
April 1, 2022
Commentary

Weekly Economic Perspectives

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US employment robust, manufacturing activity slows. Strong manufacturing sector drives Canadian economic expansion in January. UK mortgage demand weakens amid high prices, rising rates. German consumer confidence, spending, dented by high inflation. Japanese manufacturing sentiment worsens. Another strong retail sales report in Australia.

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US service activity might accelerate. Canadian unemployment rate set to retreat further. The RBA will leave the cash rate unchanged, but a less dovish tone should emerge.

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The Economy

Another week of data indicating intense inflation pressures.

US

The labor market remains extremely strong, with labor demand far exceeding supply. The **JOLTS (Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey)** data make this demand-supply imbalance blatantly clear. Job openings remained at an incredibly elevated level—barely off recent records, in fact—at 11.3 million in February. Hiring improved but do did quits so no wonder that we didn't have a more meaningful pullback in opening. In other words, the hiring we are seeing is not so much about net new additions, but rather, keeping up with churn. Good for job seekers, not so good for hiring managers...

All things considered, the March **employment report** came in remarkably close to expectations. There was a miss in the top line number (431k versus the 490k Bloomberg consensus) but s95k upward revision to prior months balanced that out.

Private payrolls increased by 426k and government added 5k. Within the private sector, goods producing sectors added 60k jobs, two thirds of which in manufacturing. Employment in service industries moderated sharply to 366k (vs 637k in February), with slowdowns evident across the board. In a sense there was almost a feel that March exhibited a delayed Omicron impact as we'd have expected some of this softness last month instead...Perhaps another reminder to not take any monthly report for more than what it is—one of many.

It was great to see another tenth improvement in the participation rate, now at 62.4%. Slow but steady is better than none...even though of course we'd like to see more, faster. Even so, the **unemployment rate** retreated two tenths to 3.6%. It was also a bit reassuring that wage growth came in as expected at 0.4% m/m and not higher. Yes, the prior month was revised up a tick, but only to 0.1%, so the early signs of sequential wage growth moderation are still in place. We'll be watching this space very carefully; evidence of a slowdown in wage growth would help diminish concerns around a price-wage spiral and could allow the Fed to recalibrate the tightening pace in a more dovish direction later this year (late Q3?).

The workweek declined so, despite more people working, aggregate hours were unchanged. We look to this plus nominal wage growth to build estimates for wage and salary income. March is shaping up to be softer than February. And we look to wage and salary income to form a view of consumption trends. Today's report does not alter our perception that the consumer demand backdrop is slowly softening.

This report probably favors the hawks among FOMC members insofar as the unemployment rate dipped further below the estimated neutral level. But the doves (if any even remain) weren't completely crushed either as signs of improved labor supply and slight wage growth moderation offer them some hope.

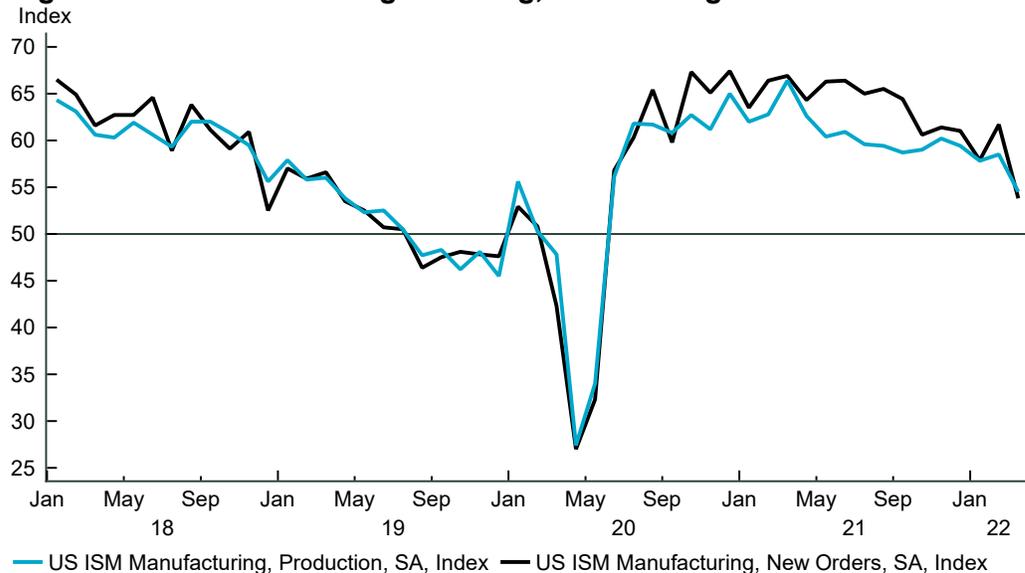
The strong labor market goes a long way to explain the resilience in the **Conference Board consumer confidence index**, especially when contrasted with the far softer, more inflation-sensitive, Michigan survey. Indeed, the Conference Board index actually managed to improve slightly in March. The details were a little contradictory, though, insofar the present situation metric jumped 10.0 points to an eight-month high but expectations lost another 4.2-point for the third consecutive sizable retreat. Most impressively, the labor differential—which measures the difference between those

