

Quarterly Economic Forecast

Cutting to the Chase

September 19, 2024

Highlights

- Although our global growth forecast has barely budged, it overlooks divergent paths between countries. The U.S. and Canada have benefited from upgrades, while previous growth stalwarts like China and Germany are getting the short end of the stick.
- We will hold the pen to alter forecasts once U.S. election outcomes are known. One of those may relate to personal income taxes, which the current baseline forecast keeps unchanged from those implemented in the 2017 TCJA. This is not a political statement, but a nod to the tendency for sunset clauses to not sunset.

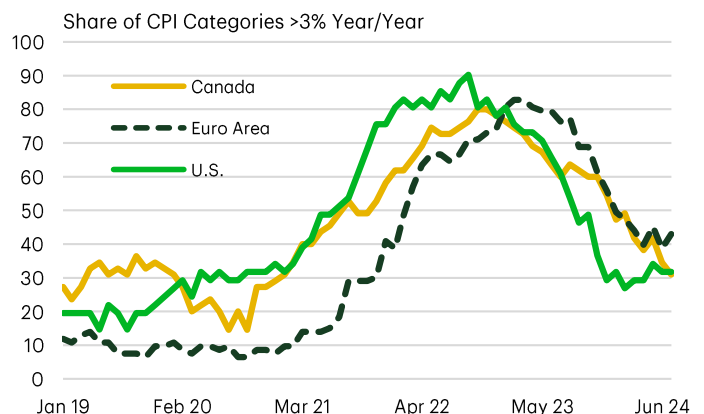
Despite eventful times in geopolitics, the global economic outlook has held steady, at least on the surface. But the global forecast shown in the table is just a number and doesn't tell the story. There is significant variability between countries. The slight upgrade to the 2024 outlook is largely to the credit of the U.S., with smaller economies also pitching in, like the U.K. and Canada, along with some upgrades in emerging markets. In contrast, previous growth stalwarts like China and Germany have turned into notable laggards. One point of commonality is that global central banks agree that with inflation increasingly under control (Chart 1), it is time to cut to the chase.

In the case of Germany, the economy is still recovering from the energy shock in 2022. Consumer and producer prices rose more than in the rest of the euro area, and household and business confidence is still struggling to recover. Germany contracted in the second quarter and is at risk of a repeat in the third quarter. On the other side of the channel, the UK has outperformed through the first half of the year.

China's strong start to the year toppled under the weight of a shrinking real estate sector and depressed consumer demand. The result is an economy flirting with deflation. There is a real risk that China will miss the growth target set by authorities, with government stimulus measures, so far, proving insufficient in reviving consumer and business confidence.

It is the shot being heard around the world. Commodity prices have responded to concerns of weak Chinese demand, with the outlook for crude oil prices collapsing US\$10 per barrel in just over two weeks despite OPEC+'s deferral of production increases. This has forced a downgrade to our near-term oil price forecast. For central bankers undertaking a rate-cut cycle, this isn't a bad thing since it helps in tapping down headline inflation. But, it may reflect only short-term relief. Oil prices next year are forecast to average \$77 per barrel as falling interest rates support demand and

Chart 1: Inflation Breadth Narrows Across Economies



Source: BLS, Stat Can, Eurostat, ONS, TD Economics. Last Observation: July 2024

OPEC maintains its attempt to carefully manage global oil supply.

Is this really a U.S. goldilocks economy?

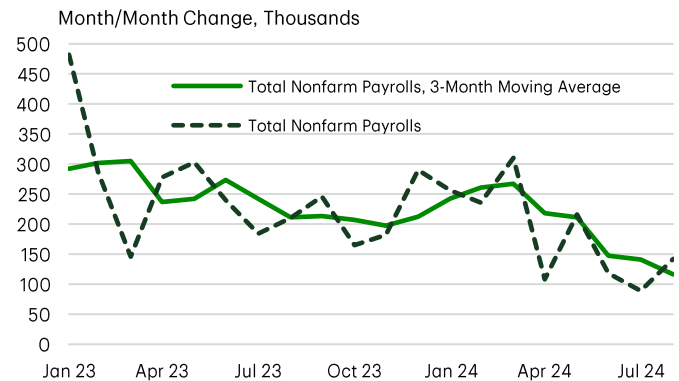
Over the past quarter, developments in the U.S. economy have read like a storybook. The economy has cooled, but not toppled. Economic growth remains just above 2%, otherwise described as the ‘trend pace’. The labor market has also moved back into balance (Chart 2), and inflation has commenced a convincing descent towards the 2% target. The Fed finally has the confidence that it can lower interest rates without stoking too much heat back into the economy. For forecasters buffeted by major swings in recent years, the goldilocks scenario feels too good to be true.

