# **ECOWEEK**

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**ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT** 



The bank for a changing world

# **EDITORIAL**

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# THE COVID-19 RECESSION: THIS TIME IS REALLY DIFFERENT

Across time and countries, financial crises and, more broadly, recessions and recoveries, have had much in common. Recessions predominantly impact the demand side whereas the influence on the supply side is more limited. This time is different. The pandemic-induced recession will have a longer lasting influence on the allocation of household expenditures, if not on the level of spending. More than a normal recession, it will also have major repercussions on the supply side, through changes in global value chains, working from home or the disruption of the economics of businesses which are confronted with a forced capacity reduction on social distancing grounds.

Back in 2009, when the world was trying to escape from the Great Recession, Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff published a book which turned into a bestseller: *This time is different – Eight centuries of financial folly.* Its title was misleading because, as the authors explain in the preface, "Our basic message is simple: we have been here before."

Indeed, across time and countries, financial crises and, more broadly, recessions and recoveries, have much in common. Chart 1 provides a simplified representation of the 2008-2009 recession. Years of rising leverage had created a bubble in several property markets, which eventually burst. This caused a shock to demand but also to market-based financing as well as bank wholesale funding. A major financial crisis and a severe recession followed. Chart 2 represents the current recession. Its origin is exogenous and non-economic but the consequences for the economy are profound. The lockdown causes shocks to demand and supply and impacts severely balance sheets of households, companies, central banks and the public sector. This has led to a recession which is different from anything seen before in recent history.

In a normal recession, behavioural relationships -i.e. how demand reacts to interest rates, income, fiscal policy- tend to be rather stable. This impression that history repeats itself helps in producing forecasts. The impact on the supply side is rather limited and essentially works via the influence of subdued corporate investment on the capital stock, productivity and potential GDP growth. Post the pandemic, we can no longer assume that economic life will go back to how it was before.

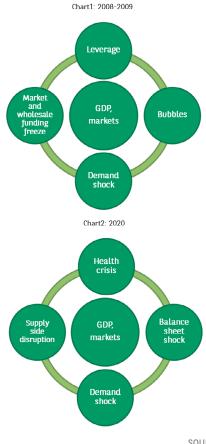
This structural change complicates the task of forecasting. On the demand side, health risk has become a key factor and it is likely to remain so until a vaccine has been found and mass vaccination is possible. It influences how people shop and travel. Time will tell whether it will cause a substitution effect –less exotic travel, fewer visits to restaurants versus more expensive bikes to avoid public transports– or will lead to an increase in the savings rate, which would act as a drag on growth. Even more important and far reaching are the changes to the supply side. Long and complex global value chains may very well be revisited so as to make them shorter, simpler and more resilient. However, such nearshoring could also make them more expensive, which would force companies to invest in process innovation or to cut costs in other areas such as premises, if due to competition, they are not in a position to hike prices.

In this respect, the experience of successfully working from home has been an eye opener for many: it is cheaper for the employer, who needs less office space, the employee saves money by having to commute less often and there is an efficiency gain because the time otherwise spent in public transports or traffic jams can be used more productively. In

addition, the environmental footprint also declines. Needless to say that in the medium run this will weigh on the demand for office space. Another consequence of the pandemic is the deterioration in the economics of businesses such as restaurants which are temporarily confronted with a forced capacity reduction on social distancing grounds. Given that they are very labour intensive, the repercussions go well beyond the companies directly involved. This overview is clearly not exhaustive, but it does show that the pandemic-induced recession will have longer lasting consequences, in particular via changes in the supply side. This time is really different.

William De Vijlder

#### 2008-2009 RECESSION VERSUS 2020 RECESSION



SOURCE: BNP PARIBAS

<sup>1.</sup> Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff, This time is different – Eight centuries of financial folly, Princeton University Press, 2009





