# **QUARTERLY ECONOMIC FORECAST**

## **TD Economics**



December 17, 2015

# DOMESTIC DEMAND TO LEAD AMERICA'S RECOVERY AS RATES MOVE HIGHER

### U.S. Highlights

- Buffeted by rapid changes in the price of oil and the value of the dollar, the American economy had a bumpy 2015.
   Growth started out moribund, rebounded sharply in the second quarter, before settling to around 2.0% over the second half of the year.
- Adjustments made this year set the stage for faster growth in 2016. As the drag from investment in the oil sector fades, the benefit to household and business spending will dominate.
- On an annual average basis, the economy is expected to record growth of 2.4% in 2016 and 2.3% in 2017. The details are better than the headlines. The most important aspect of the U.S. economy – domestic demand – will remain a frontrunner at a pace of just over 3% in 2016
- The Fed's decision to raise its target interest rate by 25 basis points reflected the strength of the labor market and the anticipation that inflation will slowly move back to target. Future rate increases will be gradual, with the fed funds rising to just 1.25% by the end of 2016 and to 1.75% by the end of 2017.

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### **Global Highlights**

- The world looks forward to turning the page on 2015, which saw the slowest pace of economic growth since the financial crisis at just 3.0%.
- Despite continued progress in key advanced economies, emerging markets had to contend with plummeting commodity prices, capital outflows, and a continued slowdown in China.
- Many of these challenges should ebb next year, but still leave a challenging environment for some emerging economies. The negative shock to commodity producers should ease, while growth in energy-importing countries continues to get a boost from low oil prices. But, China's economy will continue to slow and capital flows will remain under pressure.
- Advanced economies in the euro zone and Japan should continue to build strength domestically, boosted by stimulative monetary policy.
- The confluence of forces should see global economic growth pick up to 3.3% and 3.5% in 2017.

|    | CHAR         | T 1. WORL      | D ECON        | ому то с      | AIN A ST          | EP                |
|----|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 6  | Real GDP,    | Y/Y % Chg.     |               |               |                   |                   |
| 5  |              | ■2015          | 5E ■201       | 8E            |                   |                   |
| 4  |              | ■2013          | JL = 2011     | OI.           |                   |                   |
| 3  |              |                |               |               |                   |                   |
| 2  |              |                |               |               |                   |                   |
| 1  |              |                |               |               |                   |                   |
| 0  |              |                |               |               |                   |                   |
| -1 |              |                |               |               |                   |                   |
| -2 | U.S.         | Canada         | Japan         | Euro zone     | Asia ex-<br>Japan | Latin<br>America* |
| ;  | Source: TD E | conomics. Fore | ecast as at D | ecember 2015. | *Excludes M       | exico.            |



### U.S. OUTLOOK - RATE INCREASE = RESILIENCE

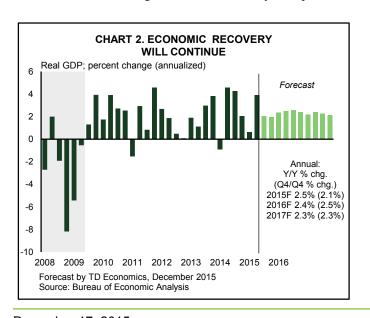
The American economy had a bumpy 2015. Growth started out moribund, before rebounding sharply in the second quarter. It has since moderated to around 2.0% over the second half of the year.

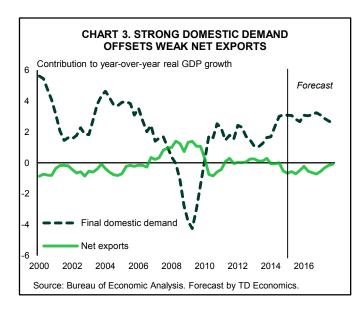
We have long ascertained that the economy would reflect the push-and-pull forces from weak external demand and strong domestic demand. This is exactly what is playing out. Fortunately, the external sector makes up a comparatively small portion of U.S. economic activity. GDP growth of 2% merely creates the illusion that the economic foundation is weaker than it truly is. Spending by households and businesses has grown by close to 3.0% for nearly six consecutive quarters. This vigour was last seen during the heydays of the 2004 to 2005 period.

In turn, payrolls have expanded by an average of 210k a month. This threshold is double the estimated jobs required to keep the unemployment rate steady. So, it's no surprise that there has been a steady reduction in the unemployment rate to 5.0%, below the historical average. Despite a benign inflation environment, evidence is building of stronger wage pressures, particularly in states with a greater share of high-skilled workers and where unemployment rates have pushed below historical norms.

The Federal Reserve had more than enough cause to finally move interest rates off zero. With the initial move now behind the central bank, the focus will be on the path ahead. The Fed has maintained that it will be cautious and we find little reason to doubt it.

