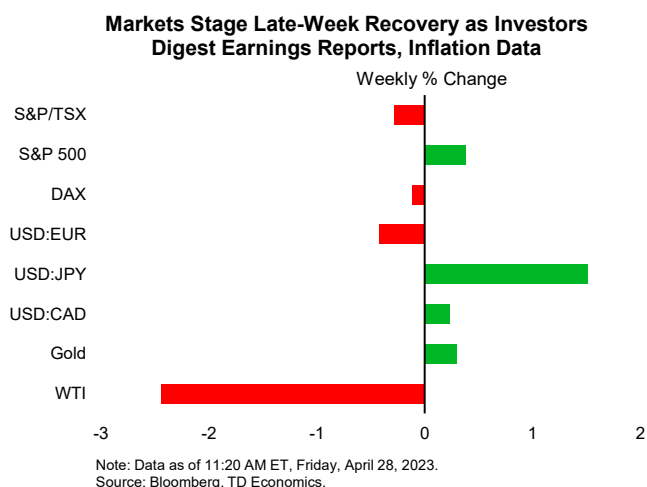
- U.S. real GDP growth slowed to 1.1% quarter-over-quarter (q/q) annualized in 2023 Q1, from 2.6% q/q in the previous quarter. A measure of underlying domestic demand accelerated to 2.9% q/q, supported by a strong gain in consumer spending, although the monthly pattern revealed that the spending gain was entirely concentrated in January.
- New home sales grew by 9.6% month-on-month in March. While this series is volatile, it has been trending up since the end of last year.
- Core PCE inflation remained elevated in March, easing modestly to 4.6% year-on-year from 4.7% in February.

Canada

- February's GDP print came in weaker than Statistics Canada's estimate. Accounting for a decline in the flash estimate for March, first quarter GDP growth is tracking at an annualized rate of 2.5%.
- Looking ahead, growth is expected to slow as higher rates continue to work their way through the economy. April's release of the CFIB small business barometer showed that rising costs of borrowing are a growing concern for entrepreneurs.
- This week was also marked by a continuation of the federal public workers strike. We expect the strike to weigh on GDP growth in the near term, with offsetting growth in subsequent periods, resulting in an overall neutral impact.

This Week in the Markets				
	Current*	Week Ago	52-Week High	52-Week Low
Stock Market Indexes				
S&P 500	4134	4134	4305	3577
S&P/TSX Comp.	20555	20693	21185	18206
DAX	15832	15882	15895	11976
FTSE 100	7840	7914	8014	6826
Nikkei	28856	28564	29223	25717
Fixed Income Yields				
U.S. 10-yr Treasury	3.45	3.57	4.24	2.57
Canada 10-yr Bond	2.87	2.94	3.68	2.61
Germany 10-yr Bund	2.35	2.48	2.75	0.78
UK 10-yr Gilt	3.74	3.76	4.51	1.66
Japan 10-yr Bond	0.39	0.47	0.53	0.17
Foreign Exchange Cross Rates				
C\$ (USD per CAD)	0.73	0.74	0.80	0.72
Euro (USD per EUR)	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.96
Pound (USD per GBP)	1.25	1.24	1.27	1.07
Yen (JPY per USD)	136.0	134.2	150.2	126.8
Commodity Spot Prices**				
Crude Oil (\$US/bbl)	75.2	77.9	122.1	66.7
Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)	2.17	2.20	9.84	1.87
Copper (\$US/met. tonne)	8569.5	8778.5	9770.5	7160.0
Gold (\$US/troy oz.)	1988.2	1983.1	2040.2	1622.4

*As of 9:35 AM on Friday. **Oil-WTI, Cushing, Nat. Gas-Henry Hub, LA (Thursday close price).
Copper-LME Grade A. Gold-London Gold Bullion. Source: Bloomberg.



Global Official Policy Rate Targets	
Central Banks	Current Target
Federal Reserve (Fed Funds Rate)	4.75 - 5.00%
Bank of Canada (Overnight Rate)	4.50%
European Central Bank (Refi Rate)	3.50%
Bank of England (Repo Rate)	4.25%
Bank of Japan (Overnight Rate)	-0.10%

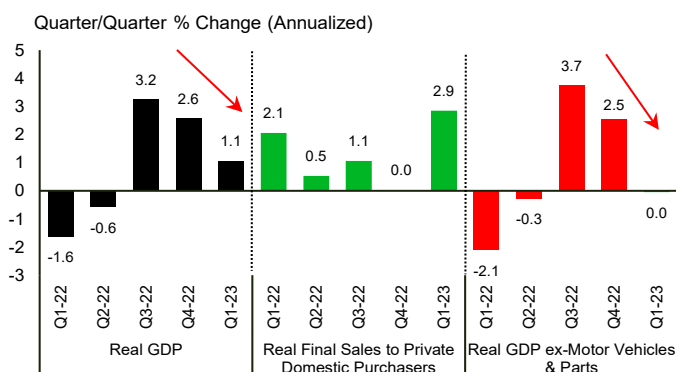
Source: Bloomberg.

