

High-Frequency Dashboard: Tracking the Second Wave Impact (January 12, 2021)

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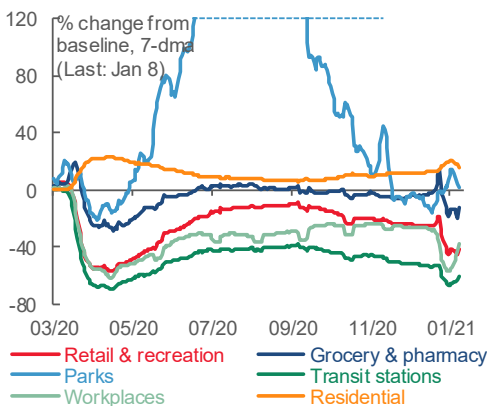
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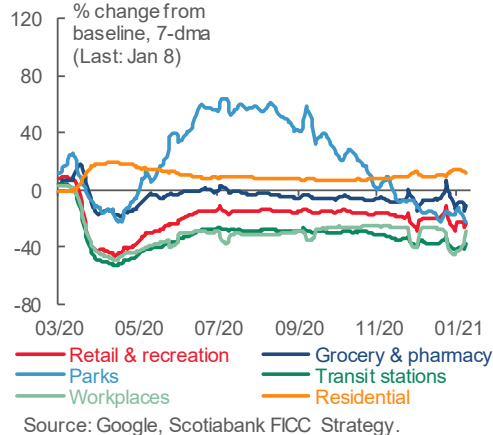
Google Community Mobility

- Daily Google data tracking movement trends points to a broad-based decline in economic activity in the major economies that we track with the year-end holidays temporarily worsening the drop in activity. The post-holidays rebound is nevertheless muted so far, however, as 2021 kicks off with more stringent virus restrictions in places such as Germany and the UK. As contagions related to holiday gatherings lead to increased pressure on health systems, countries will likely ramp up lockdown measures, with some considering the closure or partial restrictions on manufacturing and construction activity. The first quarter of the year is on track to record a contraction in output, which in places like Germany would result in a double-dip recession after the downturn in the first half of 2020.