# MARKETS OVERVIEW

#### **OVERVIEW**

#### **MONEY & BOND MARKETS**

| Week 15-5 20 to 2        | 1-5-20     |                        | Internet Detec   |      | himbant 20    | lawest 20     | Viald MA     |       | blebeet 00      | Laurant 00     |
|--------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------------|------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|
| 7 CAC 40                 | 4 278 ▶ 4  | 445 +3.9               | % Interest Rates |      | highest 20    | lowest 20     | Yield (%)    |       | highest 20      | lowest 20      |
| <b>⊅</b> S&P 500         | 2 864 ▶ 2  | 949 +3.0               | \$ FED           | 0.25 | 1.75 at 01/01 | 0.25 at 16/03 | € AVG 5-7y   | 0.08  | 0.72 at 18/03   |                |
|                          |            |                        | Libor 3M         | 0.36 | 1.91 at 01/01 | 0.36 at 20/05 | Bund 2y      | -0.69 | -0.58 at 14/01  | -1.00 at 09/03 |
| Volatility (VIX)         | 31.9 ▶ 2   | 9.5 -2.4               | pb Libor 12M     | 0.71 | 2.00 at 01/01 | 0.71 at 20/05 | Bund 10y     | -0.50 | -0.17 at 19/03  | -0.84 at 09/03 |
| Libor \$ 3M (%)          | 0.38 ▶ 0   | .36 - <mark>2.3</mark> | bp £BoE          | 0.10 | 0.75 at 01/01 | 0.10 at 19/03 | OAT 10y      | -0.03 | 0.28 at 18/03   | -0.42 at 09/03 |
| ■ OAT 10y (%)            | -0.01 ▶ -0 | .03 -1.1               | bp Libor 3M      | 0.26 | 0.80 at 08/01 | 0.26 at 20/05 | Corp. BBB    | 1.78  | 2.54 at 24/03   | 0.65 at 20/02  |
| <b>⊅</b> Bund 10y (%)    | -0.53 ▶ -0 | 1.50 +2.6              | bp Libor 12M     | 0.63 | 0.98 at 01/01 | 0.52 at 11/03 | \$ Treas. 2y | 0.17  | 1.59 at 08/01   | 0.13 at 07/05  |
| 7 US Tr. 10y (%)         | 0.63 ▶ 0   | .67 +3.4               | hn At 21-5-20    |      |               |               | Treas. 10y   | 0.67  | 1.91 at 01/01   | 0.50 at 09/03  |
| , ,                      |            |                        | OP               |      |               |               | High Yield   | 7.63  | 1 1.29 at 23/03 | 5.44 at 21/02  |
| <b>⊅</b> Euro vs dollar  | 1.08 ▶ 1   | 09 +1.1                | %                |      |               |               | C =:   b   O | 0.01  | 0.61 at 08/01   | 0.00 at 23/03  |
| ■ Gold (ounce, \$)       | 1 744 ▶ 1  | 724 -1.1               | %                |      |               |               | £ gilt. 2y   | 0.01  |                 |                |
| , , , ,                  |            | 6.2 +11.1              | 0/               |      |               |               | gilt. 10y    | 0.13  | 0.83 at 01/01   | 0.13 at 21/05  |
| <b>⊅</b> Oil (Brent, \$) | 32.0 F 3   | 0.2 +11.1              | 70               |      |               |               | At 21-5-20   |       |                 |                |

#### **EXCHANGE RATES**

| 1€=     |        | high   | est 20   | low    | est | 20    | 2020   |
|---------|--------|--------|----------|--------|-----|-------|--------|
| USD     | 1.09   | 1.14   | at 09/03 | 1.07   | at  | 20/03 | -2.5%  |
| GBP     | 0.90   | 0.94   | at 23/03 | 0.83   | at  | 18/02 | +5.7%  |
| CHF     | 1.06   | 1.09   | at 01/01 | 1.05   | at  | 14/05 | -2.3%  |
| JPY     | 117.97 | 122.70 | at 16/01 | 114.51 | at  | 06/05 | -3.3%  |
| AUD     | 1.67   | 1.87   | at 23/03 | 1.60   | at  | 01/01 | +4.3%  |
| CNY     | 7.77   | 7.94   | at 09/03 | 7.55   | at  | 19/02 | -0.6%  |
| BRL     | 6.11   | 6.42   | at 13/05 | 4.51   | at  | 02/01 | +35.4% |
| RUB     | 77.61  | 87.95  | at 30/03 | 67.75  | at  | 10/01 | +11.3% |
| INR     | 82.73  | 84.60  | at 09/03 | 77.21  | at  | 17/02 | +3.3%  |
| At 21-5 | 5-20   |        |          |        |     |       | Change |

