

Contributors

Jean-François Perrault
 SVP & Chief Economist
 Scotiabank Economics
 416.866.4214
jean-francois.perrault@scotiabank.com

Inflation Forcing Hands

- Despite a clear, but temporary, negative impact of Omicron on economic activity, it is clear that inflationary pressures are larger than earlier assessed and require a more robust monetary policy response.
- In Canada, we expect a 25bps move on January 26 followed by 150bps of additional tightening for the remainder of the year, for a total increase of 175bps this year. The policy rate should hit 2% by the end of 2022. Despite that path, the real policy rate would remain negative through the year.
- In the United States, we forecast a rate liftoff in March, and foresee a total increase of 175bps in 2022. A less robust labour market in the United States and a need to fully taper asset purchases explain the slightly less aggressive path for the Federal Reserve than the Bank of Canada.
- In both countries, inflation would remain uncomfortably high through 2023 even if rates rise as we predict.

With inflation on the rise and capacity pressures evident in a broad range of sectors, we now believe monetary policy settings in Canada and the United States will tighten sooner and to a greater extent in 2022 than earlier forecast (chart 1). The simple reality is that the very serious public health impacts of Omicron and the associated economic consequences do not outweigh the pressing need to withdraw monetary stimulus. Moreover, the economic impacts of Omicron are almost certain to be temporary, with lost ground made up rapidly once it passes, as was the case in previous COVID waves. As a consequence, we are scaling back our 2022 forecasts for growth in both the US and Canada, though first quarter growth rates will be the most substantially affected by the virus.

In Canada, economic momentum remains strong. Growth in the final quarter of 2021 is likely to have hit around 5.5%, well above our earlier forecasts despite the impacts of the BC floods and landslides and Omicron-related impacts late in the quarter. Though Omicron is expected to shave about 5 percentage points from the quarterly growth rate in Q1-2022, we nevertheless expect growth of 0.4% in that quarter. Much of the lost output in the first quarter will be made up in the second quarter or beyond, resulting in growth of 3.7% in 2022, followed by an expansion of 3.3% in 2023.

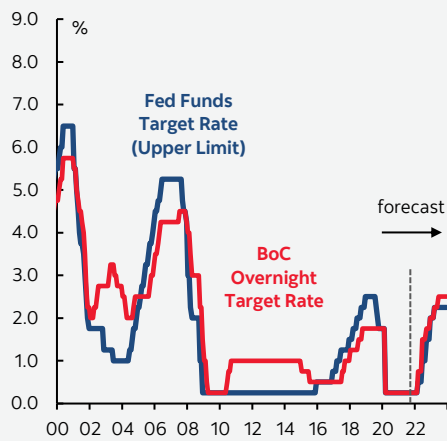
Many signs continue to suggest the economy is near or has already hit capacity constraints. The labour market was very robust in the final months of the year: Employment was well above pre-pandemic levels in December, the unemployment rate just a touch above where it was pre-pandemic, and the participation rate just a touch below pre-pandemic levels. Worker scarcity is now a critical challenge for firms, as the number of job vacancies and the job vacancy rate are at the highest levels since data have been collected. While there is mixed evidence of wage increases at present, it is clear that wages will need to rise substantially this year.

As a result of the views above, and some new research looking at [the impact of supplier delivery times on Canadian inflation](#), we expect that inflationary pressures will be more persistent than in earlier forecasts, with total CPI inflation averaging 4.3% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023. If we are right, inflation would be well outside the BoC's inflation control range this year and remain outside it next year. Indeed, recent BoC surveys confirm that inflation is a key worry for both firms and households. That may be an indication that inflation expectations are in need of more active management by the BoC.

The inflation outlook requires a more rapid withdrawal of stimulus than we have been forecasting. This is all the more important in light of the de facto, and inappropriate,

Chart 1

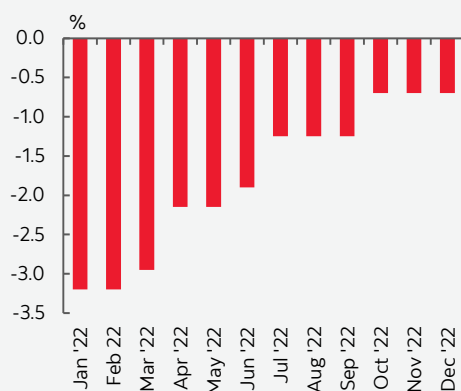
Fed & Bank of Canada Policy Rates



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Haver Analytics.