who think jobs are abundant and those who think jobs are scarce—surged 5.9 points and in the process soared past the prior historical record by a wide margin. Anyone interested in getting a job should have no problem whatsoever finding one.

Nominal **personal income** grew 0.5% in February, aided by a 0.8% rise in wage and salary income. Rising employment drove this increase. However, elevated inflation more than offset these gains, leaving real disposable income 0.2% lower than in January. Nominal **spending** was a little softer than expected in February (a 0.2% increase vs 0.5% expected) but this was more than made up for by a six-tenth upward revision to the January data. The **personal savings rate** rose two tenths, but from a downwardly revised January and only to 6.3%, the second lowest level since 2013. Price pressure remain intense. Headline PCE (personal consumption expenditure) prices rose 0.6% and core PCE prices increased 0.4%, leaving the two respective measures of inflation stood at 6.4% and 5.4% y/y, respectively. The former is now the highest since January 1982 and the latter is the highest since April 1983.

The **ISM manufacturing index** more than unwound its February gain in March, retreating 1.5 points to an eighteen-month low of 57.1. The best part of the report was the 3.4-point jump in the employment metric, now at a year-high of 56.3. But the other details were more troublesome. The new orders measure plunged 7.9 points to 53.8, the lowest level since May of 2020, but still in expansion territory. The output metric retreated 4.0 points, the largest monthly drop since April 2020 and the lowest level since May 2020. Is this showing the impact of the Ukraine invasion? Probably, although, oddly enough, new export orders declined less and only to 53.2. Other parts of the report offered mixed signals on the supply chain situation: backlogs grew but at a slower pace, inventories rose at a faster pace, and prices surged, moving back near recent record highs. The most ominous signs came from some of the comments like this one from a miscellaneous manufacturing respondent: “The supply situation is getting worse, with lead times extending over 12 months, material not available, and suppliers not quoting or taking orders. Prices on the rise daily.” Wow!

Figure 1: US Manufacturing: Growing, But Slowing



Home price appreciation remains extremely high for now, though rising mortgage rates seem bound to cap future price gains even in today's low inventory market. The **Case-Shiller 20-City composite price index** rose 1.8% in January, leaving prices 19.1% y/y. According to the **FHFA**, existing single family home prices jumped 1.6% in January, marking an acceleration from recent months. We suspect this reflect buyers trying to front-run the rise in mortgage rates following the Fed's hawkish pivot in December. Prices were 18.2% higher y/y, a five-month high, but still more than a percentage point below mid-2021 levels.

The final revision to **fourth-quarter GDP** was insignificant at first glance but a little more meaningful in the details. The headline growth rate was revised down by a tenth to 6.9% saar—not much of a change and still an extremely strong print. But private consumption growth was revised down from 3.1% to 2.5% and the inventory contribution was even larger, adding 5.3 percentage points to quarterly growth. It is this dynamic that is concerning for future growth expectations as an inventory buildup in excess of final sales is not sustainable.

Canada

The economy grew 0.2% in January on the strength of goods-producing industries. Goods-producing sectors jumped 0.8% while service-producing sectors were flat. Construction expanded 2.8% in January, the third increase in the last four months. Wholesale trade grew 3.1%, the largest monthly gain since July 2020 and the sixth consecutive monthly expansion. Utilities soared 4%, the most since January 2016. Retail trade increased 2.5%, largely unwinding the prior month's decline. Meanwhile, services sector such as accommodation and food services were down 11.5% in January, the largest decline since April 2020. Transportation and warehousing services fell 3.0% in January after seven months of growth, with lower air transportation and public transportation contributing the most to the decline. The divergence reflects the uneven impact of Omicron across sectors.