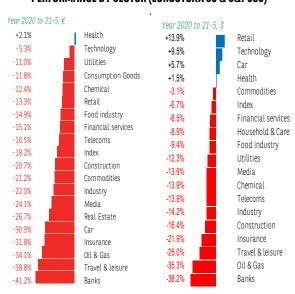
#### COMMODITIES

| Spot price, \$ |       | highest 20 |    |       | lowest 20 |    |       | 2020 2020(€) |        |  |
|----------------|-------|------------|----|-------|-----------|----|-------|--------------|--------|--|
| Oil, Brent     | 36.2  | 69.1       | at | 06/01 | 16.5      | at | 21/04 | -45.4%       | -43.9% |  |
| Gold (ounce)   | 1 724 | 1 746      | at | 20/05 | 1 475     | at | 19/03 | +13.4%       | +16.3% |  |
| Metals, LMEX   | 2 473 | 2 894      | at | 20/01 | 2 232     | at | 23/03 | -13.0%       | -10.8% |  |
| Copper (ton)   | 5 364 | 6 270      | at | 14/01 | 4 625     | at | 23/03 | -12.8%       | -10.5% |  |
| CRB Foods      | 301   | 341.5      | at | 21/01 | 272       | at | 27/04 | -11.0%       | -8.7%  |  |
| wheat (ton)    | 197   | 2.4        | at | 21/01 | 190       | at | 19/05 | -14.0%       | -11.7% |  |
| Corn (ton)     | 118   | 1.5        | at | 23/01 | 113       | at | 28/04 | -2.1%        | -19.3% |  |
| At 21-5-20     | _     |            |    |       |           |    |       |              | Change |  |

### **EQUITY INDICES**

#### highest 20 lowest 20 2020 Index World MSCI World 2 074 2 435 at 12/02 1 602 at 23/03 -12.1% North America 2 949 3 386 at 19/02 2 237 at 23/03 -8.7% S&P500 Europe EuroStoxx50 2 905 3 865 at 19/02 2 386 at 18/03 -22.4% 4 445 6 111 at 19/02 3 755 at 18/03 -2.6% DAX 30 11 066 13 789 at 19/02 8 442 at 18/03 -16.5% 6 686 10 084 at 19/02 6 107 at 16/03 -3.0% IBEX 35 FTSE100 6 015 7 675 at 17/01 4 994 at 23/03 -2.0% MSCI, loc. 863 1 034 at 20/01 743 at 23/03 -1.4% 20 552 24 084 at 20/01 16 553 at 19/03 -13.1% **Emerging** MSCI Emerging (\$) 1 147 at 17/01 758 at 23/03 -1.7% 83 90 at 13/01 69 at 19/03 -3.0% China 609 at 17/01 353 at 23/03 -21.2% 1 238 2 429 at 02/01 1 036 at 23/03 -27.5% Brazil Russia 612 857 at 20/01 419 at 18/03 -14.4% At 21-5-20

# PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR (EUROSTOXX 50 & S&P500)



SOURCE: THOMSON REUTERS,





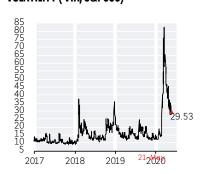
# **MARKETS OVERVIEW**



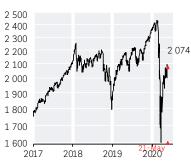




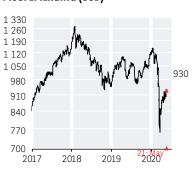
# VOLATILITY (VIX, S&P500)







### MSCI EMERGING (USD)



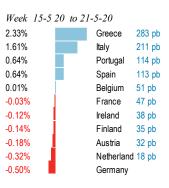
**10Y BOND YIELD, TREASURIES VS BUND** 



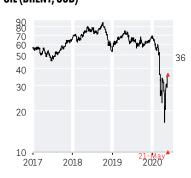
#### **10Y BOND YIELD**



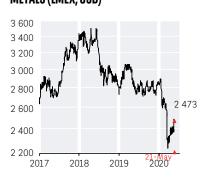
**10Y BOND YIELD & SPREADS** 



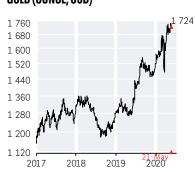
# OIL (BRENT, USD)



# METALS (LMEX, USD)



# **GOLD (OUNCE, USD)**



SOURCE: THOMSON REUTERS,



# **ECONOMIC PULSE**

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# CHINA, STILL WEAKENED BY THE COVID-19 SHOCK

Economic activity contracted sharply in February, the first month of the lockdown, before rebounding very gradually in March and April. The recovery is bound to be very slow after this brutal first-quarter shock.