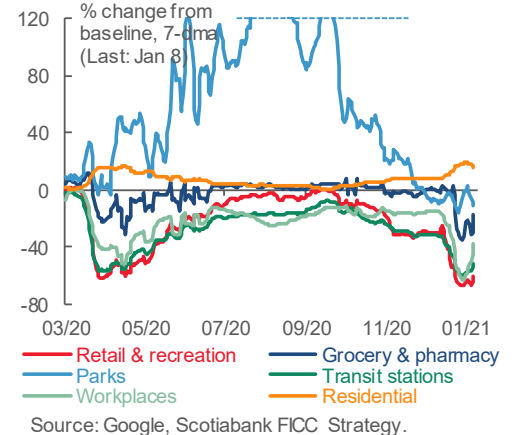
Canada Google Community Mobility



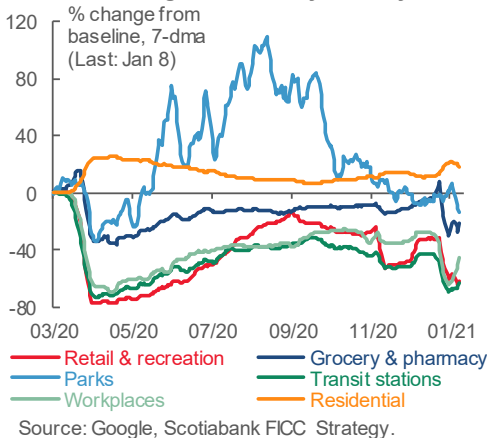
US Google Community Mobility



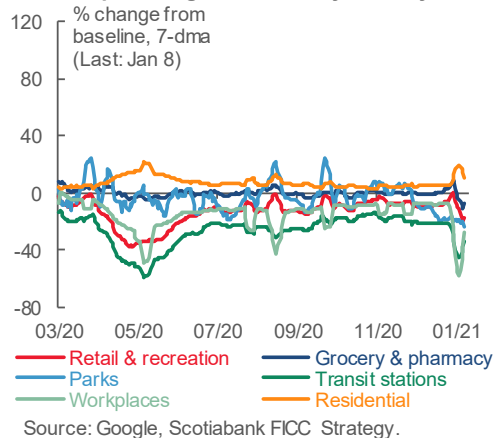
Germany Google Community Mobility



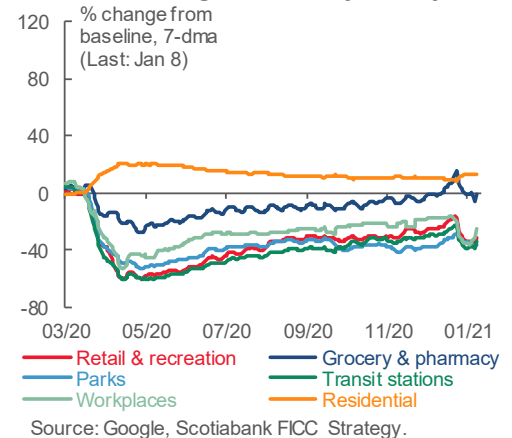
UK Google Community Mobility



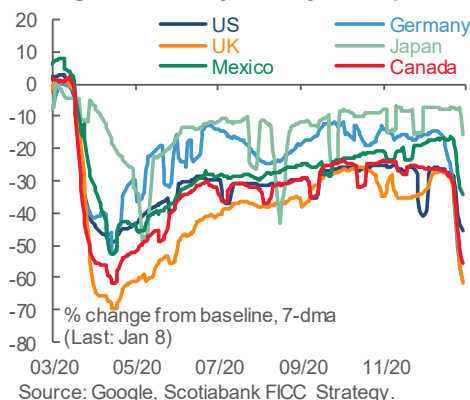
Japan Google Community Mobility



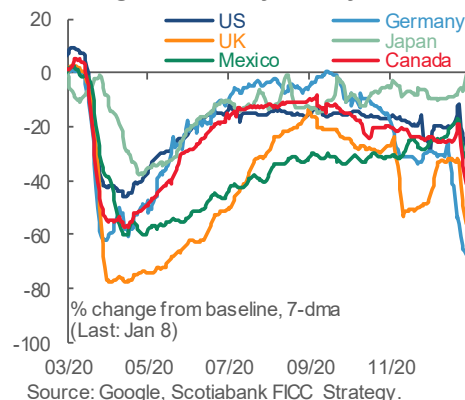
Mexico Google Community Mobility



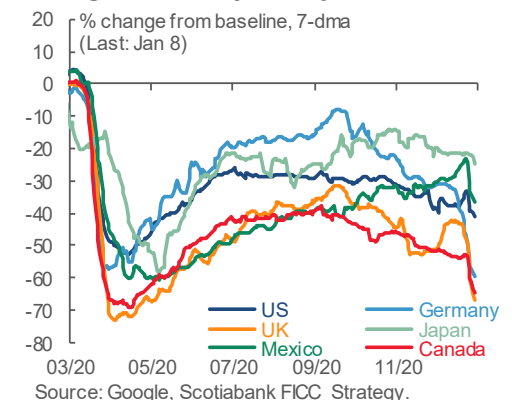
Google Community Mobility: Workplaces



Google Community Mobility: Retail

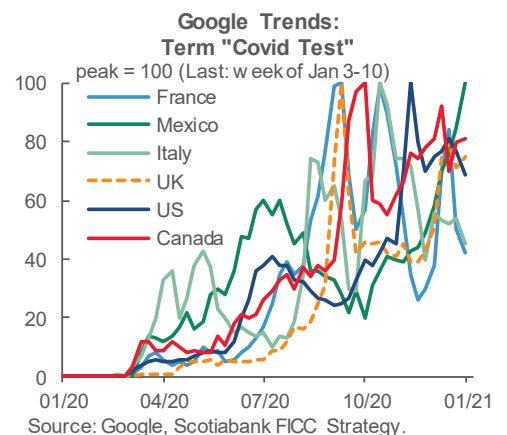
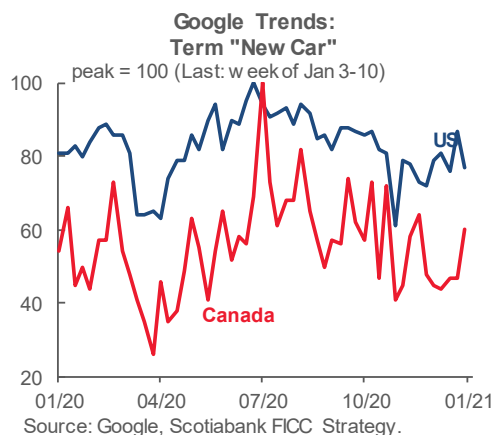
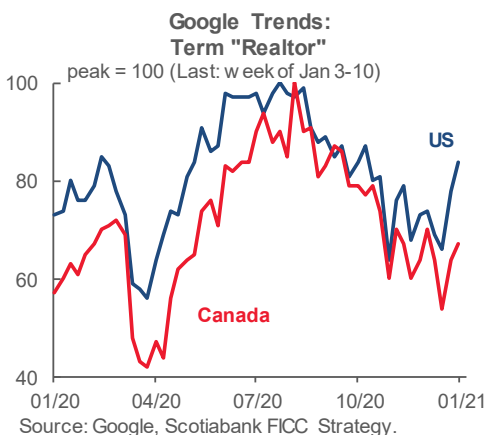
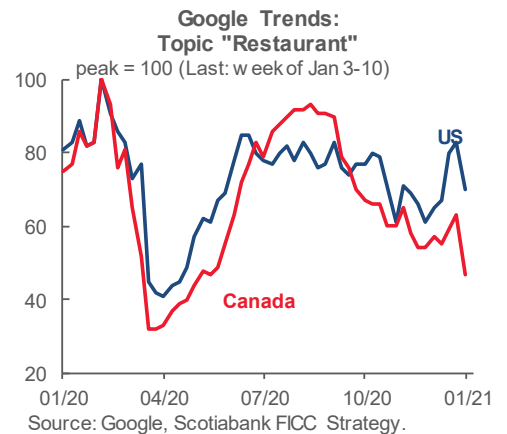
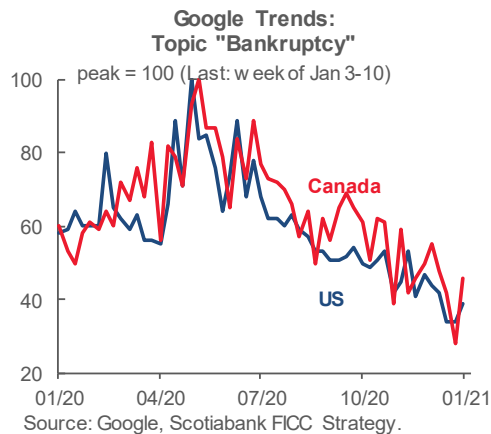
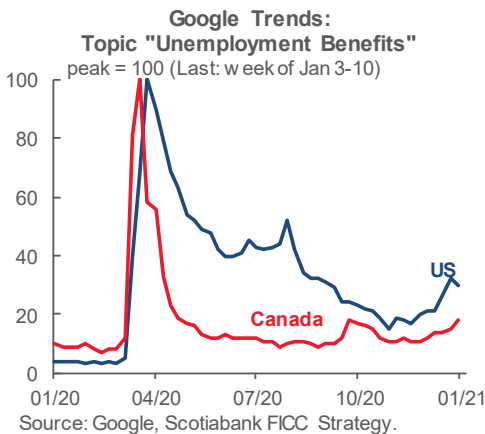


Google Community Mobility: Transit Stns.