U.S. - Core Inflation Remains Elevated, Fed to Hike Next Week

U.S. real GDP growth slowed to a 1.1% quarter-over-quarter (q/q) annualized pace in the first quarter of 2023, from 2.6% q/q at the end of 2022. While consensus expectations were looking for a better print, a slowdown in growth was always in the cards as a reversal of the prior quarter's inventory built-up was expected. That reversal materialized. Government spending, meanwhile, provided an offset, delivering a 0.8 percentage point (pp) contribution to growth. With the combined impact of inventories and government spending adding volatility to the data, we typically look past these items and focus on 'final sales to private domestic purchasers' to get a clearer reading of underlying domestic demand. After several quarters of slow growth, this measure accelerated to 2.9% q/q, supported by a strong gain in consumer spending (+3.7%).

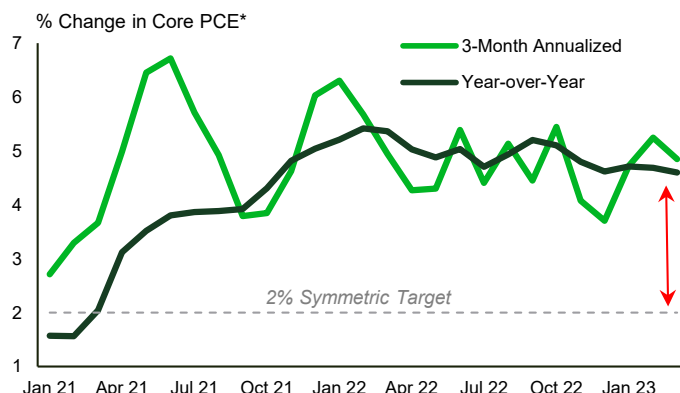
At face value, the acceleration in underlying domestic demand is good news. However, monthly spending data shows that the strength was concentrated in January, with growth flatlining over the next two months. Much of the quarter's strength came from auto sales. Unit auto sales grew from 14.3 million (annualized) at the end of 2022, to 15.3 million in 2023 Q1, resulting in a 1.1 (pp) contribution to GDP. If we remove that impact, the rest of the economy recorded zero growth (Chart 1). While our forecast calls for motor vehicles sales to remain at a high level over the near-term, as pent-up demand is satiated by improved production (see [here](#)), this channel is unlikely to offer the same level of support in 2023 Q2.

Chart 1: Auto Sales Helped Prop up Growth in the First Quarter of 2023



Source: Census Bureau, TD Economics.

Chart 2: Fed's Preferred Inflation Gauge (Core PCE) Remains Elevated



Source: Census Bureau, TD Economics. *Excludes food and energy.

Residential investment remained a growth detractor for the eight consecutive quarter, but its negative impact moderated noticeably as average declines of 26% q/q in the second half of 2022 eased to 4.2% q/q in 2023 Q1. We expect residential investment to be less of a drag this year, a message echoed by some moderate positive signals out of the housing market. New home sales, a volatile series, continue to trend up since the end of last year, rising 9.6% month-on-month in March. This is happening as tight supply conditions on the existing home market look to be driving some more action towards the new home market. That said, with housing affordability still exceptionally low, buyers are showing increased sensitivity to mortgage rates (though with the typical lag). An index tracking the number of contracts signed to purchase existing homes, a reliable indicator of closed sales, fell 5.2% in March amidst an uptrend in mortgage rates earlier in the month. The stress in regional banking is also likely to have contributed to the hesitation among buyers to sign housing contracts.

In weighing the Fed's next interest rate decision, the latest PCE report showed that the Fed's preferred inflation gauge remained elevated in March. While overall PCE slowed noticeably to 4.2% year-on-year (y/y), from 5.1% in the month prior, core PCE eased only modestly to 4.6% y/y (Chart 2). In our view, core PCE inflation has a long way to return to target (see [here](#)). As such, we expect the Fed to hike by 25 basis points next week and keep the policy rate at that high level through the end of the year.