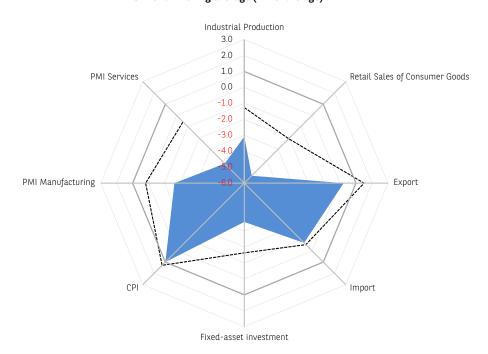
Activity is returning to normal more rapidly on the supply side and in industry than on the demand side and in services. In April, industrial production growth rebounded to 3.9% year-on-year in real terms, after contracting 8.4% in Q1 2020. Meanwhile, retail sales continued to decline year-on-year in April (down 9.1% in real terms), after plunging 21% in Q1. In April, industrial output, corporate investment, and household consumption were still holding below pre-crisis levels: the first-quarter 2020 shock was unprecedented (real GDP growth contracted by 6.8% y-o-y), and it will take several months before things return to normal.

Merchandise exports regained momentum in April (+3.5% y-o-y in value terms, after contracting 13.3% in Q1 2020), signalling the restart of activity and foreign trade after the first-quarter shock. Yet this rebound is unlikely to strengthen in May given global demand weakness. As a matter of fact, April's decline in the manufacturing PMIs was largely due to a sharp fall in the "new export orders" component. Moreover, the downturn in the job market, the loss of revenues by both corporates and households, and persistent worries about the future course of the pandemic should continue to strain domestic demand. Faced with this situation, the authorities are likely to launch new stimulus measures in the weeks ahead.

**Christine Peltier** 

#### **CHANGES IN ACTIVITY INDICATORS**

3-month moving average (actual)
--- 3-month moving average (4 months ago)



SOURCE: THOMSON REUTERS, BNP PARIBAS

The indicators in the radar are all transformed into 'z-scores' (deviations from the long-term average, as standard deviations). These z-scores have mean zero and their values are between -6 and +2. In the radar chart, the blue area shows the actual conditions of economic activity. It is compared with the situation four months earlier (dotted-line). An expansion of the blue area compared to the dotted area signals an increase in the variable.



# **ECONOMIC SCENARIO**

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### **UNITED STATES**

• The economy is increasingly impacted by the spreading of the coronavirus and concern is mounting about an increase in the unemployment rate, which would weigh on consumer spending. This explains the very significant measures taken by the Federal Reserve and those announced by the Administration. Clearly, the near term prospects depend on how the epidemic evolves. Once we will be beyond the peak, the measures taken thus far will be instrumental in supporting the recovery in demand and activity.

### CHINA

- The Covid-19 shock has represented a severe shock to both demand and supply. Economic activity collapsed in the first two months of the year (industrial production fell by 14% year-on-year, exports by 18% and retail sales by 24%), and we have revised strongly downwards our real GDP growth forecast for 2020. Activity has already started to recover, but this process should remain very gradual in the coming months.
- Since the outbreak of the virus, the central bank and the government have considerably stepped up stimulus measures aimed at helping enterprises and supporting domestic demand. However, the extent of the economic recovery is likely to be constrained by the consequences of the sanitary and economic crisis currently spreading in the rest of the world.

### **EUROZONE**

• The huge impact of the coronavirus epidemic is becoming increasingly visible in activity and demand data, following lockdowns, but also in confidence data and business expectations. The first semester will be significantly affected although the extent depends on when the epidemic will be brought under control. Taking guidance from the experience in China, the second semester should see an improvement in activity, which should be helped by the huge support measures which are being taken. Forecasts are entirely dependent on the scenario which is assumed for the epidemic.

### FRANCE

• A sharp GDP contraction is now expected in the first half of 2020 because of the propagation of the Covid-19 epidemic and ensuing lockdown measures. The recessionary shock should be temporary, but the shape of the recovery remains uncertain. The fiscal and financial packages announced by the Government, as well as the ECB measures on the monetary front, are aimed at limiting as much as possible the shock and at creating the conditions for activity to resume and get back to normal as rapidly as possible. We expect a quick rebound but risks lie on the downside. Inflation will also be negatively impacted, especially because of the plunge in oil prices.

# INTEREST RATES AND FX RATES

- In the US, the Federal Reserve has taken, in several meetings, a host of measures to inject liquidity in the financial system and facilitate the financing of companies. The federal funds rate has been brought down to the zero lower bound and QE has been restarted. Additional measures are to be expected should the economic and liquidity situation deteriorate further. Treasury yields have seen a big drop, reflecting a flight to safety but have also been very volatile. Eventually, given the temporary nature of the coronavirus epidemic and the fiscal stimulus measures, this should be followed by a rebound in yields but the timing is completely unclear.
- In the eurozone, the ECB has taken considerable measures to inject liquidity by starting a temporary Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme, expanding the range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase programme (CSPP) to non-financial commercial paper and by easing the collateral standards by adjusting the main risk parameters of the collateral framework. More is to be expected should circumstances require. These measures should also keep a lid on sovereign bond spreads. The movement of bond yields will be very

much influenced by what happens to US yields, and hence, in the near term, by news about the epidemic.