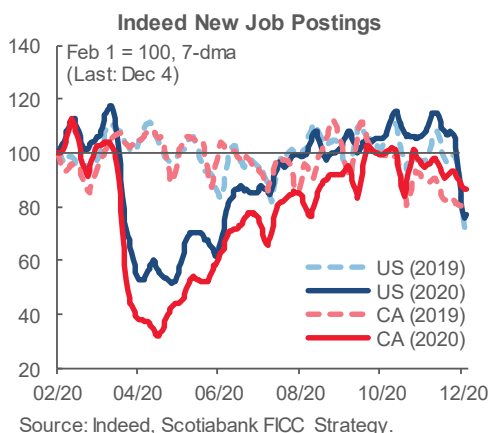
Google Search Trends

- Google Trends data show an uptick in searches for unemployment benefits in the US as lockdowns seem to impact the labour market; searches may also have increased ahead of the late-Dec end of pandemic unemployment benefits (now extended). Searches for "Covid test" in the US and Canada remain near record highs, although new daily contagions appear to have crested (in the US, at least); search interest in Mexico has surged of late as casualties mount.



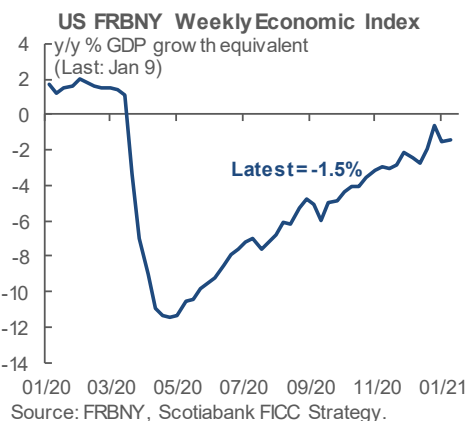
Indeed New Job Postings

- Online daily job postings on Indeed are practically the same in the US versus 2019 while they exceed last year's levels in Canada—but remain below their pre-pandemic level. Don't mind the Thanksgiving-related dip in the US.



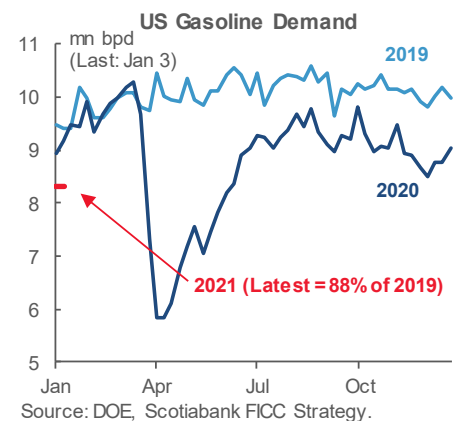
New York Fed Economic Index

- The NY Fed's economic index which aggregates ten daily and weekly indices points to a year-on-year decline in GDP of around -1.5% in early-Jan which would be equivalent to an 8.1% q/q annualised contraction in Q1 (on very limited data) following an estimated 12% Q4 expansion.



US Gasoline Demand

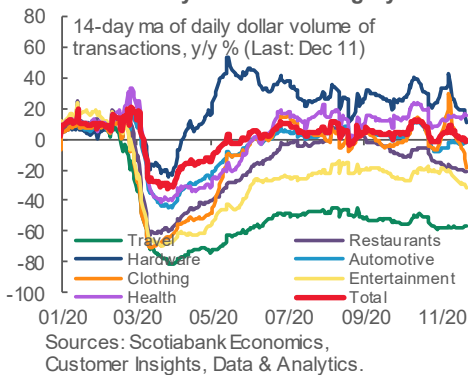
- Weekly US gasoline demand currently sits at around 10-15% below 2019's levels with mobility still significantly subdued amid contagion concerns and restrictions. Gasoline demand averaged 87% of 2019's levels through 2020.



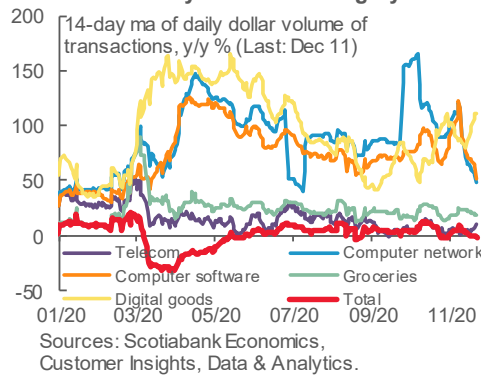
Scotiabank Canadian Merchant Data

- Scotiabank debit and credit card payments data compiled by our Economics, Customer Insights, and Data & Analytics teams show that total credit and debit retail transactions now stand around flat compared to their year-ago levels.
- The increase in contagions and related restrictions in some provinces has led to renewed steep declines in restaurant and entertainment transactions while total transactions are supported by increased hardware, health, and groceries spending. For more details see [here](#). For questions contact Nikita Perevalov (nikita.perevalov@scotiabank.com).