Chart 2

BoC Real Policy Rate*



*Calculated as BNS BoC rate forecast minus BNS rolling 1-yr ahead CPI forecast.
 Sources: Scotiabank Economics

January 19, 2022

increase in monetary stimulus that has been provided in the last few months as inflation forecasts have been ramped up despite unchanged policy rates, leading to a fall in the real policy rate (chart 2). With an interest rate increase almost fully priced in January, a pass by the BoC might actually loosen monetary conditions further if the CAD were to depreciate in response. We now forecast a 25bps increase in January, followed by a similar move in March and a 50bps move in April. A total of 175bps of tightening this year is expected, followed by another 50bps next year for year-end policy rates of 2% this year and 2.5% in 2023. Even with this pace of tightening, the real policy rate would remain negative at the end of this year.

In principle, the BoC is still operating under the guidance it had provided earlier that it would only raise its policy rate when the output gap is closed in Q2 or Q3, though Governor Macklem did not repeat this guidance in his December speech. Circumstances are such that we believe a move is necessary in January despite that guidance, which needs to be scrapped whether they move or not. Moreover, the BoC is also likely to raise its own inflation forecast in the Monetary Policy Report even if it scales back its growth forecast for 2022 on account of a temporary growth hit from Omicron. This would make absence of policy action in January all the more striking.

As robust as the economic case for movement next week is, there is a chance that the BoC chooses to delay action until there is less uncertainty regarding COVID. This is the only plausible explanation they could use to move later in the quarter, but as is made clear above, we think the inflation outlook means the BoC does not have the luxury to have greater clarity on the public health front before changing its policy. Moreover, early moves in the policy rate stand a greater chance of impacting the spring real estate market, a perhaps not altogether unwelcome development from the BoC's perspective.

We do not anticipate a linear move in policy rates as the year progresses. There will be 50bps moves and there will be pauses. The first of these 50bps moves could come in March or April. We have settled on April for the moment on the premise that economic data available in March will reflect the impacts of Omicron currently being felt. By April, there should be indicators showing the rebound underway from the current wave of the pandemic, giving Governor Macklem and his colleagues greater confidence that the economy requires a more rapid pace of stimulus withdrawal.

The Federal Reserve is also expected to raise interest rates substantially this year. We are now forecasting 175bps of tightening in the US, with a rate liftoff at their March meeting. Inflation has clearly spooked key FOMC members, with Chair Powell even noting that inflation was the greatest risk to achieving the full employment mandate in the US. The Fed must first completely taper its purchases before hiking, leading to a lag in relation to the BoC's moves. Additionally, given the Fed's dual mandate and the fact that US employment outcomes far lag those in Canada, there is slightly less urgency to the Fed acting. Hence our view that they move in March vs. a January lift off in Canada.

