
July 17, 2026

Commentary

Weekly Economic Perspectives

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Weekly Highlights

Inflation relief in the US is welcome, but risks remain prominent.

US: Headline CPI
Inflation (Jun, y/y)

3.5%

Better than expected

US: Core CPI Inflation
(Jun, y/y)

2.6%

Better than expected.

US: PPI Final Demand
(Jun, y/y)

5.5%

Better than expected.

CA: Bank of Canada
Rate Decision

2.25%

On hold.

UK: Industrial
Production (May, m/m)

-0.5%

Weaker than expected.

UK: Manufacturing
production (May, m/m)

0.1%

Modestly increased.

JP: Industrial Production
(May, m/m)

0.1%

OK, not great.

JP: Core Machinery
Orders (May, m/m)

-12.4%

Pullback after strong run

JP: Tertiary Industry
Index (May, m/m)

1.1%

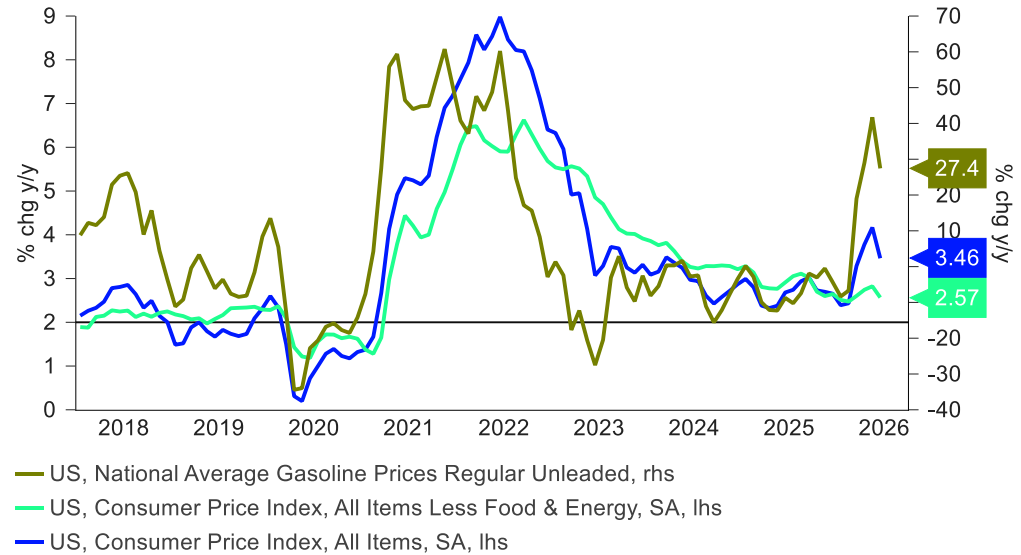
Up 1.5% y/y.

**US: Tamer Inflation
Buys Fed Some Time**

The marquee inflation releases for June brought some much-needed relief. Overall consumer prices declined 0.4% m/m, allowing headline CPI inflation to decelerate from 4.2% y/y to 3.5% y/y. Core prices eased 0.1% /m/m and the core inflation rate retreated three tenths to 2.6% y/y. Lower energy prices helped tremendously as gasoline prices dropped 9.7% m/m, but the real news was that service prices were flat during the month and shelter costs rose just 0.1% m/m. This is especially encouraging as the anticipated improvement in this sector following a period of data distortions is now manifesting. Producer price inflation (final demand) also came in better than expected at 5.5% y/y following a downwardly revised 6.0 y/y May print. The combination points to a modest rise in the core PCE in June.

As Chair Warsh indicated in his testimony, this is far from “mission accomplished” on inflation. But it is an important respite, nonetheless, removing urgency for Fed rate hikes. By the end of the workweek, the probability of a July hike had fallen to about 10%, from a recent high of about 40%. News of renewed hostilities between US and Iran re-introduce energy price risks into the picture, but we still believe that hikes can be avoided this year.

Figure 1: US Inflation Retreats From Recent Highs



Source: Macrobond, State Street Investment Management, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Canada: BoC on Hold

The BoC remains in wait-and-see mode, but the bank's growth tone was modestly more constructive than in June. The latest blockade has lifted oil prices, adding upside risk to the BoC's assumptions. Still, with the economy below capacity and core inflation near target, we expect the Bank to stay on hold through year-end.