Scotiabank Canadian Transactions Data: Sales by Merchant Category



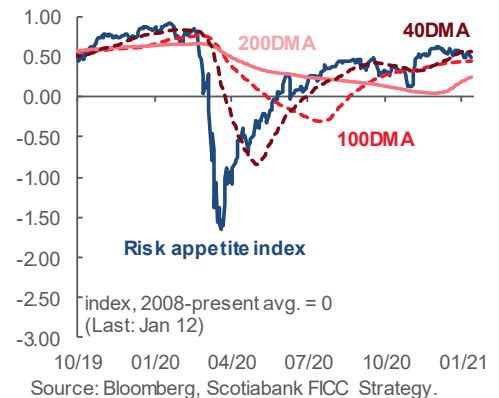
Scotiabank Canadian Transactions Data: Sales by Merchant Category



Scotia FX Risk Appetite Index

- Our daily risk appetite index—a factor of financial risk variables such as CDS spreads and market volatility—is trading just below its 40-day MA as the latest virus mutation in the UK spooks markets.

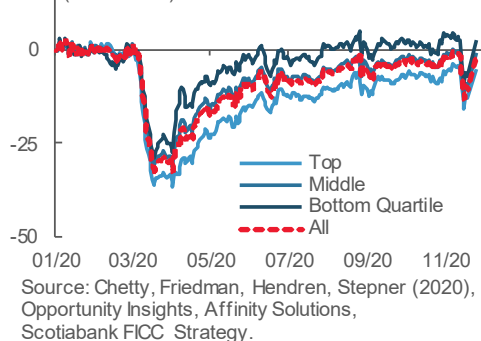
Scotiabank FX Strategy Risk Appetite Index



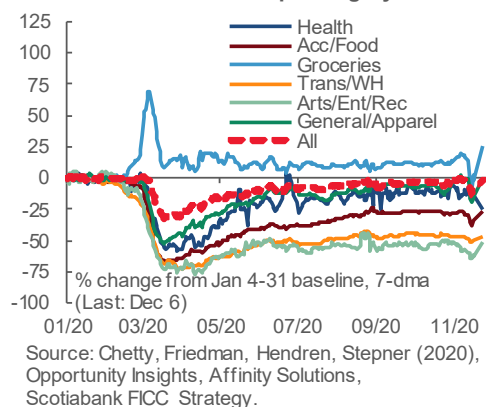
Affinity Solutions US Card Spending Data

- Affinity Solutions debit and credit card payments data show that retail sales in the US remain slightly below their baseline in early-2020—and now fairly flat after a minor upward trajectory between July and September—with grocery purchases remaining elevated as individuals spend more time at home while spending on recreation and transportation remains quite depressed at ~60% lower than baseline, while accommodation and food spending is about 30% lower. Spending on general merch. & apparel has rebounded to only ~5% below baseline. Note that latest decline and surge is a result of the Thanksgiving holidays.

US Credit/Debit Card Spending by ZIP Code Median Income Quartile



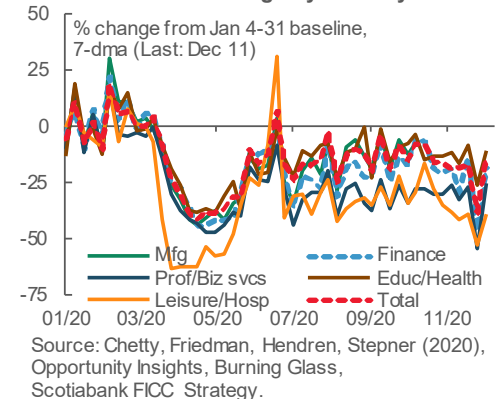
US Credit/Debit Card Spending by Sector

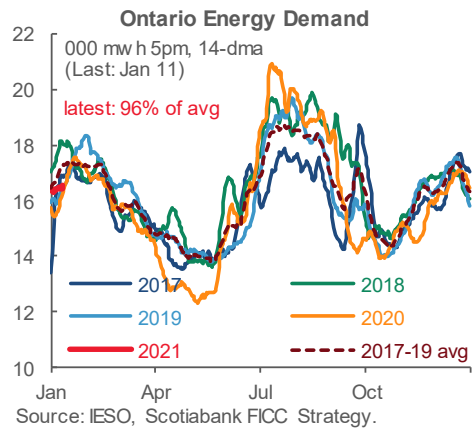


Burning Glass US Jobs Postings

- Weekly Burning Glass data show that US job postings were down ~15% y/y in early-Dec, rebounding from the previous week's sharp decline due to the Thanksgiving holidays. Overall, job postings remain depressed.