- The Bank of Japan has kept its policy rate unchanged but has decided to double its purchases of ETFs and J-REITS (Investment funds tied to Japanese real estate). The target for its corporate bonds purchases has also been increased.
- Growing concerns about the global economic impact of the coronavirus have caused big drops in equity markets and a quest for liquidity, in particular in dollar. In this environment the dollar has acted as a safe haven currency.

#### **GROWTH & INFLATION**

| GDP Growth** |  |  |  | Inflation  |   |   |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| 2019         | 2020 e                                       | 2021 e   |  | 2019   | 2020 e  | 2021 e  |
| 2.3          | -5.7   | 4.9  |  | 1.6  | 1.2   | 2.2   |
| 0.7          | -4.6   | 0.3  |  | 0.5  | -0.2  | -0.2  |
| 1.4          | -6.7   | 8.9  |  | 1.8  | 0.7   | 1.7   |
| 1.2          | -8.3   | 8.0  |  | 1.2  | 0.2   | 1.2   |
| 0.6          | -6.4   | 6.7  |  | 1.4  | 0.5   | 1.4   |
| 1.3          | -7.1   | 7.0  |  | 1.3  | 0.3   | 1.3   |
| 0.2          | -12.1  | 10.2   |  | 0.6  | -   | -   |
|              |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| 6.1          | 2.5  | 8.1  |  | 2.9  | 3.1   | 2.0   |
| 6.1          | 2.7  | 5.2  |  | 4.7  | 3.5   | 4.0   |
| 1.1          | -4.0   | 4.0  |  | 3.7  | 3.6   | 3.5   |
| 1.3          | -4.5   | 3.8  |  | 4.3  | 3.3   | 3.5   |
|              | 2019 2.3 0.7 1.4 1.2 0.6 1.3 0.2 6.1 6.1 1.1 | 2019 2020 e 2.3 -5.7 0.7 -4.6 1.4 -6.7 1.2 -8.3 0.6 -6.4 1.3 -7.1 0.2 -12.1 6.1 2.5 6.1 2.7 1.1 -4.0 | 2019         2020 e         2021 e           2.3         -5.7         4.9           0.7         -4.6         0.3           1.4         -6.7         8.9           1.2         -8.3         8.0           0.6         -6.4         6.7           1.3         -7.1         7.0           0.2         -12.1         10.2           6.1         2.5         8.1           6.1         2.7         5.2           1.1         -4.0         4.0 | 2019         2020 e         2021 e           2.3         -5.7         4.9           0.7         -4.6         0.3           1.4         -6.7         8.9           1.2         -8.3         8.0           0.6         -6.4         6.7           1.3         -7.1         7.0           0.2         -12.1         10.2           6.1         2.5         8.1           6.1         2.7         5.2           1.1         -4.0         4.0 | 2019         2020 e         2021 e         2019           2.3         -5.7         4.9         1.6           0.7         -4.6         0.3         0.5           1.4         -6.7         8.9         1.8           1.2         -8.3         8.0         1.2           0.6         -6.4         6.7         1.4           1.3         -7.1         7.0         1.3           0.2         -12.1         10.2         0.6           6.1         2.5         8.1         2.9           6.1         2.7         5.2         4.7           1.1         -4.0         4.0         3.7 | 2019         2020 e         2021 e         2019         2020 e           2.3         -5.7         4.9         1.6         1.2           0.7         -4.6         0.3         0.5         -0.2           1.4         -6.7         8.9         1.8         0.7           1.2         -8.3         8.0         1.2         0.2           0.6         -6.4         6.7         1.4         0.5           1.3         -7.1         7.0         1.3         0.3           0.2         -12.1         10.2         0.6         -           6.1         2.5         8.1         2.9         3.1           6.1         2.7         5.2         4.7         3.5           1.1         -4.0         4.0         3.7         3.6 |

SOURCE: BNP PARIBAS GROUP ECONOMIC RESEARCH (E: ESTIMATES & FORECASTS)

\*FISCAL YEAR FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL OF YEAR N TO MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> OF YEAR N+1