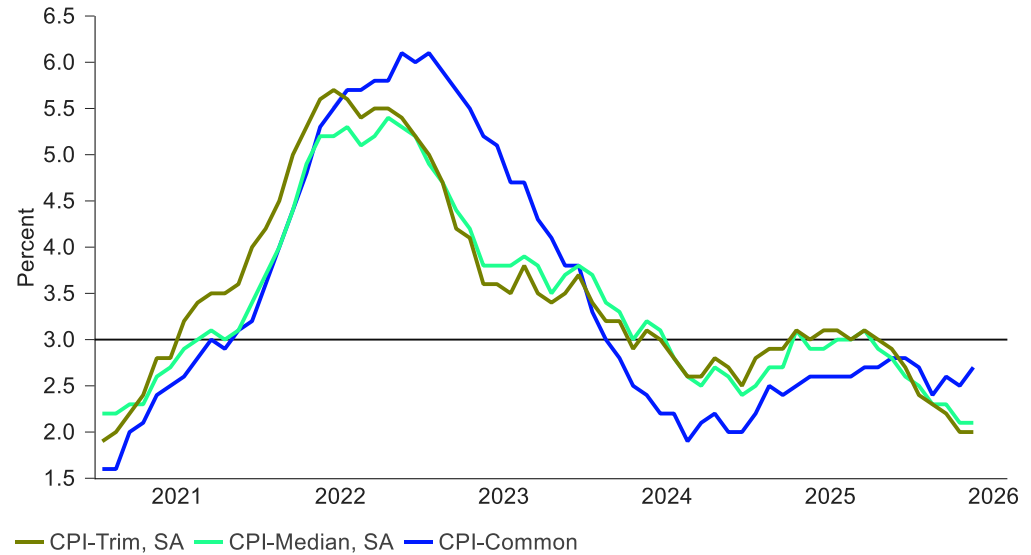
The BoC left its policy rate unchanged at 2.25% and pointed to a modest rebound after the soft start to the year. Although labor market slack remains, stronger exports, resilient consumption, and firmer business investment should support second-quarter GDP growth.

The updated Monetary Policy Report kept Canada's growth outlook "broadly unchanged". Near-term growth was revised lower after the weak first quarter, but activity is still expected to strengthen in the second half of 2026. Over time, excess capacity should be absorbed as exports, spending, and business investment recover, though uncertainty remains the key caveat.

Inflation tells a story of near-term pressure but limited persistence. CPI remains elevated, largely due to earlier energy price increases, and the Bank assumes some war-related cost pressures will pass through to consumers. Even so, it expects CPI to "ease gradually in the coming months, returning to around 2% in early 2027". Broader pass-through remains limited, core inflation is near target, and "longer-term inflation expectations remain well anchored".

Governing Council reiterated that policy can respond if the outlook shifts materially. US trade uncertainty remains a downside risk, but the Bank stands ready to "adjust monetary policy as needed".