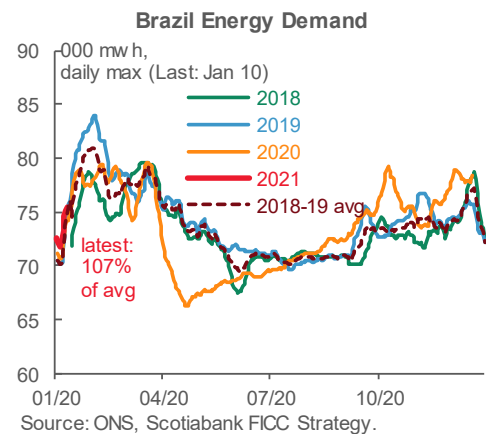
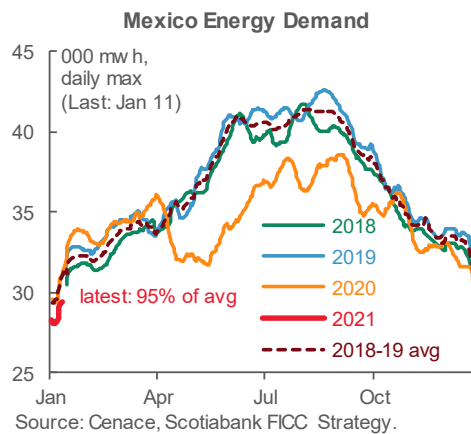
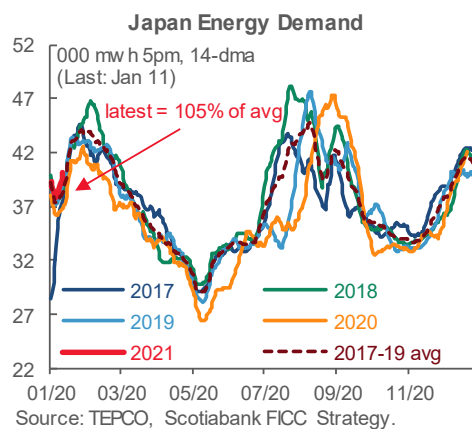
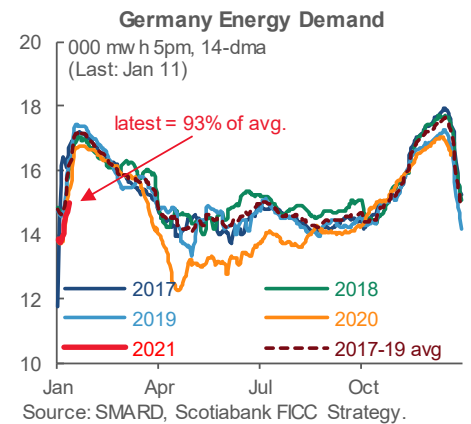
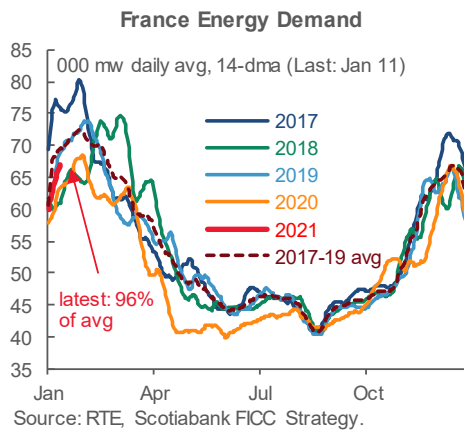
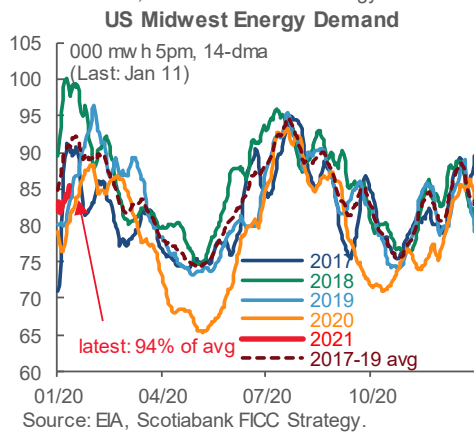
US Job Postings by Industry





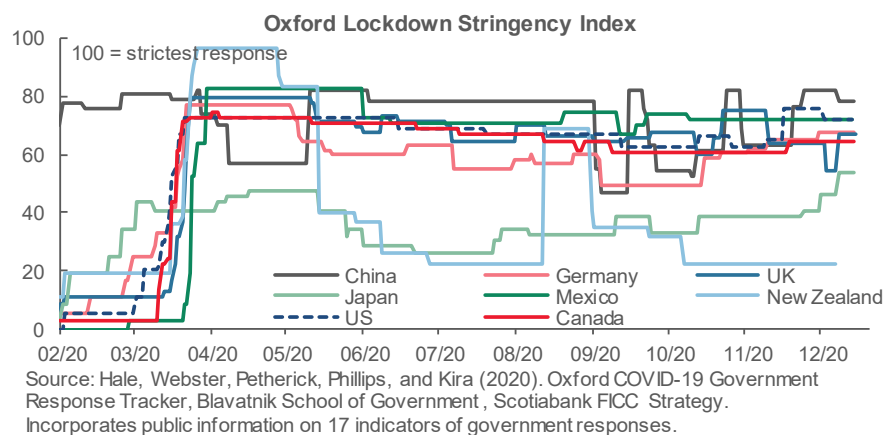
Energy Demand

- Hourly energy demand data sits 5% below its pre-pandemic average around this time of the year in France, Germany, Mexico, the US, and Canada while it is above average in Brazil and Japan. Note that the latest lockdowns do not restrict industrial activity (for the most part, yet) and thus energy demand should remain relatively unaffected when compared to the spring lockdowns.



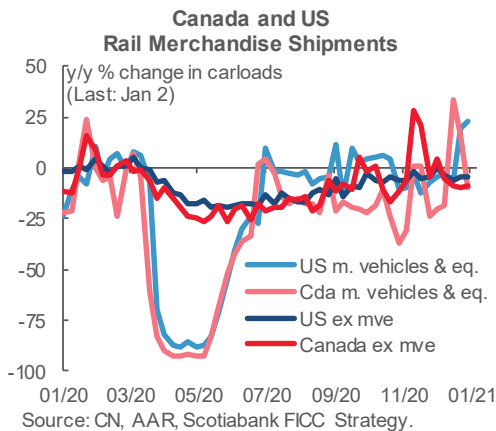
Lockdown Stringency Index

- Oxford University's lockdown stringency index—a useful guideline to track containment measures around the globe—shows a tightening of restrictions at the country-level in Japan and Germany since late-Oct with a less noticeable impact in the other countries that we track (note that sub-national changes are not reflected in Oxford's index).