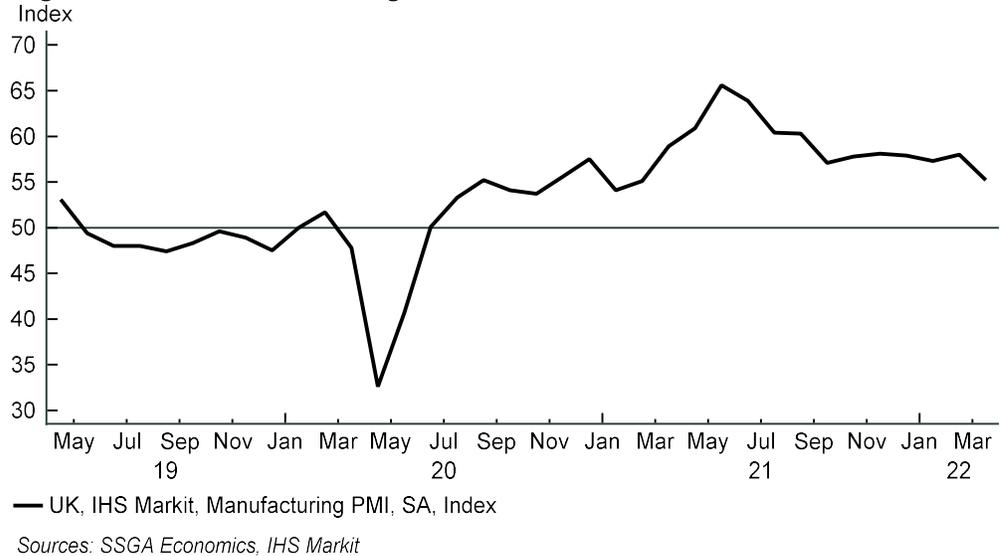
UK

House prices rose 14.3% y/y, the fastest rate since 2004, supported by low interest rates, tax breaks, strong household savings and high wage growth. On a monthly basis, the **nationwide house price index** increased 1.1%, more than twice the expected rate. However, given surging inflation and interest rate hikes, housing market is expected to slow down in upcoming months. Mortgage approvals fell to 71,000 in February, from 73,800 in January, weaker than expectations, indicating housing market started to lose its heat.

March saw a marked deceleration in the UK manufacturing sector, with lower rates of expansion for output and new orders while new export business contracted for the second successive month. The final **manufacturing PMI** reading touched a 13-month low of 55.2 in March, down from 58.0 in February and slightly lower than the flash estimate of 55.5. In fact, manufacturing production's rate of increase eased to a five-month low with marked slowdown seen in consumer goods. New orders rose at the slowest rate in 14 months as domestic demand was less robust while new export orders contracted for the sixth time in the past seven months. Inflationary pressures intensified: input prices rose for the twenty-eighth consecutive month, and selling prices re-accelerated. Meanwhile, job creation is holding up better, with a further solid increase in March, as companies continue to respond to continued growth. Business

sentiment fell to 14-month low as ongoing supply shortages, escalating inflationary pressures and geopolitical tensions impacted the upturn.