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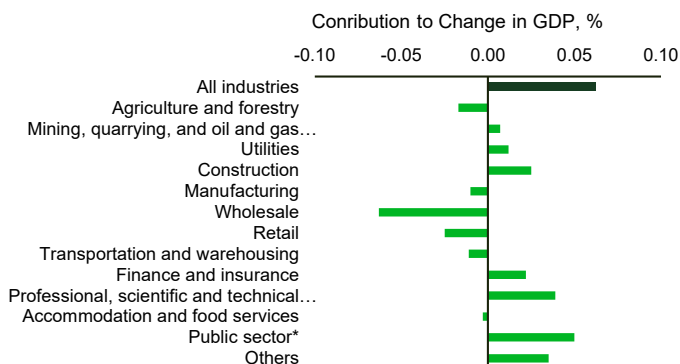
Canada – Prepare for Landing

In anticipation of this week's marquee release of industry-based GDP, Canadian financial markets were largely occupied with first quarter corporate earnings reports. The S&P/TSX Composite remained 0.6% weaker on the week at the time of writing, despite a sizeable end of week rebound.

Meanwhile, February's GDP print came in at 0.1% month-on-month (m/m) – weaker than 0.2% m/m expected by the consensus and Statistics Canada's own flash estimate of 0.3% m/m. With today's reading and the flash estimate of -0.1% m/m for March, first quarter GDP is tracking at a rate of 2.5% quarter-on-quarter (q/q) annualized. This is a touch stronger than 2.3% q/q pace the BoC was expecting in its April Monetary Policy Report. Underneath the surface, the major contributor to growth came from residential building construction, which expanded by 0.3% on the month (Chart 1). The public sector, which includes health care and social assistance, public administration, and educational services, was 0.2% higher on the month, clocking in its impressive thirteenth consecutive month of growth.

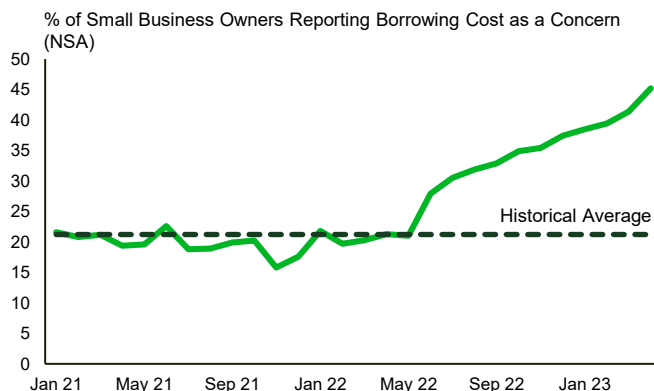
Offsetting these gains was a decline in manufacturing, transportation & warehousing, as well as retail and wholesale trade. The contraction in trade alone shaved one tens of a percentage points off the headline number, which reiterates our expectation of slowing in household consumption expenditure. According to our internal spend data, services spending growth already shows early signs of moderation, which should help bring down consumption growth to

Chart 1: Industry-based GDP Shows that Canadian Economy Expanded in February



* Includes: Educational services, health care and social assistance, and public administration.
Source: Statistic Canada, TD Economics.

Chart 2: High Borrowing Cost is a Growing Concern for Small Business Owners



Source: CFIB, TD Economics.

around 1% in 2023 Q2, as higher financing costs continue to work their way through the economy.

That said, continued fiscal support and robust population growth could buttress demand beyond our current expectations. We estimate that combined new federal and provincial fiscal measures amount to 0.9% of Canadian GDP this year. Notably, government capital spending could boost business investment as private enterprises pull back on investment intentions due to rising costs of borrowing and tighter credit standards. According to April's CFIB small business barometer, 44% of business owners report this as a concern – more than twice the historical average (Chart 2). Another area of concern is rising wage costs, with 68% of business owners identifying it as an impediment to their business and 44% expecting average wage growth to be higher than 3%.

Private enterprises are not the only ones facing wage pressures. This week was marked by a continuation of one of the largest job actions in Canadian history, with more than 100k federal employees on strike. Depending on its duration, we expect it to shave between 0.2 and 0.9 percentage points off monthly GDP growth. But this decline will be reversed in the subsequent periods, with the overall impact being neutral. All in all, "slow but positive growth" remains the most likely scenario for the Canadian economy. Still, we recommend remaining seated with your seat belt fastened as the economy prepares for a soft landing.