Figure 2: BoC's Core Inflation Measures Remain Below 3%

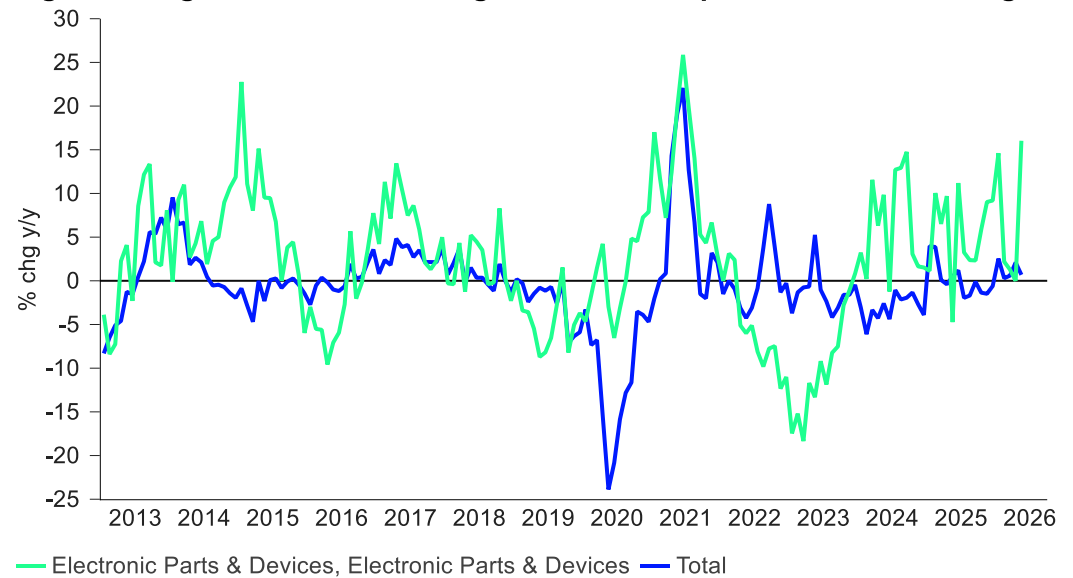


Source: Macrobond, State Street Investment Management, Statistics Canada

Japan: Some Loss of Industrial Sector Momentum

Total industrial production (mining and manufacturing) advanced 0.1% in May, leaving it 0.8% higher than a year earlier. Manufacturing production itself has also settled in a similar range, up 0.8% y/y, but with substantial performance differentiation within manufacturing (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Big Performance Divergence Within Japanese Manufacturing



Source: Macrobond, State Street Investment Management, Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry

When combined with the sharp pullback in core machinery orders—down 12.4% in May—the signal appears to be one of a temporary loss of momentum in the manufacturing activity space. Part of this may simply reflect a normal pullback in orders following a really good run recently, so it is important to not make too much of these softer prints.

Week in Review

A summary of macro data releases from the past week.

Country	Release (Date, format)	Consensus	Actual	Last	Comments
Monday, Jul 13					
US	Federal Budget Balance (Jun, \$ bn)	-129.0	-120.3	27.0	Oct-June deficit marginally worse than in 2025.
Tuesday, Jul 14					
US	CPI (Jun, y/y)	3.8%	3.5%	4.2%	Welcome news. Core inflation eased to 2.6%.
US	NFIB (Jun)	95.7	97.4	95.3	Pretty broad-based improvement.
JN	Industrial Production (May, m/m, final)	n/a	0.1%	0.5%	Lost some momentum.
AU	Westpac Consumer Conf (Jul, m/m sa)	n/a	4.1%	-2.9%	Still down materially from a year earlier.
Wednesday, Jul 15					
US	Empire Manufacturing (Jul)	9.2	15.6	5.7	Price metrics eased.
US	PPI Final Demand (Jun, y/y)	6.2%	5.5%	6.0% (↓)	Welcome news.
CA	Bank of Canada Rate Decision	2.25%	2.25%	2.25%	In line with expectations
JN	Core Machine Orders (May, m/m)	-4.2%	-12.4%	8.7%	Big pullback but likely temporary.
Thursday, Jul 16					
US	Retail Sales Advance (Jun, m/m)	0.2%	0.2%	1.0% (↑)	Decent.
US	Initial Jobless Claims (Jul 11, thous)	217	208	215	Low.
US	Continuing Claims (Jul 04, thous)	1,820	1,805	1,821	Low.
US	NAHB Index (Jul)	35	34	36 (↑)	Struggling amid high rates.
US	Philly Fed Index (Jul)	12.5	41.4	10.3	Strong details.
UK	Industrial Production (May, m/m)	-0.1%	-0.5%	0.2%	Weak.
Friday, Jul 17					
US	Import Price (Jun, y/y)	6.5%	7.1%	6.6%	Big surge in Chinese import prices.
US	Housing Starts (Jun, thous)	1,312	1,427	1,199 (↑)	Strong rebound from very weak level.
US	Industrial Production (Jun, m/m)	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	Modest.
US	U. of Mich. Sentiment (Jul, prelim)	51.0	54.4	49.5	Inflation expectations improved.

Source: data, Bloomberg®; for commentary, SSGA Economics.

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