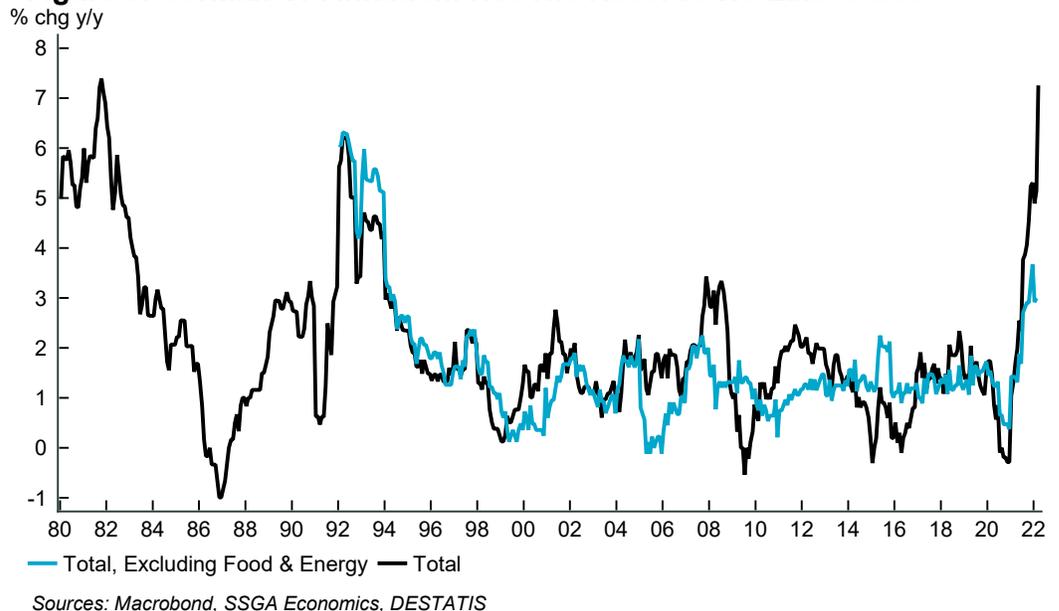
Figure 2: UK Manufacturing Downshifted In March



Eurozone

With **German consumer price inflation** spiking to a far higher than anticipated 7.3% y/y in March and a war raging not too far from home, it is not surprising to see consumer confidence tumbling. Indeed, the **German GfK Consumer Confidence** index lost 7.0 points to -15.5, the twin lowest level since February 2021.

Figure 3: German CPI Inflation: Not The Records We Like to See



Unfortunately, German consumers' spending habits are tracking their gloomy mood. There is just no let-up in the disappointing string of German **retail sales** data. Real retail sales excluding motor vehicles have yet to regain their recent peak in June. They rose a meager 0.3% in February, which wouldn't have been so bitter pill to swallow if not for the huge downward revision to the January data. Originally, sales were reported to have risen 2.1% that month, but it turns out they were actually flat. As we remarked last month, inflation seems to be even deadlier for German retail sales than Covid was!

By contrast, the labor market remains strong. The **German unemployment rate** was unchanged at a low 5.0% in March, but the seasonally unadjusted rate, which garners more attention domestically, eased two tenths to 5.1%. The pace of improvement is slowing, however, as evidenced by a smaller increase in employment and the near stalling in vacancies. It is possible that the fallout from the Ukraine war could induce some mild deterioration in labor market indicators in coming months, but we do not expect a substantial hit.

The **Italian labor market** has also been showing signs of accelerated improvement before the Ukraine invasion. The unemployment rate eased further to 8.5% in February, the lowest level since May 2020.

Japan

Having improved steadily since the early days of Covid, the **Tankan survey of business conditions** deteriorated during the first quarter. The overall index measuring business conditions at large manufacturing firms retreated four points to 14. A peak seems to be forming, although it is too early to be sure and there is still scope for down-the line improvements in the global supply chain situation to bring about another reacceleration.

Australia

Australian retail sales remained robust at the start of the year. Following a 1.6% increase in January, nominal sales rose another 1.8% in February and stood 9.1% higher than a year earlier. Evidently, real sales will have been a little more modest since inflation has risen over the period, but these are nonetheless strong numbers. In conjunction with very strong labor market indicators, they certainly give the RBA the green light to raise interest rates before long.

Week in Review (March 28 – April 1)