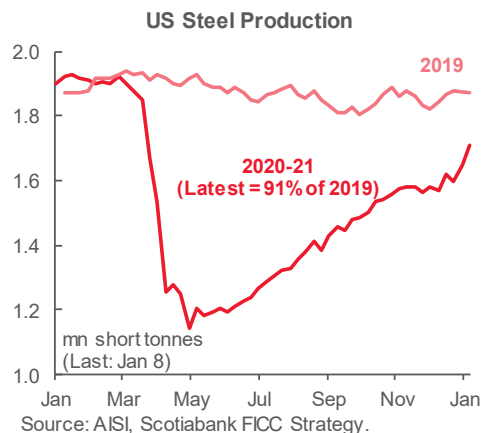
Rail Shipments

- Weekly rail shipments data shows that shipments ex. motor vehicles and equipment in the US and Canada remain below year-ago levels while Canadian and US automotive shipments remain choppy in year-on-year terms.



US Steel Production

- Weekly US steel production data suggests that industrial activity has not yet significantly improved for steel mills to notably ramp up production, which stands at about 90% of 2019 output compared to 60% in early May. The trend is nevertheless encouraging as 2020-21 levels continue to rise toward normal production. Total 2020 production amounted to 81% of that of 2019.



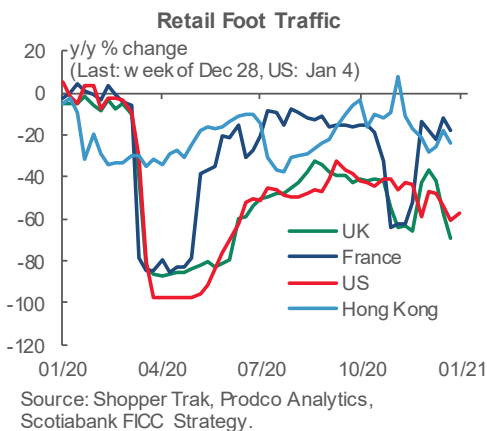
Shanghai Steel Inventories

- Chinese industrial output appears to have recovered quickly as steel inventory levels in the country are depleted from record-highs to now sit around 2019 levels as reflected by weekly Shanghai storage data for both traders and steel mills.



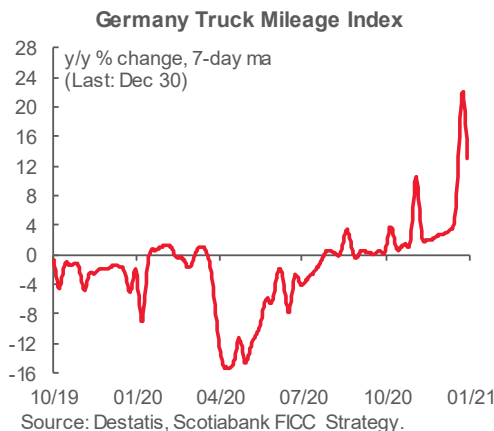
Retail Traffic

- ShopperTrak and Prodco retail foot traffic data show that retail activity has notably recovered in France following the reopening of non-essential businesses in late-November cause a jump in sales—with a similar pattern also observed in the UK (although the new lockdown there has depressed traffic again). Retail traffic in the US has also gradually slowed amid restrictions in parts of the country and fears of contagion.



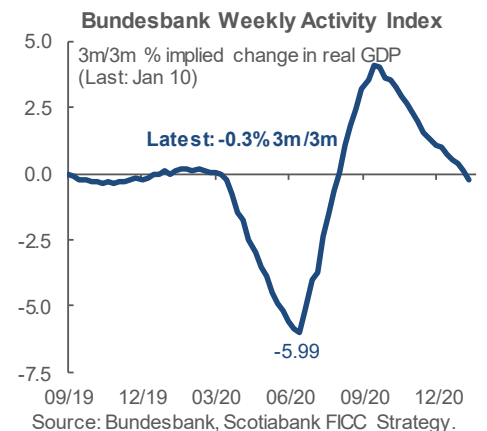
Germany Truck Mileage Index

- Daily truck mileage data for Germany—a close indicator of industrial production—maintains an upward trend (do ignore volatility in the series).



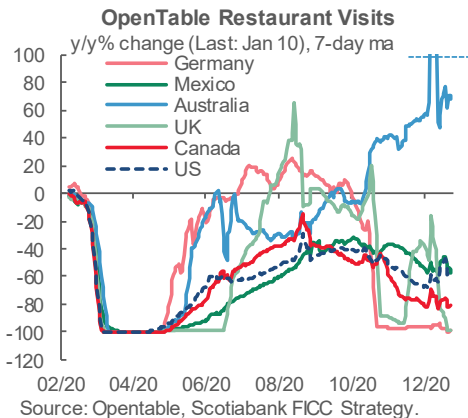
Bundesbank Activity Index

- The Bundesbank's high-frequency economic activity index estimates that the German economy is contracting by 0.3% on a 3m/3m basis, as of Jan 10, up from -6.0% roughly six months ago. The most recent data show that the German economy is contracting on a 3m/3m basis for the first time since late July reflecting an impact from the recent lockdown that may now be extended until late-March. The German economy is now on track to contract or post practically no growth in Q4 and Q1.



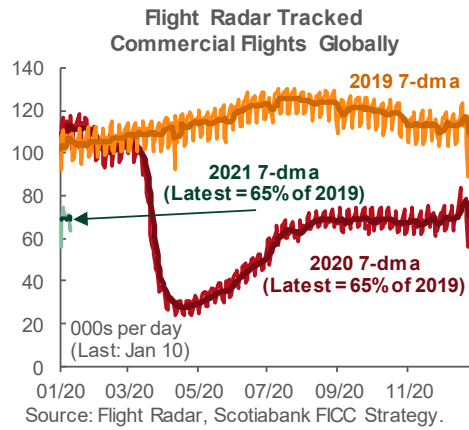
OpenTable Restaurant Visits

- Daily OpenTable restaurant foot traffic data points to Australia being the only ones out of the major countries that we track that are allowed to go to restaurants with the virus under control in the country. Visits have plummeted in Germany and the UK as restaurants are ordered closed—after a temporary reprieve in Britain. Restaurant visits in Canada now show a material impact from the closing of indoor dining in some provinces. US restaurant activity has also slowed with regional restrictions.