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Recent Key Economic Indicators: Apr 24 - 28, 2023					
Release Date	Economic Indicator/Event	Data for Period	Units	Current	Prior
United States					
Apr 25	S&P CoreLogic CS US HPI NSA	Feb	Y/Y % Chg.	2.1	3.8
Apr 25	New Home Sales	Mar	Thsd	683.0	623.0
Apr 25	Conf. Board Consumer Confidence	Apr	Index	101.3	104.0
Apr 26	Advance Goods Trade Balance	Mar	Blns	-84.6	-92.0
Apr 26	Durable Goods Orders	Mar	M/M % Chg.	3.2	-1.2
Apr 26	Cap Goods Orders Nondef Ex Air	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-0.4	-0.7
Apr 27	Initial Jobless Claims	Apr 22	Thsd	230.0	246.0
Apr 27	Gross Domestic Product Annualized	1Q	Q/Q % Chg.	1.1	2.6
Apr 27	Personal Consumption	1Q	Q/Q % Chg.	3.7	1.0
Apr 27	Core PCE	1Q	Q/Q % Chg.	4.9	4.4
Apr 27	Pending Home Sales	Mar	M/M % Chg.	5.2	0.8
Apr 28	Employment Cost Index	1Q	Index	1.2	1.1
Apr 28	Personal Income	Mar	M/M % Chg.	0.3	0.3
Apr 28	Real Personal Spending	Mar	M/M % Chg.	0.0	-0.2
Apr 28	PCE Deflator	Mar	Y/Y % Chg.	4.2	5.1
Canada					
Apr 27	CFIB Business Barometer	Apr	Index	55.7	55.3
Apr 27	Payroll Employment Change - SEPH	Feb	Thsd	62.5	71.1
Apr 28	Gross Domestic Product	Feb	M/M % Chg.	0.1	0.5
International					
Apr 27	JN Jobless Rate	Mar	%	2.8	2.6
Apr 27	JN Tokyo Consumer Price Index	Apr	Y/Y % Chg.	3.5	3.3
Apr 27	JN Retail Sales	Mar	Y/Y % Chg.	7.2	7.3
Apr 28	JN BOJ Policy Balance Rate	Apr 28	%	-0.1	-0.1
Apr 28	EZ Gross Domestic Product SA	1Q	Y/Y % Chg.	1.3	1.8
Apr 28	MX Gross Domestic Product NSA	1Q	Y/Y % Chg.	3.9	3.6

*Eastern Standard Time. Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.

Upcoming Economic Releases and Events: May 01 - 05, 2023						
Release Date	Time*	Economic Indicator/Event	Data for Period	Units	Consensus Forecast	Last Period
United States						
May 1	9:45	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI	Apr F	Index	50.4	50.4
May 1	10:00	ISM Manufacturing	Apr	Index	46.8	46.3
May 2	10:00	Factory Orders	Mar	M/M % Chg.	1.4	-0.7
May 2	10:00	Factory Orders Ex Trans	Mar	M/M % Chg.	-	-0.3
May 2	10:00	Durable Goods Orders	Mar F	M/M % Chg.	-	3.2
May 2	10:00	Cap Goods Orders Nondef Ex Air	Mar F	M/M % Chg.	-	-0.4
May 2		Wards Total Vehicle Sales	Apr	Mlns	14.7	14.8
May 3	8:15	ADP Employment Change	Apr	Thsd	140.0	145.0
May 3	9:45	S&P Global US Services PMI	Apr F	Index	53.7	53.7
May 3	9:45	S&P Global US Composite PMI	Apr F	Index	-	53.5
May 3	10:00	ISM Services Index	Apr	Index	51.9	51.2
May 3	14:00	FOMC Rate Decision	May 03	%	5.3	5.0
May 3	14:00	Interest on Reserve Balances Rate	May 04	%	-	4.9
May 3	14:30	Fed Chair Holds Press Conference Following FOMC Meeting				
May 4	8:30	Trade Balance	Mar	Blns	-68.5	-70.5
May 4	8:30	Initial Jobless Claims	Apr 29	Thsd	245.0	230.0
May 5	8:30	Unemployment Rate	Apr	%	3.6	3.5
May 5	8:30	Average Hourly Earnings	Apr	M/M % Chg.	0.3	0.3
May 5	15:00	Fed's Bullard Discusses the Economic Outlook				
Canada						
May 1	9:30	S&P Global Canada Manufacturing PMI	Apr	Index	-	48.6
May 4	8:30	Int'l Merchandise Trade	Mar	Blns	-	0.4
May 4	13:05	Fireside Chat with Bank of Canada Governor, Tiff Macklem				
May 5	8:30	Net Change in Employment	Apr	Thsd	-	34.7
May 5	8:30	Unemployment Rate	Apr	%	-	5.0
International						
May 2	5:00	EZ Consumer Price Index Estimate	Apr	Y/Y % Chg.	7.0	6.9
May 3	5:00	EZ Unemployment Rate	Mar	%	6.6	6.6
May 3	21:45	CH Caixin China PMI Mfg	Apr	Index	50.3	50.0
May 4	8:15	EZ ECB Main Refinancing Rate	May 04	%	3.8	3.5
May 5	5:00	EZ Retail Sales	Mar	Y/Y % Chg.	-3.1	-3.0
*Eastern Standard Time. Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.						

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