Country	Release (Date, format)	Consensus	Actual	Last	Comments
Monday, March 28					
No major data releases					
Tuesday, March 29					
US	FHFA House Prices (Jan, m/m)	1.3%	1.6%	1.3% (↑)	Very strong, but likely to slow.
US	CS 20-City House Price Index (Jan, m/m)	1.5%	1.8%	1.5%	Very strong, but likely to slow.
US	Conf. Board Consumer Conf. (Mar)	107.0	107.2	105.7 (↓)	Record high labor differential.
US	JOLTS Job Openings (Feb, thous)	11,000	11,266	11,283 (↑)	Still near records; hiring and quits both rose.
UK	Mortgage Approvals (Feb, thous)	74.9	71.0	73.8 (↓)	Housing market started to lose heat?
GE	GfK Consumer Confidence (Apr)	-14.5	-15.5	-8.5 (↓)	Is it surprising? No. Is it problematic? Yes.
FR	Consumer Confidence (Mar)	94	91	97 (↓)	Not surprising given Ukraine.
JN	Unemployment Rate (Feb)	2.8%	2.7%	2.8%	Very low.
AU	Retail Sales (Feb, m/m)	0.8%	1.8%	1.6% (↓)	Pretty impressive!
Wednesday, March 30					
US	GDP (Q4, saar)	7.0%	6.9%	2.3%	Softer consumer spending, more inventories.
GE	CPI (Mar, y/y, prelim)	6.2%	7.3%	5.1%	Painful and will get worse.
JN	Retail Sales (Feb, m/m)	-0.3%	-0.8%	-0.9%(↑)	Soft.
Thursday, March 31					
US	Initial Jobless Claims (26- Mar, thous)	200	202	188 (↑)	Extremely low.
US	Continuing Claims (19-Mar, thous)	1,350	1,307	1,342 (↓)	Extremely low.
US	Personal Income (Feb, m/m)	0.5%	0.5%	0.1% (↑)	Bur real disposable income down 0.2%.
US	Personal Spending (Feb, m/m)	0.5%	0.2%	2.7% (↑)	Still OK.
CA	GDP (Jan, m/m)	0.2%	0.2%	0.1% (↑)	Driven by good-producing industries
UK	Nationwide House PX (Mar, m/m)	0.5%	1.1%	1.7%	Still very strong
GE	Unemployment Rate (Mar)	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	Low.
GE	Retail Sales (Feb, m/m)	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%(↓)	Huge downward revision to January data.
IT	Unemployment Rate (Feb)	8.7%	8.5%	8.6% (↓)	Fine.
IT	CPI (Mar, y/y, prelim)	6.4%	6.7%	5.7%	Not fine...
JN	Industrial Production (Feb, m/m, prelim)	0.5%	0.1%	-0.8%	Disappointing.
Friday, April 1					
US	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls (Mar, thous)	490	431	750 (↑)	Solid report, in line with expectations.
US	Unemployment Rate (Mar)	3.7%	3.6%	3.8%	Participation rate rose a tenth to 62.4%.
US	ISM Manufacturing (Mar)	59.0	57.1	58.6	Big pullbacks in new orders, production.
UK	Manufacturing PMI (Mar, final)	55.5(p)	55.2	60.5	Marked slowdown.
EC	Manufacturing PMI (Mar, final)	57.0(p)	56.5	58.2	A little weaker than initially reported.
GE	Manufacturing PMI (Mar, final)	57.6(p)	56.9	58.4	A little weaker than initially reported.
FR	Manufacturing PMI (Mar, final)	54.8(p)	54.7	57.2	A little weaker than initially reported.
JN	Tankan Large Manuf Survey (Q1)	12.0	14.0	18.0	First decline since
JN	Jibun Bank Japan PMI Mfg (Mar, final)	53.2	54.1	52.7	Welcome improvement.

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

Week Preview (April 4 – April 8)

Country	Release (Date, format)	Consensus	Last	Comments
Monday, April 4				
US	Factory Orders (Feb)	-0.6%	1.4%	
US	Durable Goods Orders (Feb, final)	-2.2%	1.6%	
CA	Building Permits (Feb, m/m)	n/a	-8.8%	Continue to fell sharply?
JN	Labor Cash Earnings (Feb, y/y)	0.6%	0.9%	
Tuesday, April 5				
US	Trade Balance (Feb, \$bn)	-88.5	-89.7	
US	ISM Services Index (Mar)	58.0	56.5	
UK	Services PMI (Mar, final)	60.9	60.5	Strong recovery
EC	Eurozone Services PMI (Mar, final)	54.8	55.5	
GE	Services PMI (Mar, final)	55.0	55.8	
FR	Industrial Production (Feb, m/m)	-0.5%	1.6%	
AU	RBA Cash Rate Target	0.10%	0.10%	Rate may not change, but the narrative must.
Wednesday, April 6				
GE	Factory Orders (Feb)	-0.2%	1.80%	
Thursday, April 7				
US	Initial Jobless Claims (2 April, thous)	200	202	
US	Continuing Claims (26 Mar, thous)	1,302	1,307	
US	Consumer Credit (Feb, \$bn)	15.5	6.8	
GE	Industrial Production (Feb, m/m)	0.1%	2.7%	
JN	Leading Index CI (Feb, prelim)	100.8	102.5	.
Friday, April 8				
CA	Unemployment Rate (Mar)	5.4%	5.5%	Strong data expected.
IT	Retail Sales (Feb, m/m)	0.4%	-0.5%	
JN	Consumer Confidence Index (Mar)	36.8	35.3	