On an annual average basis, the economy is expected to





record growth of 2.4% in 2016 and 2.3% in 2017, a smidgen lower than 2.5% in 2015 (Chart 2). This is due to the odd pattern of growth through the year – 2015 benefited from a particularly strong handoff and 2016 inherits a weaker one. Like always, the devil is in the details. The most important aspect of the U.S. economy – domestic demand – will remain a frontrunner at a pace of just over 3% in 2016 (Chart 3). This will provide the Federal Reserve further opportunity to tweak its policy rate by 75 basis points by year-end to 1.25%.

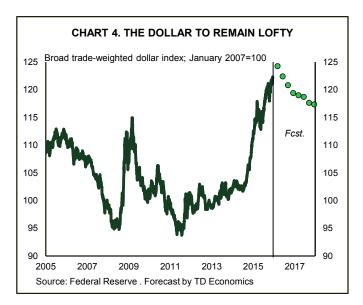
### Adjustments made in 2015 will make for faster 2016

The economy in 2015 was buffeted by rapid changes in the price of oil and the value of the dollar. The year started with oil prices down 50% and the (trade-weighted) dollar up 10%. The magnitude of these changes had a significant effect on investment and output through the year.

Unsurprisingly, the hardest hit sector was oil and gas, where investment declined by 40%. Despite its relatively small size (less than 1% of GDP), the sector cut 0.4 percentage points from economic growth over the course of the year.

The good news is that this negative impact will wane over 2016. The sector has shrunk to half its former size, so another decline of the same magnitude would carry less impact and allow for investment in other industries to shine through. Moreover, past cuts to investment in the oil sector will eventually stabilize prices, bringing some modest relief to the industry's balance sheets. We anticipate <u>WTI will reach \$55</u> by the end of 2016.





### The dollar to stay lofty, but another leg up is unlikely

The rising dollar was the other headwind to growth over the past year. The greenback's ascent did not begin in 2015, but it continued at full steam. From the start of the year to December, it rose 9%, the same rate of increase as 2014.

This, combined with a slowdown in global economic growth, hit exporters. Foreign GDP growth in 2015 fell to its slowest pace since 2008 and, unsurprisingly, exports virtually stalled. Imports, on the other hand continued to advance, supported by the increased purchasing power of the dollar and the strength in domestic spending. Consequently, net exports shaved 0.6 percentage points from growth in 2015.

The highflying greenback will continue to bite into exports over the course of 2016. But, the potential for another leg-up looks limited given that financial markets have largely priced in policy divergence with the U.S. relative to its peers (Chart 4). In addition, the global differential in economic growth is likely to diminish. Emerging markets will continue to be challenged, but the process of adjustment, especially for commodity exporters, is already well on its way.

### Inflation will edge higher

The result of falling energy prices and a rising dollar has been the disappearance of inflation. The next year is likely to see a partial unwinding of these influences. Falling energy prices cut 1.7 percentage points from inflation over the past year. Oil prices are unlikely to return to their former level, but a slow recovery will still add 0.8 percentage points to inflation over the next year. Likewise, the high dollar has cut about 0.4 percentage points from both core and headline

inflation. This influence will partially reverse over the course of 2016. As a result, we expect CPI inflation to rise to 3.0% by the first quarter of 2017, before heading lower as these re-inflationary forces wane.

The final element to pull inflation higher is the tightening labor market. The unemployment rate is expected to fall below 5.0% – a level that is consistent with stable inflation. As it does, it will add to the pressure on wages, which are already displaying a broadening pattern of sturdiness across industries. Analysis at the regional level indicates that weakened wage growth within oil producing states has depressed the national level since mid-2014. However, a distinct upward trend is evident among the oil-consuming states, which represent the majority of the U.S. landscape.

### Policy normalization journey beginning

The Fed's decision to raise its target interest rate by 25 basis points in December was a function of both the strength in the labor market and the anticipation that inflation will slowly move back to target. This is in line with our economic forecast. However, while rates have moved off the zero lower bound, this will not be a run-of-the-mill rate hike cycle. Rates are likely to rise by only 75 basis points (to 1.25%) by the end of 2016 and to 1.75% by the end of 2017. The average increase in past rate-hike cycles was roughly 200 basis points within the first year.

The go-slow approach reflects the need for the economy to grow above trend in order absorb the remaining slack in the labor market, as well as the disinflationary impulse from an improving, but still generally sluggish, global growth environment. It also reflects the fact that the terminal level for the policy rate is much lower than it has been historically. While the last rate hike cycle saw rates rise to 5.25%, this cycle is likely to end within a range of 3.00% to 3.25%. However, that level probably won't be attained until 2019.

### The bottom line

The broad theme of the forecast remains the resilience of domestic spending. This has allowed job growth to continue at a pace well above trend and withstand the drag on growth from reduced oil and gas investment, weak global growth, and a skyrocketing dollar. This is expected to continue over the next year. While net exports will remain a drag, the fundamentals for domestic spending appear even better than a year ago. Monetary policy will begin to normalize, but it will remain accommodative, facilitating the ongoing recovery.