Getting into the nitty gritty of the economy, growth has been revised marginally higher for 2024 to 2.6%, although we expect the pace to continue slowing towards 2% by the end of the year. A similar clip is on tap for next year, as lower interest rates provide a floor under demand. Consumer spending has been resilient thus far, but the central bank must be mindful of the headwinds coming from the erosion of pandemic era excess savings and rising delinquency rates across products and credit quality. Consumers are feeling the weight of high interest rates and need relief, particularly now that labor demand has returned to its cooler pre-pandemic temperature. Likewise, housing demand should improve next year, coming off tough affordability conditions.

Fortunately, business investment has fared better than anticipated. However, this too could lose some of its heat. The second quarter was boosted by aircraft orders that tend to be lumpy and often lead to give-back in the coming quarters. If so, the good news is that it won’t be sufficient to upend the sector. The transportation segment still has room to recover as borrowing costs come down. Investment in fleet (trucks, trailers and other light vehicles) remain 25% below pre-pandemic levels due to past shortages. So, while overall business investment should slow modestly over the next year in line with the overall economy, the easing interest rate cycle will limit the downside.

The economy looks strong on the eve of the presidential election, but the outlook for fiscal policy is a key uncertainty. Our base case is for government spending to slow, and this is more likely to occur under a divided Congress, which typically leads to constrained fiscal

Chart 2. U.S. Labor Market Has Cooled Enough for the Fed to Take Notice



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, TD Economics.

activity. Adding to that is a slowing in state and local spending from higher levels coming out of the pandemic, but there will continue to be an impulse on the infrastructure side. Readers should note that our base case embeds no changes in tax policy because, historically, governments find other compromises to avoid sunset clauses. This is particularly important to the regime of personal income taxes, which are set to expire at the end of 2025 under the TCJA of 2017. In the event Vice President Harris wins the presidency, we are more likely to see some alteration to personal taxes. This could result in a small downward revision to economic growth in the range of 20 to 30 basis points in 2026 depending on the extent of changes and compromises with [Congress](#).

Financial markets agree with our view that we are set for a longer period of easing in the fed funds rate. The Fed opted to go big in its first interest rate cut, with a half percentage point reduction. There was a strong case for this given that inflation has eased to about 2.6%, and the real policy rate is very restrictive – at about 300 basis points above its 20-year average! Now that the Fed has shown a willingness to act decisively to bring the fed funds rate to a less restrictive level, we expect they will follow through with another half point cut in November, before moving a more gradual cadence of quarter point reductions per meeting thereafter. However, as Chair Powell emphasized in the press conference, the Fed’s pace is not on a pre-set course and would be decided on a meeting-by-meeting basis based on the incoming data. Fine tuning the policy rate is an art, not a science. However, the pace of interest rate cuts does not change our view that the goal post is still a neutral rate of 3%.

Exhibits

Interest Rate Outlook

Interest Rates	2024				2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3F	Q4F	Q1F	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F	Q1F	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F
Fed Funds Target Rate	5.50	5.50	5.00	4.25	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3-mth T-Bill Rate	5.23	5.22	4.75	3.90	3.55	3.30	3.00	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90
2-yr Govt. Bond Yield	4.59	4.71	3.55	3.25	3.10	3.05	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
5-yr Govt. Bond Yield	4.21	4.33	3.40	3.35	3.25	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20
10-yr Govt. Bond Yield	4.20	4.36	3.65	3.55	3.50	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45
30-yr Govt. Bond Yield	4.34	4.51	3.95	3.85	3.80	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
10-yr-2-yr Govt Spread	-0.39	-0.35	0.10	0.30	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45

F: Forecast by TD Economics, September 2024. All forecasts are end-of-period.

Source: Bloomberg, Federal Reserve, TD Economics.

Foreign Exchange Outlook

Currency	Exchange Rate	2024				2025				2026			
		Q1	Q2	Q3F	Q4F	Q1F	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F	Q1F	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F
Euro	USD per EUR	1.08	1.07	1.11	1.07	1.09	1.11	1.14	1.16	1.18	1.20	1.20	1.20
UK Pound	USD per GBP	1.26	1.26	1.31	1.26	1.29	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30
Australian Dollar	USD per AUD	0.65	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.66	0.67	0.69	0.70	0.71	0.72	0.72	0.74
NZ Dollar	USD per NZD	0.60	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.60	0.61	0.63	0.64	0.65	0.66	0.66	0.68
Canadian Dollar	CAD per USD	1.35	1.37	1.36	1.37	1.36	1.35	1.35	1.34	1.34	1.33	1.33	1.33
Swiss Franc	CHF per USD	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Japanese Yen	JPY per USD	151	161	142	141	140	139	137	136	135	134	134	133
Chinese Renminbi	CNY per USD	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8

F: Forecast by TD Economics, September 2024. All forecasts are end-of-period.

Source: Bloomberg, Federal Reserve, TD Economics.