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

Economic Indicators

Central Bank Policy Targets

Region	Target	Year/Year % Change in Target				
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
US	Target: PCE price index 2.0% y/y	5.1	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.4
Canada	Target: CPI 2.0% y/y, 1.0%-3.0% control range	4.7	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.7
UK	Target: CPI 2.0% y/y	4.2	5.1	5.4	5.5	6.2
Eurozone	Target: CPI below but close to 2.0% y/y	4.1	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.9
Japan	Target: CPI 2.0% y/y	0.1	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9
Australia	Target Range: CPI 2.0%-3.0% y/y	3.5	3.5	3.5		

Source: Macrobond

Key Interest Rates

	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
US (top of target range)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50
Canada (Overnight Rate)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50
UK (Bank Rate)	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.75
Eurozone (Refi)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Japan (OCR)	-0.03	-0.05	-0.04	-0.04	-0.05	-0.03	-0.05	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02
Australia (OCR)	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10

Source: Macrobond

General Government Structural Balance as a % of Potential GDP

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Forecast	
									2022	2023
US	-2.7	-2.5	-3.5	-4.2	-5.2	-6.1	-10.7	-8.8	-8.3	-7.1
Canada	-0.6	0.0	0.1	-0.3	0.0	0.3	-8.1	-6.6	-2.7	-1.0
UK	-4.9	-4.4	-3.3	-2.5	-2.3	-2.3	1.4	-5.6	-4.9	-3.5
Eurozone	-0.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.3	-0.5	-4.6	-5.9	-3.1	
Germany	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.3	-3.1	-5.7	-1.6	-0.3
France	-2.5	-2.1	-1.9	-1.9	-1.6	-2.1	-6.3	-7.5	-4.6	-3.9
Italy	-1.0	-0.6	-1.3	-1.6	-1.7	-0.9	-5.9	-7.1	-3.8	-3.3
Japan	-5.7	-4.4	-4.3	-3.5	-2.7	-2.6	-9.2	-8.0	-3.6	-2.0
Australia	-2.7	-2.6	-2.3	-1.6	-1.2	-4.1	-7.9	-8.1	-5.8	-3.8

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook

Headline Consumer and Producer Price Inflation

	CPI Year/Year % Change						PPI Year/Year % Change				
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
US	6.8	7.0	7.5	7.9			8.9	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0
Canada	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.7			16.6	17.1	15.9	16.3	16.4
UK	5.1	5.4	5.5	6.2			8.8	9.4	9.4	9.9	10.1
Eurozone	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.9			21.9	23.7	26.3	30.6	
Germany	5.2	5.3	4.9	5.1	7.3		18.4	19.2	24.2	25.0	25.9
France	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.6	4.5		14.3	16.7	17.2	20.1	20.1
Italy	3.7	3.9	4.8	5.7	6.7		20.4	22.2	22.8	32.9	32.8
Japan	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9			8.4	9.2	8.7	8.9	9.3
Australia	3.5	3.5					3.7	3.7	3.7		

Source: Macrobond

Economic Indicators

Real GDP Growth (Q/Q Seasonally Adjusted)