December 17, 2015



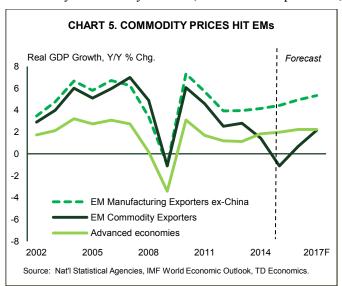
### **GLOBAL OUTLOOK - SLOWER FOR LONGER**

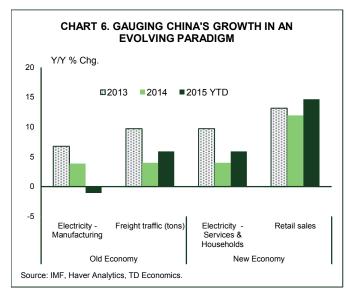
With 2015 almost behind us, it's safe to say that the global economy had a rough year. Growth in real GDP is currently tracking around 3% for 2015, its weakest performance since the financial crisis. That reflects the challenging environment for emerging market (EM) economies. The fortunes of 2016 should become slightly more favorable, as growth among energy-importing economies strengthens, and the economic drag within commodity producers lessens. Overall global growth is forecast to pick up a notch to 3.3% in 2016 and 3.5% in 2017. Even so, this pace remains a far cry from headier pre-recession days.

### EMs sideswiped in 2015

Emerging markets were sideswiped by three inter-related shocks in 2015: a collapse in commodity prices, which hurt those reliant on commodity exports, slower growth in China, which especially crimped its Asian trading partners, and rising capital outflows, which led to sizeable depreciations in many EM currencies. The downdraft created by these colliding influences will lessen in 2016, but the economic landscape for EMs will remain a challenging one (Chart 5). Commodity prices are expected to show only modest gains towards the second half of 2016, and China's slower growth trajectory will remain in place. After the 2008 Great Recession, it took EM commodity-exporters one year to surpass their prior peak in real GDP. This time around, we expect it to take two years.

All eyes have been on China in recent months as it went from being a financial market ugly duckling, to becoming an IMF swan. Markets balked when China unexpectedly revalued its currency, and intervened in the stock market to stem a disorderly decline. By late-fall, calmer heads prevailed,





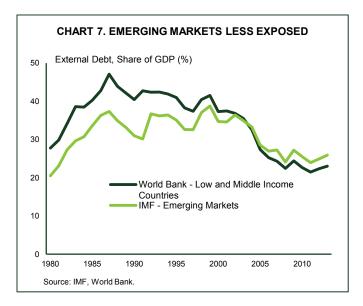
reinforced by the IMF who admitted the Chinese yuan as the fifth world reserve currency within their basket in December. This was a crucial step to help legitimize the yuan on the global stage, and also encourage ongoing financial reform. But, beyond that, the move should have a limited near-term influence. The IMF reserve currency basket encompasses just 2.5% of global reserves, and China needs to make significant inroads in creating depth and liquidity within its financial markets to gain broader acceptance.

Adding to the challenge, China is on a slower economic growth trajectory with many structural changes afoot that don't exactly exude the confidence needed for reserve managers to shift their holdings to the yuan. Policy missteps – like the August yuan revaluation – will inevitably occur and China has occasionally backpedaled on reforms when growth appears to slow too far. The big question for Chinese authorities is how they will trade off near-term growth, against longer term sustainability.

On this, China's latest Five Year Plan implies an average target for economic growth of 6.5% through to 2020. That is a step down from the 7-8% pace over the past four years. Markets are concerned about a sharper deceleration, with the focus of attention on weakness in the manufacturing sector. But, while the "old world" economy slows, activity within the new world has quietly forged ahead (Chart 6). Service sector activity is almost 50% of overall output, up from 40% just eight years ago. The Chinese government has also drawn a line on what is a tolerable for economic growth, injecting fiscal stimulus to shore up momentum when it underperforms expectations. We expect efforts to continue on this front.

However, a slowing China will continue to weigh on other emerging market economies, particularly those with



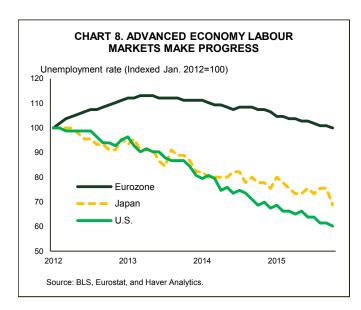


significant trade linkages, like Taiwan, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand. Further, high private-sector debt is a cause for concern and will act as a headwind to growth across EMs. But, the drag is likely to be smaller than it has been in the past. On average, the share of external debt is lower than it has been historically (particularly at the time of the Asian financial crisis) and the share of foreign-currency denominated corporate debt has declined (Chart 7). EM foreign exchange reserves are also much higher than they have been historically, providing a bigger buffer if foreign capital dries up.

### Advanced economies continue to make progress

The tepid expansion among EMs is unlikely to stymie growth within advanced nations, where domestic spending has accelerated noticeably. U.S. domestic demand growth has been hovering at 3% for more than a year, reinforcing the notion that the economic drivers are mainly focused inward for America at this point in the cycle. The sizeable appreciation in the greenback is expected to continue to dampen exports, but the broader economic foundation is strong enough to support a modest degree of rate hikes.