Commodity Price Outlook

Commodity	2024				2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3F	Q4F	Q1F	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F	Q1F	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F
Crude Oil (WTI, \$US/bbl)	77	81	77	76	75	76	77	78	78	78	79	79
Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)	2.23	2.07	2.20	2.50	2.90	3.10	3.10	3.30	3.32	3.33	3.35	3.37
Gold (\$US/troy oz.)	2072	2336	2430	2475	2495	2450	2400	2375	2387	2399	2411	2423
Silver (\$US/troy oz.)	23.37	28.87	28.75	29.50	32.00	31.50	31.00	30.50	30.65	30.81	30.96	31.11
Copper (cents/lb)	383	442	413	420	435	435	435	435	437	439	442	444
Nickel (\$US/lb)	7.52	8.35	7.40	7.53	7.70	7.60	7.60	7.50	7.54	7.58	7.61	7.65
Aluminum (cents/lb)	100	114	107	111	112	112	115	115	116	116	117	117
Wheat (\$US/bu)	5.87	6.04	5.50	5.60	5.80	5.80	5.80	5.80	5.83	5.86	5.89	5.92

F: Forecast by TD Economics, September 2024. All forecasts are period averages.

Source: Bloomberg, TD Economics.

U.S. Economic Outlook																		
Period-Over-Period Annualized Per Cent Change Unless Otherwise Indicated																		
Economic Indicators	2024				2025				2026				Annual Average			4th Qtr/4th Qtr		
	Q1	Q2	Q3F	Q4F	Q1F	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F	Q1F	Q2F	Q3F	Q4F	24F	25F	26F	24F	25F	26F
Real GDP	1.4	3.0	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.6	1.9	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.2
Consumer Expenditure	1.5	2.9	3.5	2.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.8	2.5	1.5	2.0
Durable Goods	-4.4	4.9	9.0	2.6	-0.4	1.0	1.7	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.9	1.3	3.0
Business Investment	4.4	4.6	3.7	2.7	2.9	3.6	4.1	4.5	4.9	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.9	3.4	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.8
Non-Res. Structures	3.4	-1.6	0.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	5.2	3.1	3.0	1.9	3.2	3.0
Equipment & IPP*	4.8	6.4	4.7	1.8	2.5	3.7	4.5	4.9	5.4	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	4.4	4.4	3.9	4.1
Residential Investment	16.0	-2.1	-13.0	-1.5	6.0	10.0	11.8	13.7	11.4	9.1	6.7	4.4	2.7	3.4	10.3	-0.7	10.3	7.9
Govt. Expenditure	1.8	2.7	2.0	1.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	3.1	1.1	0.3	2.0	0.5	0.2
Final Domestic Demand	2.4	2.9	2.6	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.8	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.0	2.2
Exports	1.6	1.6	4.0	2.5	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	2.3	2.8	3.4	2.4	2.9	3.5
Imports	6.1	7.0	7.0	4.4	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	4.4	3.4	2.6	6.1	2.2	2.8
Change in Private Inventories	28.6	69.0	66.1	65.1	59.3	57.2	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	57.2	56.6	55.0	--	--	--
Final Sales	1.8	2.2	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.5	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.2
International Current Account Balance (\$Bn)	-951	-1024	-1029	-1099	-1103	-1112	-1107	-1106	-1092	-1099	-1095	-1088	-1026	-1107	-1093	--	--	--
% of GDP	-3.4	-3.6	-3.6	-3.8	-3.7	-3.7	-3.7	-3.6	-3.5	-3.5	-3.5	-3.4	-3.6	-3.7	-3.5	--	--	--
Pre-tax Corporate Profits Including IVA&CCA	-5.4	7.0	8.7	-4.9	-4.7	6.1	5.5	5.9	9.8	5.6	7.7	7.1	5.5	1.5	7.1	1.1	3.1	7.5
% of GDP	11.9	12.0	12.1	11.8	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.8	11.9	12.0	11.9	11.6	11.9	--	--	--
GDP Deflator (y/y)	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.3
Nominal GDP	4.5	5.5	4.5	3.9	3.6	4.3	4.5	4.9	5.2	4.0	4.4	4.5	5.2	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.5
Labor Force	-0.6	0.9	1.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7
Employment	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.6	0.9	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.7
Change in Empl. ('000s)	771	576	377	333	295	356	360	360	300	270	270	270	2459	1414	1244	2057	1371	1110
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.0	--	--	--
Personal Disp. Income	4.8	3.6	3.5	3.5	4.7	3.4	4.0	4.4	5.6	4.9	4.8	5.0	3.8	3.9	4.8	3.9	4.1	5.1
Pers. Savings Rate (%)	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	3.1	3.0	3.9	--	--	--
Cons. Price Index (y/y)	3.2	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	3.1	2.3	2.2	2.9	2.1	2.2
Core CPI (y/y)	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	3.4	2.3	2.2	3.0	2.3	2.2
Core PCE Price Index (y/y)	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.7	2.0	2.0
Housing Starts (mns)	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.5	--	--	--
Real Output per Hour** (y/y)	2.9	2.7	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.6	2.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.6

F: Forecast by TD Economics, September 2024.