	Quarter/Quarter % Change					Year/Year % Change				
	Q4-20	Q1-21	Q2-21	Q3-21	Q4-21	Q4-20	Q1-21	Q2-21	Q3-21	Q4-21
US	1.1	1.5	1.6	0.6	1.7	-2.3	0.5	12.2	4.9	5.5
Canada	2.2	1.2	-0.9	1.3	1.6	-3.1	0.2	11.7	3.8	3.3
UK	1.5	-1.2	5.6	0.9	1.3	-6.3	-5.0	24.5	6.9	6.6
Eurozone	-0.3	-0.1	2.2	2.3	0.3	-4.3	-0.9	14.6	4.0	4.6
Germany	0.7	-1.7	2.2	1.7	-0.3	-2.9	-2.8	10.4	2.9	1.8
France	-1.1	0.2	1.3	3.1	0.7	-4.3	1.7	19.0	3.5	5.4
Italy	-1.6	0.3	2.7	2.5	0.6	-6.1	0.1	17.6	3.9	6.2
Japan	1.9	-0.5	0.6	-0.7	1.1	-0.8	-1.8	7.3	1.2	0.4
Australia	3.2	1.9	0.8	-1.9	3.4	-0.8	1.3	9.6	4.0	4.2

Source: Macrobond

Industrial Production Index (M/M Seasonally Adjusted)

	Month/Month % Change					Year/Year % Change				
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
US	1.4	0.8	-0.4	1.4	0.5	4.7	5.0	3.4	3.6	7.5
Canada	1.5	-0.3	0.0	-0.2		6.0	3.3	2.1	1.4	
UK	-0.8	0.7	0.3	0.6		0.1	-0.2	0.4	2.3	
Germany	2.3	0.3	1.1	2.7		-1.4	-2.2	-2.8	1.5	
France	1.4	-0.8	-0.1	1.6		-0.5	-0.4	0.0	-1.5	
Italy	-0.7	1.8	-1.1	-3.4		2.4	6.5	4.7	-2.2	
Japan	1.8	7.0	-1.0	-0.8	0.1	-2.6	3.5	2.7	-1.2	0.2

Source: Macrobond

Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)

	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
US	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.6
Canada	8.0	7.6	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.1	6.0	6.5	5.5	
UK	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.9			
Eurozone	8.1	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	
Germany	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0
France	8.2	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.4	
Italy	9.8	9.4	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.0	8.8	8.5	
Japan	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7	
Australia	5.1	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.6	5.2	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.0	

Source: Macrobond

Current Account Balance as a % of GDP (Seasonally Adjusted)

	Q2-19	Q3-19	Q4-19	Q1-20	Q2-20	Q3-20	Q4-20	Q1-21	Q2-21	Q3-21	Q4-21
US	-2.3	-2.2	-1.9	-2.1	-3.2	-3.3	-3.3	-3.4	-3.5	-3.8	-3.6
Canada	-1.3	-2.2	-1.6	-3.2	-1.1	-2.0	-0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1
UK	-2.9	-2.5	0.5	-2.2	-1.4	-1.4	-4.8	-2.2	-2.0	-4.9	-1.2
Eurozone	1.8	3.1	1.7	0.6	1.6	2.7	3.1	3.5	2.9	2.4	2.3
Germany	7.7	7.8	7.4	6.7	5.2	7.3	8.4	8.8	7.8	7.0	6.6
France	-0.4	-0.6	-0.4	-1.2	-3.6	-2.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.4	-0.7	-1.4
Japan	4.3	3.7	4.6	4.2	3.6	4.0	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.5
Australia	-1.5	-2.5	-2.8	-3.5	-2.2	-2.7	-2.2	-1.4	-0.2	1.2	

Source: Macrobond

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Global Advisors**

For four decades, State Street Global Advisors has served the world's governments, institutions and financial advisors. With a rigorous, risk-aware approach built on research, analysis and market-tested experience, we build from a breadth of active and index strategies to create cost-effective solutions. As stewards, we help portfolio companies see that what is fair for people and sustainable for the planet can deliver long-term performance. And, as pioneers in index, ETF, and ESG investing, we are always inventing new ways to invest. As a result, we have become the world's fourth-largest asset manager* with US \$4.14 trillion† under our care.

* Pensions & Investments Research Center, as of December 31, 2020.

† This figure is presented as of December 31, 2021 and includes approximately \$61.43 billion of assets with respect to SPDR products for which State Street Global Advisors Funds Distributors, LLC (SSGA FD) acts solely as the marketing agent. SSGA FD and State Street Global Advisors are affiliated..

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2537623.137.1.GBL.RTL
Exp. Date: 4/30/2023