The beleaguered euro zone did manage to outperform our growth expectations. Surprisingly perhaps, in a year that featured fears of a "Grexit." However, unlike the U.S., the European Central Bank (ECB) is still stepping on the stimulus-accelerator to lift domestic demand through a combination of quantitative easing and negative interest rates. Private sector lending has been responding and unemployment rates are falling through most of Europe (Chart 8). Both of these positive trends should help to underpin continued gains in domestic demand going forward. The



euro area should benefit from a slight tick-up in growth to 1.7% in 2016, a testament that the region has come a long way from the dismal 2014 performance that was roughly half this pace. However, the outlook remains heavily dependent on a central bank that is unlikely to lift its foot off the monetary accelerator.

Past stimulus initiatives in Japan are also starting to bear fruit. After a 0.7% increase this year, Japan is forecast to grow at a faster 1.2% pace in 2016. That may sound slow, but it is fairly good for an economy whose working age population is falling by 1.5% each year. That reality makes Japan's recent solid employment growth more impressive, as it comes from rising labor force participation. As a large energy importer, Japan has also enjoyed a big boost to its purchasing power due to lower oil prices. All of these forces should help sustain the domestic economy in the face of softer EM demand, although a planned sales tax hike in 2017 is expected to crimp overall GDP growth in that year.

### The bottom line

Advanced nations continue to make steady progress, but the balance of risks has shifted to EMs. They will continue be challenged by low commodity prices and weaker exchange rates. There is also the lingering risk that the Federal Reserve's tightening cycle may impart another round of pressure on EM capital flows, exacerbating volatility within their financial markets. However, under the view that many of the adjustments have already been made, the pay-off should be more stable growth in the years ahead. As advanced economy growth solidifies, and pain in EMs eases, global growth should accelerate modestly over the next two years.