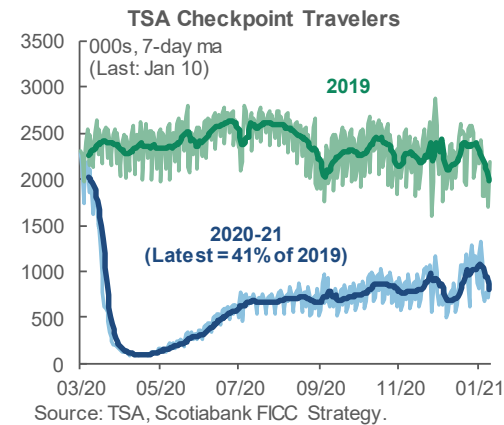
Flight Radar Commercial Flights

- Daily flights data from Flight Radar continues to show about a 30-40% decline in air travel amid travel restrictions and fears of contagion.



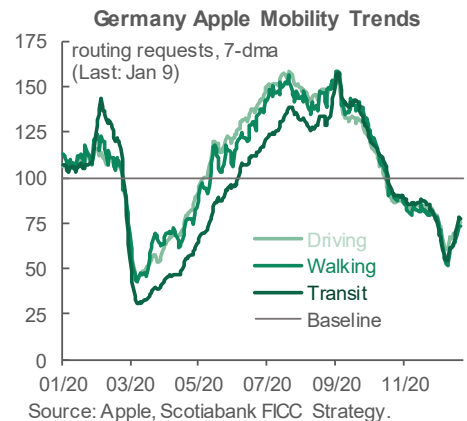
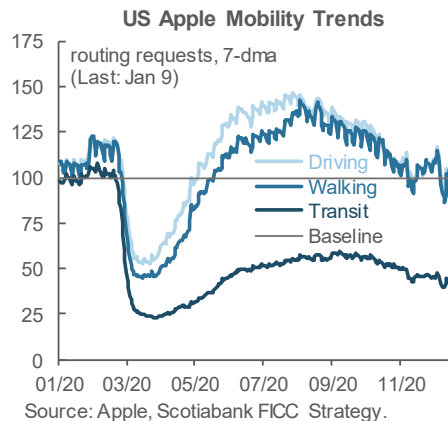
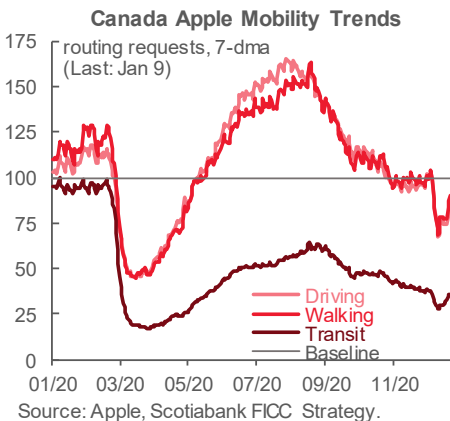
TSA Checkpoint Throughput

- Daily US TSA shows that traffic through US airports remains heavily subdued at about 40% when compared to 2019, having plateaued since July aside from the latest jump around the Holidays season which took the number of passengers to about half of 2019's level.



Apple Mobility Trends

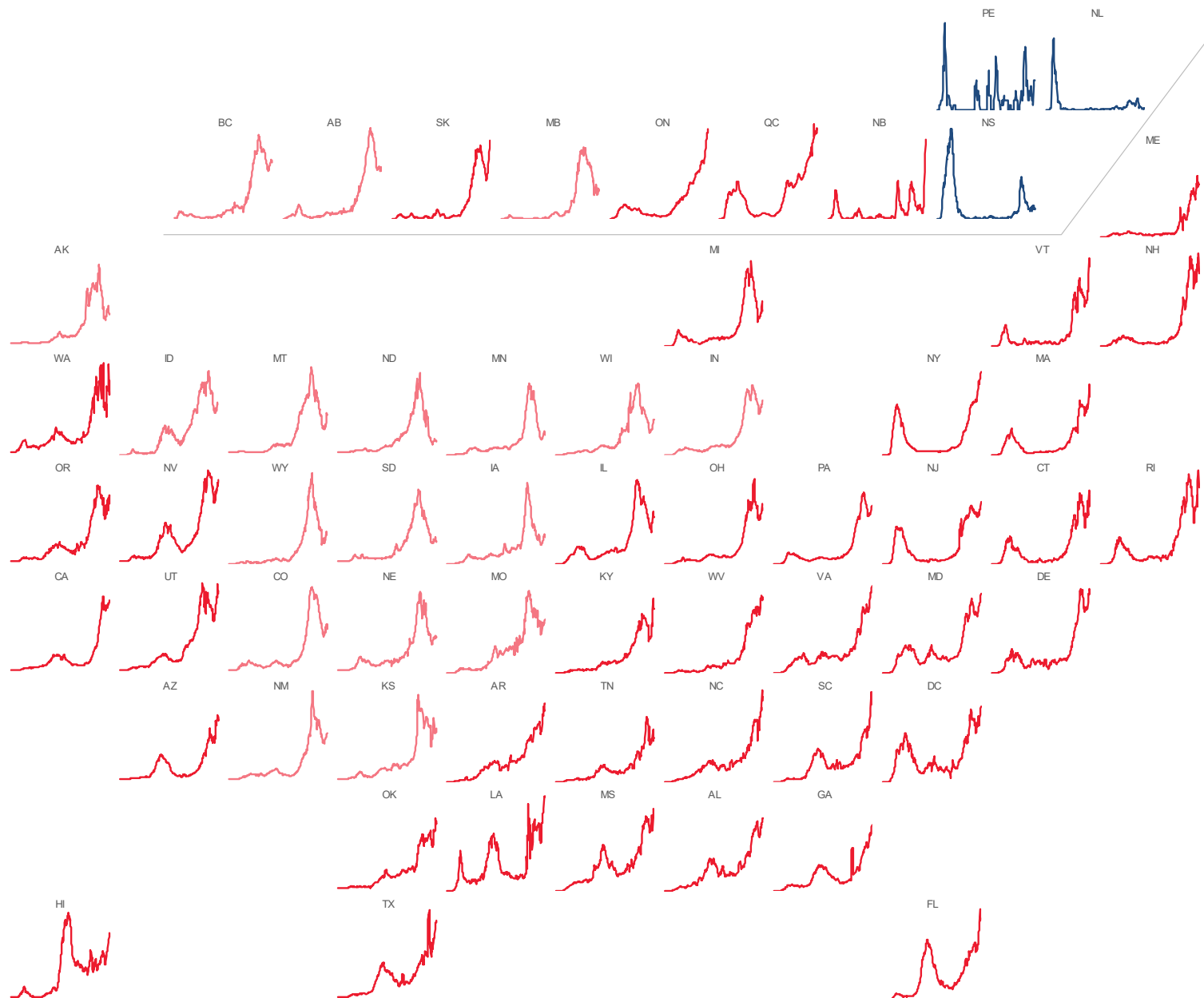
- Daily Apple data tracking Apple Maps routing requests shows that driving and walking mobility in Canada and Germany sits below their respective baseline levels of mid-January 2020 (though note holidays impact) while US mobility is around baseline.