\*\*LAST UPDATE 23/04/2020

|                      | II                         | NTERE:     | ST & E | XCHA       | NGE F | RATES |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Interest<br>End of p | t rates, %<br>period       | 2019<br>Q3 | Q4     | 2020<br>Q1 | Q2e   | Q3e   | Q4e   | 2018  | 2019  | 2020e |
| US                   | Fed Funds<br>(upper limit) | 2.00       | 1.75   | 0.25       | 0.25  | 0.25  | 0.25  | 2.50  | 1.75  | 0.25  |
|                      | T-Notes 10y                | 1.67       | 1.92   | 0.67       | 0.80  | 1.00  | 1.25  | 2.69  | 1.92  | 1.25  |
| Ezone                | Deposit rate               | -0.50      | -0.50  | -0.50      | -0.50 | -0.50 | -0.50 | -0.50 | -0.50 | -0.50 |
|                      | Bund 10y                   | -0.57      | -0.19  | -0.46      | -0.50 | -0.30 | -0.20 | 0.25  | -0.19 | -0.20 |
|                      | OAT 10y                    | -0.28      | 0.08   | -0.05      | -0.15 | 0.00  | 0.05  | 0.71  | 0.08  | 0.05  |
|                      | BTP 10y                    | 0.83       | 1.32   | 1.55       | 1.30  | 1.20  | 1.10  | 2.77  | 1.32  | 1.10  |
|                      | BONO 10y                   | 0.15       | 0.47   | 0.68       | 0.50  | 0.50  | 0.50  | 1.42  | 0.47  | 0.50  |
| UK                   | Base rate                  | 0.75       | 0.75   | 0.10       | 0.10  | 0.10  | 0.10  | 0.75  | 0.75  | 0.10  |
|                      | Gilts 10y                  | 0.40       | 0.83   | 0.31       | 0.55  | 0.85  | 0.90  | 1.27  | 0.83  | 0.90  |
| Japan                | BoJ Rate                   | -0.06      | -0.05  | -0.07      | -0.10 | -0.10 | -0.10 | -0.07 | -0.05 | -0.10 |
|                      | JGB 10y                    | -0.22      | -0.02  | 0.02       | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.05  | 0.00  | -0.02 | 0.05  |
| Last upo             | date 20/03/2020            |            |        |            |       |       |       |       |       |       |

| Excha   | nge Rates        | 2019 |      | 2020 |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|---------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| End of  | period           | Q3   | Q4   | Q1   | Q2e  | Q3e  | Q4e  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020e |
| USD     | EUR / USD        | 1.09 | 1.12 | 1.10 | 1.12 | 1.15 | 1.17 | 1.14 | 1.12 | 1.17  |
|         | USD / JPY        | 108  | 109  | 108  | 104  | 102  | 100  | 110  | 109  | 100   |
|         | GBP / USD        | 1.23 | 1.32 | 1.24 | 1.27 | 1.32 | 1.34 | 1.27 | 1.32 | 1.34  |
|         | USD / CHF        | 1.00 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.95 | 0.94 | 0.92 | 0.99 | 0.97 | 0.92  |
| EUR     | EUR / GBP        | 0.89 | 0.83 | 0.89 | 0.88 | 0.87 | 0.87 | 0.90 | 0.83 | 0.87  |
|         | EUR / CHF        | 1.09 | 1.09 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.13 | 1.09 | 1.08  |
|         | EUR / JPY        | 118  | 122  | 118  | 117  | 117  | 117  | 125  | 122  | 117   |
| Lastiur | ndate 09/04/2020 |      |      | •    |      |      |      |      |      |       |

SOURCE: BNP PARIBAS GLOBAL MARKETS (E: ESTIMATES)



# **CALENDAR**

7

# LATEST INDICATORS

Sentiment indicators have rebounded in May compared to April although they remain at a low level, in particular in services, with manufacturing doing better. Moreover, in a large number of cases, the improvement of the PMI was even better than expected: services in the US, manufacturing and services in France, services in Germany, manufacturing, services and composite in the eurozone. In the US, the Philadelphia Fed index rebounded strongly, though less than expected and its level remains very low. Eurozone consumer confidence improved, beating expectations of a further decline. On the whole, the numbers this week show that the easing of lockdown measures has improved sentiment, even more so than expected. The levels remain low though and the still very high number of initial unemployment claims in the US is a reminder of how difficult the environment is.