| U.S. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK:                       |       |                 |         |        |        |        |      |       |        |        |        |                |       |       |       |         |       |       |
|--|-------|-----------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
|  | Peri  | iod-Ov          | er-Peri | iod An | nualiz | ed Per | Cent | Chang | e Unle | ss Oth | nerwis | e Indio        | cated |       |       |         |       |       |
|  |       | 20 <sup>-</sup> | 15      |        |        | 2016   |      |       | 2017   |        |        | Annual Average |       |       | 4th   | Qtr/4th | ı Qtr |       |
|  | Q1    | Q2              | Q3      | Q4F    | Q1F    | Q2F    | Q3F  | Q4F   | Q1F    | Q2F    | Q3F    | Q4F            | 15F   | 16F   | 17F   | 15F     | 16F   | 17F   |
| Real GDP                                     | 0.6   | 3.9             | 2.1     | 2.0    | 2.4    | 2.5    | 2.6  | 2.4   | 2.2    | 2.4    | 2.3    | 2.2            | 2.5   | 2.4   | 2.3   | 2.2     | 2.5   | 2.3   |
| Consumer Expenditure                         | 1.7   | 3.6             | 3.0     | 2.4    | 3.2    | 3.5    | 3.0  | 2.6   | 2.3    | 2.4    | 2.3    | 2.2            | 3.1   | 3.1   | 2.5   | 2.7     | 3.1   | 2.3   |
| Durable Goods                                | 2.0   | 8.0             | 6.5     | 3.6    | 5.0    | 7.2    | 6.0  | 4.7   | 3.5    | 4.2    | 3.6    | 3.7            | 5.9   | 5.6   | 4.4   | 5.0     | 5.7   | 3.7   |
| Non-Res. Fixed Investment                    | 1.6   | 4.1             | 2.4     | 2.1    | 3.8    | 4.5    | 4.0  | 4.2   | 3.9    | 4.2    | 3.6    | 3.4            | 3.1   | 3.5   | 4.0   | 2.5     | 4.1   | 3.8   |
| Non-Res. Structures                          | -7.4  | 6.3             | -7.1    | -2.0   | 1.8    | 4.1    | 3.8  | 4.5   | 4.7    | 4.4    | 3.9    | 3.5            | -1.3  | 1.0   | 4.3   | -2.7    | 3.5   | 4.1   |
| Equipment & IPP*                             | 4.3   | 3.5             | 5.2     | 3.3    | 4.4    | 4.6    | 4.0  | 4.1   | 3.6    | 4.1    | 3.6    | 3.4            | 4.4   | 4.2   | 3.9   | 4.1     | 4.3   | 3.7   |
| Residential Construction                     | 10.1  | 9.4             | 7.3     | 10.1   | 8.1    | 10.8   | 12.1 | 9.9   | 9.7    | 7.6    | 6.5    | 5.3            | 8.8   | 9.6   | 9.0   | 9.2     | 10.2  | 7.3   |
| Govt. Consumption                            |       |                 |         |        |        |        |      |       |        |        |        |                |       |       |       |         |       |       |
| & Gross Investment                           | -0.1  | 2.6             | 1.7     | 1.2    | 1.9    | 1.4    | 1.2  | 1.3   | 1.2    | 1.2    | 1.0    | 1.2            | 8.0   | 1.6   | 1.2   | 1.3     | 1.4   | 1.2   |
| Final Domestic Demand                        | 1.7   | 3.7             | 2.9     | 2.4    | 3.2    | 3.5    | 3.1  | 2.8   | 2.6    | 2.6    | 2.4    | 2.3            | 2.9   | 3.1   | 2.7   | 2.6     | 3.2   | 2.5   |
| Exports                                      | -6.0  | 5.1             | 0.9     | 1.5    | 2.0    | 3.7    | 4.4  | 4.7   | 5.2    | 5.6    | 5.3    | 5.1            | 1.4   | 2.7   | 5.0   | 0.3     | 3.7   | 5.3   |
| Imports                                      | 7.1   | 3.0             | 2.1     | 1.8    | 6.7    | 9.3    | 7.3  | 6.1   | 6.5    | 5.7    | 5.4    | 5.0            | 5.1   | 5.5   | 6.3   | 3.5     | 7.3   | 5.7   |
| Change in Private                            |       |                 |         |        |        |        |      |       |        |        |        |                |       |       |       |         |       |       |
| Inventories                                  |       | 113.5           | 90.2    | 75.1   | 67.0   | 58.6   | 57.2 | 52.3  | 46.7   | 43.1   | 40.8   | 38.5           |       | 58.8  | 42.3  |         |       |       |
| Final Sales                                  | -0.2  | 3.9             | 2.7     | 2.4    | 2.6    | 2.7    | 2.6  | 2.5   | 2.3    | 2.5    | 2.3    | 2.2            | 2.3   | 2.7   | 2.5   | 2.2     | 2.6   | 2.3   |
| International Current Account Balance (\$Bn) | -473  | -439            | -507    | -453   | -457   | -495   | -550 | -614  | -665   | -691   | -716   | -733           | -468  | -529  | -701  |         |       |       |
| % of GDP                                     | -2.7  | -2.5            | -2.8    | -2.5   | -2.5   | -2.7   | -2.9 | -3.2  | -3.5   | -3.6   | -3.6   | -3.7           |       | -2.8  | -3.6  |         |       |       |
| Pre-tax Corporate Profits                    | ,     | 2.0             |         |        | 2.0    | ,      | 2.0  | 0.2   | 0.0    | 0.0    | 0.0    | 0.7            | 2.0   | 2.0   | 0.0   |         |       |       |
| including IVA&CCA                            | -21.1 | 14.8            | -4.3    | -4.8   | 0.3    | 1.5    | 2.3  | 2.9   | 3.2    | 3.8    | 3.7    | 3.7            | -1.2  | 0.2   | 3.1   | -4.7    | 1.7   | 3.6   |
| % of GDP                                     | 11.4  | 11.6            | 11.4    | 11.2   | 11.1   | 11.0   | 10.9 | 10.9  | 10.9   | 10.8   | 10.8   | 10.8           | 11.4  | 11.0  | 10.8  |         |       |       |
| GDP Deflator (Y/Y)                           | 1.0   | 1.0             | 0.9     | 1.2    | 1.6    | 1.5    | 1.7  | 1.8   | 2.0    | 2.0    | 2.1    | 2.1            | 1.0   | 1.6   | 2.0   | 1.2     | 1.8   | 2.1   |
| Nominal GDP                                  | 0.8   | 6.1             | 3.4     | 3.3    | 3.9    | 4.4    | 4.6  | 4.4   | 4.3    | 4.6    | 4.4    | 4.3            | 3.5   | 4.1   | 4.4   | 3.4     | 4.3   | 4.4   |
| Labor Force                                  | 2.0   | 0.4             | -0.6    | 1.1    | 1.1    | 1.1    | 1.2  | 1.1   | 1.1    | 1.1    | 1.1    | 1.1            | 0.8   | 0.8   | 1.1   | 0.7     | 1.1   | 1.1   |
| Employment                                   | 2.2   | 1.7             | 1.8     | 1.8    | 1.8    | 1.7    | 1.6  | 1.5   | 1.4    | 1.2    | 1.1    | 1.0            | 2.1   | 1.7   | 1.4   | 1.9     | 1.6   | 1.2   |
| Change in Empl. ('000s)                      | 778   | 610             | 623     | 645    | 629    | 591    | 559  | 547   | 520    | 429    | 405    | 381            | 2,917 | 2,437 | 1,977 | 2,657   | 2,326 | 1,735 |
| Unemployment Rate (%)                        | 5.6   | 5.4             | 5.2     | 5.1    | 5.0    | 4.9    | 4.8  | 4.8   | 4.7    | 4.7    | 4.8    | 4.9            | 5.3   | 4.9   | 4.8   |         |       |       |
| Personal Disp. Income                        | 1.9   | 4.9             | 5.3     | 4.7    | 4.0    | 4.4    | 4.4  | 4.2   | 4.0    | 4.2    | 4.0    | 4.0            |       | 4.5   | 4.1   | 4.2     | 4.2   | 4.0   |
| Pers. Saving Rate (%)                        | 5.2   | 5.0             | 5.2     | 5.6    | 5.6    | 5.4    | 5.1  | 4.9   | 4.8    | 4.7    | 4.6    | 4.5            |       | 5.3   | 4.7   |         |       |       |
| Cons. Price Index (Y/Y)                      | -0.1  | 0.0             | 0.1     | 0.5    |        | 1.3    | 1.8  | 2.5   | 3.0    | 3.0    | 2.7    | 2.5            |       | 1.8   | 2.8   | 0.5     | 2.5   | 2.5   |
| Core CPI (Y/Y)                               | 1.7   | 1.8             | 1.8     | 2.0    | 2.0    | 1.9    | 1.9  | 1.9   | 2.0    | 2.2    | 2.2    | 2.3            |       | 1.9   | 2.2   | 2.0     | 1.9   | 2.3   |
| Core PCE price index (Y/Y)                   | 1.3   | 1.3             | 1.3     | 1.4    | 1.5    | 1.4    | 1.5  | 1.6   | 1.7    | 1.8    | 1.9    | 2.0            |       | 1.5   | 1.9   | 1.4     | 1.6   | 2.0   |
| Housing Starts (mns)                         | 0.98  | 1.16            | 1.16    | 1.14   | 1.19   | 1.26   | 1.33 | 1.38  | 1.42   | 1.45   | 1.48   | 1.52           |       | 1.29  | 1.47  | 4.0     |       | 1.0   |
| Real Output per hour (y/y)**                 | 0.6   | 8.0             | 0.6     | 1.3    | 1.8    | 1.2    | 0.9  | 0.9   | 0.9    | 1.1    | 1.1    | 1.2            | 0.8   | 1.2   | 1.1   | 1.3     | 0.9   | 1.2   |