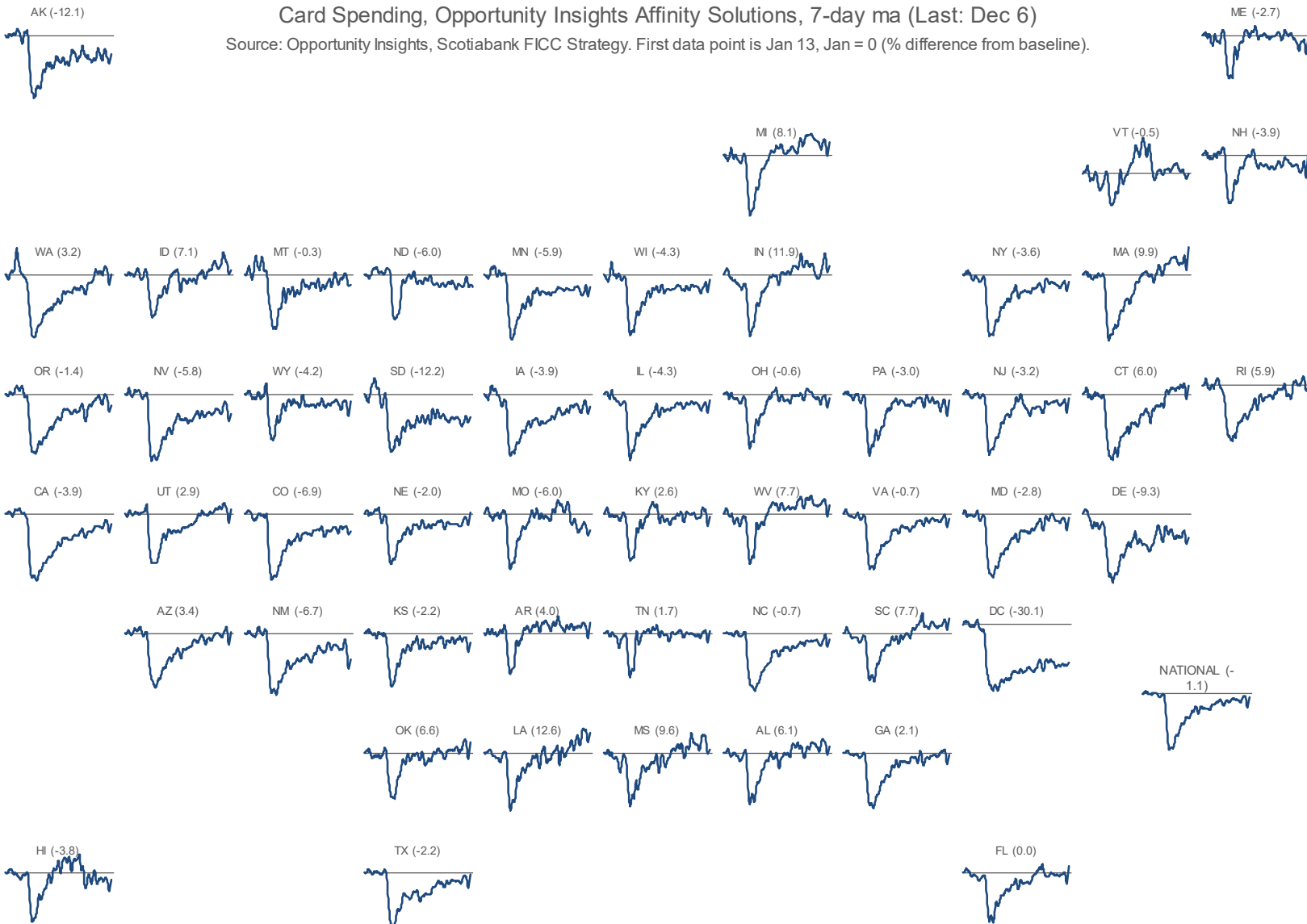




New Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by US State and Canadian Province, 7-day ma (Last: Jan 11)

Source: Bloomberg, Scotiabank FICC Strategy. First data point is March 3.





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