| DATE       | COUNTRY        | INDICATOR                    | PERIOD      | ACTUAL    | PREVIOUS  |
|------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 05/18/2020 | Japan          | GDP q/q                      | Q1          | -0.9      | -1.9      |
| 05/18/2020 | Japan          | GDP q/q annualised           | Q1          | -3.4      | -7.3      |
| 05/18/2020 | Japan          | GDP q/q Pvt Consmp Prelim    | Q1          | -0.7      | -2.9      |
| 05/18/2020 | Japan          | GDP q/q Capital Expenditures | Q1          | -0.5      | -4.8      |
| 05/18/2020 | Japan          | GDP q/q External Demand      | Q1          | -0.2      | 0.5       |
| 05/18/2020 | United States  | NAHB Housing Market Index    | May         | 37        | 30        |
| 05/19/2020 | United Kingdom | Claimant Count. Unem. Change | Apr         | 856,500   | 12,100    |
| 05/19/2020 | United Kingdom | ILO Unemployment Rate        | Mar         | 3.9       | 4         |
| 05/19/2020 | United Kingdom | Employment Change            | Mar         | 211,000   | 172,000   |
| 05/19/2020 | United Kingdom | Average Week Earnings 3m y/y | Mar         | 2.4       | 2.8       |
| 05/19/2020 | United Kingdom | Average Earnings (ex-bonus)  | Mar         | 2.7       | 2.9       |
| 05/19/2020 | Germany        | ZEW Economic Sentiment       | May         | 51        | 28.2      |
| 05/19/2020 | Germany        | ZEW Current Conditions       | May         | -93.5     | -91.5     |
| 05/19/2020 | United States  | Building Permits             | Apr         | 1,074,000 | 1,350,000 |
| 05/19/2020 | United States  | Housing Starts               | Apr         | 891,000   | 1,216,000 |
| 05/20/2020 | Eurozone       | HICP Final y/y               | Apr         | 0.3       | 0.7       |
| 05/20/2020 | Eurozone       | Consumer Confidence Flash    | May         | -18       | -22       |
| 05/21/2020 | Japan          | Jibun Bank Mfg PMI Flash     | May         | 38.4      | 41.9      |
| 05/21/2020 | United Kingdom | Flash Composite PMI          | May         | 28.9      | 13.8      |
| 05/21/2020 | United States  | Initial Jobless Claims       | 11 May, w/e | 2,438k    | 2,981k    |
| 05/21/2020 | United States  | Philly Fed Business Indx     | May         | -43.1     | -56.6     |
| 05/21/2020 | United States  | Markit Composite Flash PMI   | May         | 36.4      | 27        |
| 05/21/2020 | United States  | Markit Mfg PMI Flash         | May         | 39.8      | 36.1      |
| 05/21/2020 | United States  | Markit Services PMI Flash    | May         | 36.9      | 26.7      |
| 05/21/2020 | United States  | Exist. Home Sales % Change   | Apr         | -17.8     | -8.5      |
| 05/21/2020 | France         | Markit Mfg Flash PMI         | May         | 40.3      | 31.5      |
| 05/21/2020 | France         | Markit Services Flash PMI    | May         | 29.4      | 10.2      |
| 05/21/2020 | France         | Markit Composite Flash PMI   | May         | 30.5      | 11.1      |
| 05/21/2020 | Germany        | Markit Mfg Flash PMI         | May         | 36.8      | 34.5      |
| 05/21/2020 | Germany        | Markit Services Flash PMI    | May         | 31.4      | 16.2      |
| 05/21/2020 | Germany        | Markit Composite Flash PMI   | May         | 31.4      | 17.4      |
| 05/21/2020 | Eurozone       | Markit Mfg Flash PMI         | May         | 39.5      | 33.4      |
| 05/21/2020 | Eurozone       | Markit Services Flash PMI    | May         | 28.7      | 12        |
| 05/21/2020 | Eurozone       | Markit Composite Flash PMI   | May         | 30.5      | 13.6      |
| 05/22/2020 | United Kingdom | Retail Sales m/m             | Apr         | -18.1     | -5.1      |





# **CALENDAR: THE WEEK AHEAD**

# **COMING INDICATORS**

Many data will be published for the month May, so hopefully they will show some improvement in reaction to the easing of lockdown measures. In Germany and France we have the business climate index as well as consumer confidence. The European Commission will publish its economic sentiment index and its components. In the US, the University of Michigan sentiment index will be published. In addition updated estimates for first quarter GDP growth will be published in several countries.