\*Intellectual proprty products. \*\*Non-farm business sector. F: Forecast by TD Economics, December 2015

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, TD Economics



| INTEREST RATE OUTLOOK       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                             |      | 20   | 15   |      |      | 20   | 16   |      | 2017 |      |      |      |
|                             | Q1   | Q2   | Q3   | Q4*  | Q1F  | Q2F  | Q3F  | Q4F  | Q1F  | Q2F  | Q3F  | Q4F  |
| Fed Funds Target Rate (%)   | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.50 | 0.75 | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 1.75 | 1.75 |
| 3-mth T-Bill Rate (%)       | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.50 | 0.75 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| 2-yr Govt. Bond Yield (%)   | 0.56 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 1.75 | 1.85 | 2.10 | 2.10 | 2.10 |
| 5-yr Govt. Bond Yield (%)   | 1.37 | 1.63 | 1.37 | 1.74 | 2.00 | 2.10 | 2.25 | 2.25 | 2.35 | 2.45 | 2.45 | 2.60 |
| 10-yr Govt. Bond Yield (%)  | 1.94 | 2.35 | 2.06 | 2.29 | 2.45 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.55 | 2.65 | 2.75 | 2.90 |
| 30-yr Govt. Bond Yield (%)  | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.15 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.25 | 3.30 | 3.35 |
| 10-yr-2-yr Govt. Spread (%) | 1.38 | 1.71 | 1.42 | 1.29 | 1.20 | 1.00 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.70 | 0.55 | 0.65 | 0.80 |

F: Forecast by TD Economics, December 2015; All forecasts are for end of period; Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics. \*Spot rate on December 16th, 2015

|                   | FOREIGN EXCHANGE OUTLOOK |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Currency          | Exchange Rate            | 2015 |      |      |      | 2016 |      |      |      | 2017 |      |      |      |
| Currency          | Exchange Nate            | Q1   | Q2   | Q3   | Q4*  | Q1F  | Q2F  | Q3F  | Q4F  | Q1F  | Q2F  | Q3F  | Q4F  |
| Canadian dollar   | CAD per USD              | 1.27 | 1.25 | 1.34 | 1.38 | 1.40 | 1.37 | 1.35 | 1.33 | 1.32 | 1.30 | 1.29 | 1.28 |
| Japanese yen      | JPY per USD              | 120  | 122  | 120  | 122  | 123  | 123  | 120  | 116  | 118  | 120  | 122  | 122  |
| Euro              | USD per EUR              | 1.07 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.09 | 1.03 | 1.06 | 1.10 | 1.12 | 1.15 | 1.15 | 1.20 | 1.20 |
| U.K. pound        | USD per GBP              | 1.49 | 1.57 | 1.51 | 1.50 | 1.58 | 1.62 | 1.65 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.67 | 1.67 | 1.67 |
| Swiss franc       | CHF per USD              | 0.97 | 0.94 | 0.98 | 0.99 | 1.04 | 1.01 | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.92 | 0.94 | 0.92 | 0.92 |
| Australian dollar | USD per AUD              | 0.76 | 0.77 | 0.70 | 0.72 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 0.69 | 0.70 | 0.72 | 0.74 | 0.76 | 0.76 |
| NZ dollar         | USD per NZD              | 0.75 | 0.68 | 0.64 | 0.68 | 0.61 | 0.59 | 0.57 | 0.56 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.60 | 0.61 |