International												
	2010-19	2019	2020	2021e	2022f	2023f	2010-19	2019	2020	2021e	2022f	2023f
	Real GDP (annual % change)						Consumer Prices (y/y % change, year-end)					
World (based on purchasing power parity)	3.7	2.8	-3.1	6.2	4.3	3.8						
Canada	2.3	1.9	-5.2	4.6	3.7	3.3	1.7	2.1	0.8	4.7	3.9	2.7
United States	2.3	2.3	-3.4	5.6	3.9	3.3	1.7	2.0	1.2	6.7	4.8	3.1
Mexico	2.7	-0.2	-8.3	5.3	1.9	1.7	4.0	2.8	3.2	7.4	4.5	3.7
United Kingdom	2.0	1.7	-9.4	6.8	4.5	2.2	2.1	1.3	0.6	4.8	3.5	2.2
Eurozone	1.4	1.6	-6.5	5.7	4.2	2.7	1.3	1.3	-0.3	4.7	1.8	1.3
Germany	2.0	1.1	-5.0	3.2	4.0	2.2	1.3	1.5	-0.3	5.4	1.9	1.6
France	1.4	1.8	-8.0	7.9	4.1	2.1	1.2	1.5	0.0	3.3	1.5	1.3
China	7.7	6.0	2.3	8.1	5.1	5.3	2.7	4.5	0.2	1.5	2.3	2.4
India	7.0	4.7	-7.1	9.0	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.4	4.6	5.6	5.0	4.6
Japan	1.2	0.0	-4.7	2.0	2.5	1.3	0.6	0.8	-1.2	0.9	1.0	1.0
South Korea	3.3	2.2	-0.9	4.0	3.0	2.6	1.7	0.7	0.5	3.7	2.5	2.3
Australia	2.6	1.9	-2.3	4.1	3.0	2.8	2.1	1.8	0.9	3.0	2.4	2.5
Thailand	3.6	2.3	-6.1	1.2	4.4	4.0	1.5	0.9	-0.3	2.2	1.5	2.0
Brazil	1.4	1.2	-3.9	4.9	1.0	2.4	5.9	4.3	4.5	10.1	5.8	3.5
Colombia	3.7	3.3	-6.8	9.6	4.5	3.7	3.9	3.8	1.6	5.6	4.5	3.1
Peru	4.5	2.2	-11.1	13.3	2.6	2.8	2.9	1.9	2.0	6.4	4.2	3.0
Chile	3.3	1.0	-5.8	12.0	3.5	2.0	3.2	3.0	3.0	7.2	4.5	3.0
Argentina	1.4	-2.0	-9.9	9.2	1.8	1.4	26.1	53.8	36.1	50.9	36.9	30.6
Commodities												
	(annual average)											
WTI Oil (USD/bbl)	74	57	39	68	71	72						
Brent Oil (USD/bbl)	82	64	43	70	75	75						
WCS - WTI Discount (USD/bbl)	-18	-14	-12	-13	-15	-16						
Nymex Natural Gas (USD/mmbtu)	3.39	2.53	2.02	3.84	3.75	3.28						
Copper (USD/lb)	3.10	2.73	2.80	4.23	4.25	4.25						
Zinc (USD/lb)	1.02	1.16	1.03	1.36	1.50	1.40						
Nickel (USD/lb)	7.00	6.31	6.25	8.37	8.50	8.00						
Iron Ore (USD/tonne)	101	93	109	160	115	100						
Metallurgical Coal (USD/tonne)	179	185	127	204	250	175						
Gold, (USD/oz)	1,342	1,393	1,771	1,799	1,850	1,700						
Silver, (USD/oz)	21.64	16.21	20.48	25.15	25.00	23.00						

Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, BEA, BLS, IMF, Bloomberg.

North America												
	2010-19	2019	2020	2021e	2022f	2023f	2010-19	2019	2020	2021e	2022f	2023f
	Canada						United States					
	(annual % change, unless noted)						(annual % change, unless noted)					
Real GDP	2.3	1.9	-5.2	4.6	3.7	3.3	2.3	2.3	-3.4	5.6	3.9	3.3
Consumer spending	2.5	1.4	-6.1	5.4	7.0	3.0	2.2	2.2	-3.8	8.1	4.2	3.4
Residential investment	2.5	-0.3	4.3	14.6	-6.5	0.4	4.5	-0.9	6.8	9.2	0.0	2.9
Business investment*	2.9	1.6	-10.5	-0.5	2.2	6.5	5.2	4.3	-5.3	7.3	2.6	2.9
Government	1.1	0.8	0.9	4.9	1.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2	2.5	0.8	3.5	3.4
Exports	3.5	2.3	-9.7	1.4	7.8	5.7	3.8	-0.1	-13.6	3.5	4.1	4.8
Imports	3.7	0.4	-10.8	6.6	9.9	6.1	4.3	1.1	-8.9	13.3	5.4	4.2
Inventories, contribution to annual GDP growth	0.1	0.1	-1.8	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.1	-0.6	-0.2	0.4	0.0
Nominal GDP	4.0	3.4	-4.5	12.1	7.0	6.8	4.0	4.1	-2.2	9.9	9.5	6.3
GDP deflator	1.7	1.5	0.7	7.2	3.2	3.4	1.7	1.8	1.2	4.1	5.5	2.9
Consumer price index (CPI)	1.7	1.9	0.7	3.4	4.3	3.2	1.8	1.8	1.3	4.7	5.7	3.7
Core inflation rate**	1.7	1.9	1.7	2.4	3.1	2.9	1.6	1.7	1.4	3.3	3.7	2.6
Pre-tax corporate profits	6.3	-0.6	-1.9	30.6	-0.6	5.2	5.7	2.7	-5.2	25.2	7.1	4.1
Employment	1.3	2.2	-5.1	4.8	3.7	1.7	1.5	1.3	-5.7	2.7	2.9	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)	6.9	5.7	9.6	7.4	5.4	4.9	6.2	3.7	8.1	5.4	4.0	3.9
Current account balance (CAD, USD bn)	-57.0	-47.0	-39.4	7.1	-14.8	-25.2	-409	-472	-616	-824	-911	-943
Merchandise trade balance (CAD, USD bn)	-13.6	-18.4	-39.8	8.9	2.6	1.7	-763	-862	-922	-1096	-1170	-1228
Federal budget balance (FY, CAD, USD bn) ***	-18.7	-39.4	-327.7	-144.5	-58.4	-43.9	-829	-984	-3,129	-2,800	-1,099	-747
percent of GDP	-1.0	-1.8	-14.9	-5.8	-2.2	-1.6	-4.8	-4.6	-15.0	-12.2	-4.4	-2.8
Housing starts (000s, mn)	201	209	220	273	220	199	0.99	1.29	1.40	1.57	1.53	1.50
Motor vehicle sales (000s, mn)	1,816	1,913	1,566	1,668	1,745	1,922	15.7	16.9	14.5	15.0	15.5	17.6
Industrial production	2.4	-0.2	-8.1	4.9	4.0	3.7	1.7	-0.8	-7.2	5.6	3.6	2.4
	Mexico											
	(annual % change)											
Real GDP	2.7	-0.2	-8.3	5.3	1.9	1.7						
Consumer price index (year-end)	4.0	2.8	3.2	7.4	4.5	3.7						
Current account balance (USD bn)	-19.7	-4.0	26.2	0.5	-6.2	-8.5						
Merchandise trade balance (USD bn)	-5.6	5.4	34.0	-10.5	-9.8	-12.4						

Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, CMHC, BEA, BLS, Bloomberg. *For Canada it includes capital expenditures by businesses and non-profit institutions.
 ** US: core PCE deflator; Canada: average of 3 core measures published by the BoC. *** In order to align with US reporting, as of the August 2020 issue of Scotiabank's Forecast Tables, Canadian Federal and Provincial Budget Balances for FY2020/21 are noted in calendar year 2020, FY2021/22 in calendar year 2021.

Quarterly Forecasts																
	2020				2021				2022				2023			
Canada	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4e	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f			
Real GDP (q/q ann. % change)	9.1	4.9	-3.2	5.4	5.5	0.4	7.1	4.6	3.8	3.2	2.6	1.7	1.9			
Real GDP (y/y % change)	-3.1	0.3	11.8	4.0	3.1	2.0	4.6	4.3	3.9	4.6	3.5	2.8	2.3			
Consumer prices (y/y % change)	0.8	1.4	3.3	4.1	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.0	2.7			
CPI-common (y/y % change)*	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7			
Average of new core CPIs (y/y % change)	1.7	1.8	2.3	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7			
CPIXFET (y/y % change)	1.1	1.0	2.1	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.0			
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.8	8.4	8.0	7.2	6.2	6.2	5.5	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0			
United States																
Real GDP (q/q ann. % change)	4.5	6.3	6.7	2.3	5.5	1.6	5.5	3.9	4.0	3.3	2.8	2.2	2.0			
Real GDP (y/y % change)	-2.3	0.5	12.2	4.9	5.2	4.0	3.7	4.1	3.7	4.1	3.5	3.1	2.6			
Consumer prices (y/y % change)	1.2	1.9	4.8	5.3	6.7	6.6	5.9	5.4	4.8	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.1			
Total PCE deflator (y/y % change)	1.2	1.8	3.9	4.3	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.8	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.1	2.8			
Core PCE deflator (y/y % change)	1.4	1.7	3.4	3.6	4.6	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.5			
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.8	6.2	5.9	5.1	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8			

* Refers to BoC's common component of CPI inflation, average of 3 core measures published by the BoC, CPI ex. food, energy and indirect taxes. Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, BEA, BLS, Bloomberg.