* Intellectual Property Products. ** Non-farm business sector.

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

Economic Indicators: G7 & Europe				
	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Real GDP (Annual Per Cent Change)				
G7 (42.4%)*	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8
U.S.	2.5	2.6	1.9	2.3
Japan	1.7	0.2	1.5	0.8
Euro Area	0.5	0.8	1.3	1.3
Germany	-0.1	0.0	1.0	1.3
France	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.6
Italy	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.8
United Kingdom	0.1	1.1	1.4	1.5
Canada	1.2	1.1	1.7	2.0
Consumer Price Index (Annual Per Cent Change)				
G7	4.7	2.8	2.1	2.0
U.S.	4.1	3.1	2.3	2.2
Japan	3.3	2.2	1.5	1.5
Euro Area	5.4	2.5	2.1	2.0
Germany	6.0	2.4	2.0	2.0
France	5.7	2.5	1.9	2.0
Italy	5.9	1.2	1.8	1.7
United Kingdom	7.3	2.6	2.4	2.1
Canada	3.9	2.5	2.1	2.1
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent Annual Averages)				
U.S.	3.6	4.1	4.2	4.0
Japan	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3
Euro Area	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4
Germany	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.8
France	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.2
Italy	7.7	7.2	7.7	7.6
United Kingdom	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.3
Canada	5.4	6.4	6.7	6.3

F: Forecast by TD Economics, September 2024.
 *Share of 2022 world gross domestic product (GDP) at PPP.
 Source: National Statistics Agencies, IMF, TD Economics.

Global Economic Outlook				
Annual Per Cent Change Unless Otherwise Indicated				
	2022 Share*	Forecast		
Real GDP	(%)	2024F	2025F	2026F
World	100.0	3.2	3.1	3.1
North America	18.9	2.4	1.9	2.2
United States	15.5	2.6	1.9	2.3
Canada	1.4	1.1	1.7	2.0
Mexico	1.9	1.5	2.1	2.0
European Union (EU-27)	14.9	1.0	1.6	1.5
Euro Area (EU-20)	12.0	0.8	1.3	1.3
Germany	3.3	0.0	1.0	1.3
France	2.3	1.2	1.2	1.6
Italy	1.9	0.8	1.1	0.8
Other EU Members	2.8	2.4	2.8	2.4
Asia	45.0	4.4	4.2	4.1
Japan	3.8	0.2	1.5	0.8
Asian NIC's	3.5	2.9	2.4	2.5
Hong Kong	0.3	3.2	2.4	2.6
Korea	1.7	2.3	2.3	2.5
Singapore	0.4	2.5	2.2	2.5
Taiwan	1.0	3.9	2.7	2.4
Russia	2.9	3.8	2.2	1.8
Australia & New Zealand	1.2	1.2	2.3	2.5
Emerging Asia	32.8	5.3	5.0	4.9
ASEAN-5	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.1
China	18.4	4.9	4.4	4.3
India**	7.3	6.5	6.7	6.5
Central/South America	5.4	1.6	2.4	2.4
Brazil	2.3	2.8	2.3	2.2
Other Emerging Markets	12.7	3.2	3.7	3.4
Other Advanced	3.4	1.3	1.7	3.2
United Kingdom	2.3	1.1	1.4	1.5

F: Forecast by TD Economics, September 2024.
 * Share of 2022 world gross domestic product (GDP) at PPP.
 ** Forecast for India refers to fiscal year.
 Source: National Statistics Agencies, IMF, TD Economics.

For any media enquiries please contact Debra Moris at 416-982-8141

Disclaimer

This report is provided by TD Economics. It is for informational and educational purposes only as of the date of writing, and may not be appropriate for other purposes. The views and opinions expressed may change at any time based on market or other conditions and may not come to pass. This material is not intended to be relied upon as investment advice or recommendations, does not constitute a solicitation to buy or sell securities and should not be considered specific legal, investment or tax advice. The report does not provide material information about the business and affairs of TD Bank Group and the members of TD Economics are not spokespersons for TD Bank Group with respect to its business and affairs. The information contained in this report has been drawn from sources believed to be reliable, but is not guaranteed to be accurate or complete. This report contains economic analysis and views, including about future economic and financial markets performance. These are based on certain assumptions and other factors, and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. The actual outcome may be materially different. The Toronto-Dominion Bank and its affiliates and related entities that comprise the TD Bank Group are not liable for any errors or omissions in the information, analysis or views contained in this report, or for any loss or damage suffered.