F: Forecast by TD Economics, December 2015; All forecasts are for end of period; Source: Federal Reserve, Bloomberg, TD Economics. \*Spot rate on December 16th, 2015

|                                     | COMMODITY PRICE OUTLOOK   |            |           |          |           |          |           |          |          |          |      |      |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------|------|--|
|                                     |   | 20         | 15        |          |           | 20       | 16        |          | 2017     |          |      |      |  |
|                                     | Q1  | Q2         | Q3        | Q4E      | Q1F       | Q2F      | Q3F       | Q4F      | Q1F      | Q2F      | Q3F  | Q4F  |  |
| Crude Oil (WTI, \$US/bbl)           | 49  | 59         | 46        | 44       | 40        | 44       | 50        | 55       | 57       | 57       | 60   | 60   |  |
| Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)            | 2.87  | 2.78       | 2.75      | 2.25     | 3.00      | 2.75     | 3.25      | 3.00     | 3.25     | 3.10     | 3.60 | 3.80 |  |
| Gold (\$US/troy oz.)                | 1218  | 1191       | 1125      | 1135     | 1100      | 1125     | 1175      | 1210     | 1200     | 1175     | 1125 | 1075 |  |
| Silver (US\$/troy oz.)              | 16.7  | 16.4       | 14.9      | 15.4     | 14.9      | 15.8     | 16.3      | 16.8     | 16.7     | 16.3     | 14.9 | 14.8 |  |
| Copper (cents/lb)                   | 264   | 275        | 236       | 238      | 265       | 265      | 265       | 265      | 265      | 265      | 265  | 265  |  |
| Nickel (US\$/lb)                    | 6.51  | 5.94       | 4.85      | 5.00     | 5.50      | 6.25     | 6.50      | 6.50     | 7.25     | 7.25     | 8.00 | 8.00 |  |
| Aluminum (Cents/lb)                 | 82  | 79         | 73        | 73       | 72        | 74       | 74        | 78       | 78       | 80       | 84   | 84   |  |
| Wheat (\$US/bu)                     | Wheat (\$US/bu) 7.45 7.34 6.50 6.25 6.50 6.75 6.90 7.00 7.10 7.25 7.35 7.50 |            |           |          |           |          |           |          |          |          |      |      |  |
| F: Forecast by TD Bank Group, Decem | ber 2015  | . E: Estir | nate. For | ecasts a | re period | averages | s. Source | : Bloomb | erg, USE | OA (Have | r).  |      |  |



| GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK   |         |                |        |      |      |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|---------|----------------|--------|------|------|--|--|--|--|
| Annual per cent change ur | less ot | herwise        | indica | ted  |      |  |  |  |  |
| 2014                      | Share*  | hare* Forecast |        |      |      |  |  |  |  |
| Real GDP                  | (%)     | 2014           | 2015   | 2016 | 2017 |  |  |  |  |
| World                     | 100.0   | 3.4            | 3.0    | 3.3  | 3.5  |  |  |  |  |
| North America             | 19.4    | 2.4            | 2.4    | 2.4  | 2.4  |  |  |  |  |
| United States             | 15.9    | 2.4            | 2.5    | 2.4  | 2.3  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada                    | 1.5     | 2.4            | 1.2    | 1.7  | 1.8  |  |  |  |  |
| Mexico                    | 2.0     | 2.1            | 2.4    | 2.8  | 3.4  |  |  |  |  |
| European Union (EU-28)    | 17.1    | 1.5            | 1.8    | 2.0  | 2.0  |  |  |  |  |
| Euro-zone (EU-17)         | 12.2    | 0.9            | 1.5    | 1.7  | 1.7  |  |  |  |  |
| Germany                   | 3.4     | 1.6            | 1.5    | 1.8  | 1.8  |  |  |  |  |
| France                    | 2.4     | 0.2            | 1.2    | 1.5  | 1.6  |  |  |  |  |
| Italy                     | 2.0     | -0.4           | 0.7    | 1.2  | 1.2  |  |  |  |  |
| United Kingdom            | 2.4     | 3.0            | 2.4    | 2.4  | 2.2  |  |  |  |  |
| EU accession members      | 2.6     | 2.6            | 2.9    | 2.8  | 2.9  |  |  |  |  |
| Asia                      | 42.1    | 5.2            | 4.6    | 4.9  | 4.9  |  |  |  |  |
| Japan                     | 4.4     | -0.1           | 0.7    | 1.2  | 0.5  |  |  |  |  |
| Asian NIC's               | 3.4     | 3.3            | 2.1    | 2.5  | 2.6  |  |  |  |  |
| Hong Kong                 | 0.4     | 2.5            | 2.5    | 2.4  | 2.5  |  |  |  |  |
| Korea                     | 1.6     | 3.3            | 2.6    | 2.9  | 3.0  |  |  |  |  |
| Singapore                 | 0.4     | 2.9            | 2.1    | 2.0  | 2.0  |  |  |  |  |
| Taiwan                    | 1.0     | 3.8            | 1.0    | 2.0  | 2.1  |  |  |  |  |
| Russia                    | 3.3     | 0.6            | -3.9   | -0.6 | 1.4  |  |  |  |  |
| Australia & New Zealand   | 1.2     | 2.8            | 2.3    | 2.8  | 2.9  |  |  |  |  |
| Developing Asia           | 29.9    | 6.8            | 6.5    | 6.3  | 6.2  |  |  |  |  |
| ASEAN-4                   | 4.8     | 4.5            | 4.4    | 4.7  | 4.8  |  |  |  |  |
| China                     | 16.6    | 7.3            | 6.8    | 6.2  | 5.9  |  |  |  |  |
| India**                   | 6.8     | 7.3            | 7.6    | 8.0  | 8.2  |  |  |  |  |
| Central/South America     | 6.6     | 1.1            | -1.5   | -0.2 | 1.3  |  |  |  |  |
| Brazil                    | 3.0     | 0.1            | -3.7   | -1.5 | 1.0  |  |  |  |  |
| Other Developing          | 13.7    | 3.1            | 2.6    | 3.2  | 3.6  |  |  |  |  |
| Other Advanced            | 1.0     | 2.1            | 1.4    | 1.8  | 2.0  |  |  |  |  |