Central Bank Rates													
	2020		2021			2022				2023			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f
						(% end of period)							
Americas													
Bank of Canada	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.50	2.50
US Federal Reserve (upper bound)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
Bank of Mexico	4.25	4.00	4.25	4.75	5.50	6.00	6.50	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75
Central Bank of Brazil	2.00	2.75	4.25	6.25	9.25	11.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.25	10.50	9.50
Bank of the Republic of Colombia	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	3.00	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Central Reserve Bank of Peru	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.00	2.50	4.00	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Central Bank of Chile	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.50	4.00	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.00	5.50	5.00	4.50	3.50
Central Bank of Argentina	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	44.00	46.00	48.00	46.00	44.00	40.00	38.00	36.00
Europe													
European Central Bank MRO Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Central Bank Deposit Rate	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50
Bank of England	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25
Asia/Oceania													
Reserve Bank of Australia	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00
Bank of Japan	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10
People's Bank of China	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.80	3.80	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Reserve Bank of India	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.25	4.50	4.75	5.00	5.25	5.25	5.25
Bank of Korea	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.50	2.50
Bank of Thailand	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.50
Currencies and Interest Rates													
						(end of period)							
Americas													
Canadian dollar (USDCAD)	1.27	1.26	1.24	1.27	1.26	1.22	1.21	1.20	1.20	1.22	1.22	1.23	1.23
Canadian dollar (CADUSD)	0.79	0.80	0.81	0.79	0.79	0.82	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81
Mexican peso (USDMXN)	19.91	20.43	19.94	20.64	20.53	20.13	20.82	21.21	21.52	21.69	21.87	21.84	22.21
Brazilian real (USDBRL)	5.19	5.63	4.97	5.44	5.57	5.68	5.71	5.72	5.68	5.65	5.57	5.48	5.40
Colombian peso (USDCOP)	3,428	3,663	3,755	3,809	4,065	4,054	3,933	3,770	3,755	3,750	3,690	3,650	3,600
Peruvian sol (USDPEN)	3.62	3.74	3.87	4.13	4.00	3.80	3.75	3.85	3.80	3.75	3.80	3.75	3.70
Chilean peso (USDCLP)	711	719	734	810	852	800	800	790	780	770	760	750	750
Argentine Peso (USDARS)	84.15	91.99	95.72	98.74	102.74	116.20	124.80	144.60	162.00	192.00	189.00	181.00	178.00
Europe													
Euro (EURUSD)	1.22	1.17	1.19	1.16	1.14	1.12	1.10	1.09	1.08	1.08	1.09	1.09	1.10
UK pound (GBPUSD)	1.37	1.38	1.38	1.35	1.35	1.33	1.34	1.36	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.40	1.40
Asia/Oceania													
Japanese yen (USDJPY)	103	111	111	111	115	113	115	116	118	118	118	120	120
Australian dollar (AUDUSD)	0.77	0.76	0.75	0.72	0.73	0.70	0.70	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.74	0.74
Chinese yuan (USDCNY)	6.53	6.55	6.46	6.44	6.36	6.30	6.40	6.50	6.30	6.20	6.20	6.10	6.10
Indian rupee (USDINR)	73.1	73.1	74.3	74.2	74.3	72.0	74.0	76.0	72.0	70.0	70.0	68.0	68.0
South Korean won (USDKRW)	1,087	1,132	1,126	1,184	1,189	1,160	1,180	1,200	1,160	1,140	1,140	1,120	1,120
Thai baht (USDTHB)	30.0	31.2	32.1	33.8	33.4	32.0	33.0	34.0	32.0	31.0	31.0	30.0	30.0
Canada (Yields, %)													
3-month T-bill	0.07	0.09	0.14	0.12	0.19	0.95	1.60	1.85	2.15	2.35	2.50	2.50	2.50
2-year Canada	0.20	0.22	0.45	0.40	0.95	1.90	2.10	2.25	2.40	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55
5-year Canada	0.39	0.99	0.98	1.10	1.26	2.10	2.20	2.35	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60
10-year Canada	0.68	1.56	1.39	1.51	1.42	2.15	2.30	2.40	2.55	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65
30-year Canada	1.21	1.98	1.84	1.99	1.68	2.20	2.40	2.50	2.65	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.60
United States (Yields, %)													
3-month T-bill	0.08	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.55	1.10	1.60	2.05	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
2-year Treasury	0.12	0.16	0.25	0.53	0.73	1.30	1.60	1.85	2.15	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30
5-year Treasury	0.36	0.94	0.89	0.96	1.26	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.25	2.35	2.35	2.35	2.35
10-year Treasury	0.91	1.74	1.47	1.49	1.51	2.00	2.10	2.25	2.40	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.40
30-year Treasury	1.64	2.41	2.09	2.04	1.90	2.25	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.55	2.55	2.50	2.45

Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Bloomberg.