| DATE       | COUNTRY          | INDICATOR                              | PERIOD    | CONSENSUS | PREVIOUS |
|------------|------------------|--|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 05/26/2020 | Germany          | Ifo Business Climate New               | May       | '         | 74.3     |
| 05/26/2020 | Germany          | GfK Consumer Sentiment                 | June      |           | -23.4    |
| 05/26/2020 | France           | Business Climate Manufacturing         | May       |           | 82       |
| 05/26/2020 | United States    | Consumer Confidence                    | May       | 85.5      | 86.9     |
| 05/26/2020 | United States    | New Home Sales Change m/m              | Apr       | -17.0%    | -15.4%   |
| 05/26/2020 | United States    | Dallas Fed Manufacturing Business      | May       |           | -73.70   |
| 05/27/2020 | China (Mainland) | Industrial profit ytd                  | April     |           | -36.7%   |
| 05/27/2020 | France           | Consumer Confidence                    | May       |           | 95       |
| 05/27/2020 | United States    | Richmond Fed Comp. Index               | May       |           | -53      |
| 05/28/2020 | Italy            | Manufacturing Business Confidence      | April     |           | 89.5     |
| 05/28/2020 | Italy            | Consumer Confidence                    | Apr       | 90.0      | 101.0    |
| 05/28/2020 | Eurozone         | Business Climate                       | May       |           | -1.81    |
| 05/28/2020 | Eurozone         | Economic Sentiment                     | May       |           | 67.0     |
| 05/28/2020 | Eurozone         | Industrial Sentiment                   | May       |           | -30.4    |
| 05/28/2020 | Eurozone         | Services Sentiment                     | May       |           | -35.0    |
| 05/28/2020 | Eurozone         | Consumer Confidence Final              | May       |           |          |
| 05/28/2020 | United States    | Durables Ex-Defense m/m                | April     |           | -16.0%   |
| 05/28/2020 | United States    | GDP 2nd Estimate                       | Q1        | -4.8%     | -4.8%    |
| 05/28/2020 | United States    | Initial Jobless Claims                 | 18 May, w | /e        |          |
| 05/29/2020 | United Kingdom   | Consumer Confidence (GfK)              | May       |           | -33      |
| 05/29/2020 | Japan            | Consumer Confidence                    | May       |           | 21.6     |
| 05/29/2020 | Germany          | Retail Sales Real m/m                  | April     |           | -5.6%    |
| 05/29/2020 | France           | Consumer Spending m/m                  | April     |           | -17.9%   |
| 05/29/2020 | France           | GDP Final q/q                          | Q1        |           | -5.8%    |
| 05/29/2020 | Italy            | GDP Final q/q                          | Q1        |           | -4.7%    |
| 05/29/2020 | Eurozone         | HICP-X F&E Flash y/y                   | May       |           |          |
| 05/29/2020 | United States    | Personal Income m/m                    | April     | -8.3%     | -2.0%    |
| 05/29/2020 | United States    | Personal Consumption Real m/m          | April     |           | -7.3%    |
| 05/29/2020 | United States    | University on Michigan Sentiment Final | May       | 73.7      | 73.7     |

SOURCE: THOMSON REUTERS





# **FURTHER READING**

| Eurozone: Four countries, four ways to recover   | EcoFlash          | 20 May 2020   |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| COVID-19: Key measures taken by governments and central banks (update)   | EcoFlash          | 20 May 2020   |
| Central European economies should not avoid a recession in 2020  | Chart of the Week | 20 May 2020   |
| Spain, Eurozone and China in the EcoTV of May  | EcoTV             | 19 May 2020   |
| US: The COVID-19 pandemic and the US equity market   | EcoWeek           | 18 May 2020   |
| US: Accelerated fall   | EcoWeek           | 18 May 2020   |
| In front of Covid-19 crisis, is there a place for any "green deal"?  | EcoTV Week        | 15 May 2020   |
| COVID-19: Key measures taken by governments and central banks (update)   | EcoFlash          | 13 May 2020   |
| United Kingdom: Target outstanding of the asset purchase program maintained, slight easing of the 10-year Gilt rate  | Chart of the Week | 13 May 2020   |
| At the height of the crisis  | EcoWeek           | 7 May 2020    |
| The many faces of proportionality in economic policy   | EcoWeek           | 7 May 2020    |
| The sharp rise in household inflation expectations in April, a signal to be put into perspective   | Chart of the Week | 6 May 2020    |
| The drop in Eurozone GDP: the worst is yet to come   | EcoTV Week        | 6 May 2020    |
| COVID-19: Key measures taken by governments and central banks (update)   | EcoFlash          | 6 May 2020    |
| The Fed: the global lender of last resort  | Conjoncture       | 30 April 2020 |
| Preparing for leaner pensions  | Conjoncture       | 30 April 2020 |
| France: shocking figures reveal the extent of the shock  | EcoTV Week        | 30 April 2020 |
| Central bank balance sheet expansion: the sky is not the limit   | EcoWeek           | 30 April 2020 |
| Eurozone: Lending trends in the euro zone: The coronavirus pandemic has led to an unprecedented rise in demand for credit from companies, but has hit demand from households | EcoWeek           | 30 April 2020 |



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