\*Share of world GDP on a purchasing-power-parity basis.
Forecast as at December 2015. \*\*Forecast for India refers to FY.

Source: IMF, TD Economics.

| ECONOMIC INDICATORS: G-7 AND EUROPE |           |          |          |      |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|------|--|--|--|--|
|                                     |           |          | Forecas  | t    |  |  |  |  |
|                                     | 2014      | 2015     | 2016     | 2017 |  |  |  |  |
| Real GDP (Annual per cent change)   |           |          |          |      |  |  |  |  |
| G-7 (32.7%)*                        | 1.7       | 1.8      | 2.0      | 1.9  |  |  |  |  |
| U.S.                                | 2.4       | 2.5      | 2.4      | 2.3  |  |  |  |  |
| Japan                               | -0.1      | 0.7      | 1.2      | 0.5  |  |  |  |  |
| EZ                                  | 0.9       | 1.5      | 1.7      | 1.7  |  |  |  |  |
| Germany                             | 1.6       | 1.5      | 1.8      | 1.8  |  |  |  |  |
| France                              | 0.2       | 1.2      | 1.5      | 1.6  |  |  |  |  |
| Italy                               | -0.4      | 0.7      | 1.2      | 1.2  |  |  |  |  |
| United Kingdom                      | 2.9       | 2.4      | 2.4      | 2.2  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada                              | 2.4       | 1.2      | 1.7      | 1.8  |  |  |  |  |
| Consumer Price Index                | (Annual   | per cent | change   | )    |  |  |  |  |
| G-7                                 | 1.5       | 0.3      | 1.5      | 2.3  |  |  |  |  |
| U.S.                                | 1.6       | 0.1      | 1.8      | 2.8  |  |  |  |  |
| Japan                               | 2.7       | 0.7      | 0.5      | 1.8  |  |  |  |  |
| EZ                                  | 0.4       | 0.1      | 1.6      | 2.3  |  |  |  |  |
| Germany                             | 8.0       | 0.2      | 1.4      | 1.7  |  |  |  |  |
| France                              | 0.6       | 0.1      | 1.3      | 1.8  |  |  |  |  |
| Italy                               | 0.2       | 0.2      | 1.5      | 2.2  |  |  |  |  |
| United Kingdom                      | 1.5       | 0.1      | 1.6      | 2.3  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada                              | 1.9       | 1.1      | 1.6      | 1.9  |  |  |  |  |
| Unemployment Rate (F                | er cent a | annual a | verages) | 1    |  |  |  |  |
| U.S.                                | 6.2       | 5.3      | 4.9      | 4.8  |  |  |  |  |
| Japan                               | 3.6       | 3.4      | 3.3      | 3.5  |  |  |  |  |
| EZ                                  | 11.6      | 11.0     | 10.6     | 10.2 |  |  |  |  |
| Germany                             | 5.0       | 4.6      | 4.4      | 4.5  |  |  |  |  |
| France                              | 10.3      | 10.6     | 10.6     | 10.4 |  |  |  |  |
| Italy                               | 12.7      | 12.0     | 11.6     | 11.3 |  |  |  |  |
| United Kingdom                      | 6.2       | 5.4      | 5.3      | 5.2  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada                              | 6.9       | 6.9      | 7.1      | 6.9  |  |  |  |  |

\*Share of 2014 world gross domestic product (GDP)

Forecast as at December 2015

Source: National statistics agencies, TD Economics

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