January 19, 2022

The Provinces											
	(annual % change except where noted)										
	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC
Real GDP											
2010–19	2.3	1.0	2.2	1.2	0.7	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.6	2.9
2019	1.9	3.3	4.7	3.0	1.3	2.8	2.0	0.4	-1.1	-0.1	3.1
2020	-5.2	-5.4	-1.7	-2.5	-3.2	-5.5	-5.1	-4.6	-4.9	-7.9	-3.4
2021e	4.6	2.6	3.3	3.6	3.5	6.1	4.3	3.9	4.1	5.1	4.3
2022f	3.7	2.2	2.8	2.6	2.5	3.1	3.8	3.5	4.4	4.4	4.5
2023f	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.1	1.9	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.6
Nominal GDP											
2010–19	4.0	3.5	4.2	2.9	2.8	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.3	3.6	4.6
2019	3.4	2.3	6.6	3.7	2.4	4.7	3.7	0.7	-0.4	1.5	4.6
2020	-4.5	-10.7	0.9	0.7	-1.3	-2.4	-2.8	-1.4	-6.6	-16.1	-0.5
2021e	12.1	15.9	7.8	8.9	9.2	11.0	11.0	9.0	14.4	18.1	12.0
2022f	7.0	5.7	4.8	4.7	4.5	6.1	6.9	6.1	8.3	8.5	8.4
2023f	6.8	5.9	5.5	4.9	4.6	6.7	7.0	5.9	6.6	6.8	7.3
Employment											
2010–19	1.3	0.6	1.5	0.3	0.0	1.2	1.4	0.9	0.8	1.2	2.0
2019	2.2	1.1	3.3	2.3	0.8	2.0	2.8	1.0	1.9	0.7	3.0
2020	-5.1	-5.7	-3.2	-4.7	-2.6	-4.8	-4.8	-3.7	-4.7	-6.6	-6.6
2021	4.8	2.8	3.6	5.4	2.5	4.1	4.9	3.5	2.6	5.1	6.6
2022f	3.7	2.4	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.5	3.9	3.3	3.8	4.0	3.8
2023f	1.7	0.9	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.9
Unemployment Rate (%)											
2010–19	6.9	13.3	10.6	8.7	9.4	7.1	7.0	5.6	5.3	6.2	6.1
2019	5.7	12.3	8.7	7.4	8.1	5.1	5.6	5.3	5.6	7.0	4.7
2020	9.6	14.1	10.4	9.8	10.0	8.9	9.6	8.0	8.4	11.4	8.9
2021	7.4	12.9	9.2	8.4	9.0	6.1	8.0	6.4	6.5	8.7	6.5
2022f	5.4	11.4	7.8	6.9	7.6	4.4	5.7	4.5	4.5	6.4	4.8
2023f	4.9	10.9	7.3	6.4	7.0	4.1	5.0	4.1	4.0	5.6	4.4
Total CPI, annual average											
2010–19	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6
2019	1.9	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.7	2.1	1.9	2.3	1.7	1.7	2.3
2020	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.8
2021	3.4	3.7	5.1	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.2	2.6	3.2	2.8
2022f	4.3	4.0	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.1	3.4	4.0	3.5
2023f	3.2	3.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.6
Housing Starts (units, 000s)											
2010–19	201	2.2	0.8	4.2	2.7	44	70	6.6	6.0	31	34
2019	209	0.9	1.5	4.7	2.9	48	69	6.9	2.4	27	45
2020	220	0.8	1.2	4.8	3.5	53	81	7.3	3.1	24	38
2021e	273	1.2	1.2	5.3	3.9	71	101	7.7	4.2	32	46
2022f	220	1.1	1.1	4.3	3.6	55	75	6.0	4.3	32	38
2023f	199	1.0	1.0	3.8	3.0	48	68	4.5	3.5	30	36
Motor Vehicle Sales (units, 000s)											
2010–19	1,816	33	7	51	41	432	715	55	53	237	194
2019	1,913	31	8	51	41	455	848	58	49	223	216
2020	1,566	27	7	40	35	376	652	47	42	184	178
2021e	1,668	28	8	43	37	403	664	47	41	193	204
2022f	1,745	28	8	45	38	423	695	49	43	202	214
2023f	1,922	29	9	48	40	467	770	53	47	223	236
Budget Balances, (CAD mn)											
2019*	-39,392	-1,383	22	3	49	-523	-8,672	5	-319	-12,152	-321
2020	-327,729	-1,492	-6	-342	409	-7,539	-16,404	-2,117	-1,127	-16,962	-5,468
2021f	-144,500	-595	-61	108	38	-6,847	-21,499	-1,123	-2,708	-5,822	-1,732
2022f	-58,400	-587	-46	-218	-296	-5,547	-19,600	-374	-1,685	-3,277	-5,484

* NL budget balance in 2019 is net of one-time revenue boost via *Atlantic Accord*.

Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, CMHC, Budget documents; Quebec budget balance figures are after Generations Fund and before Stabilization Reserve transfers.

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