



ECONOMIC FORECAST DETAIL – UNITED STATES

March 12, 2009

Real growth in the economy

Period-over-period annualized percent change unless otherwise indicated

	Actual				Forecast								Forecast			
	2008				2009				2010				Annual average			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2007	2008	2009	2010
Consumer spending	0.9	1.2	-3.8	-4.3	-2.0	-0.3	0.9	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.8	0.2	-1.5	1.8
Durables	-4.3	-2.8	-14.8	-22.1	-10.5	1.9	1.3	4.1	7.9	3.9	1.9	1.9	4.8	-4.3	-8.6	4.1
Non-durables	-0.4	3.9	-7.1	-9.2	-4.5	-3.5	0.5	1.9	1.2	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.5	-0.6	-4.1	1.2
Services	2.4	0.7	-0.1	1.4	0.5	0.9	1.1	2.1	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.6	1.5	0.9	1.7
Government spending	1.9	3.9	5.8	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.8	3.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.9	2.6	2.2
Business investment	-5.6	-1.7	-5.3	-21.3	-22.7	-15.8	-2.3	1.3	2.2	3.5	2.5	3.3	-3.1	-4.9	-14.1	0.6
Residential construction	-25.0	-13.3	-16.1	-22.2	-25.1	-3.3	9.9	8.2	12.3	11.8	6.3	4.5	-17.9	-20.8	-13.1	8.9
Non-residential structures	8.7	18.4	9.6	-5.9	-23.1	-20.2	-9.1	-4.1	-2.8	1.1	1.5	2.5	12.7	11.5	-10.6	-3.5
Machinery & equipment	-0.5	-5.0	-7.5	-28.8	-21.4	-19.1	-4.1	1.2	0.4	1.0	1.3	3.1	1.7	-3.0	-16.6	-1.0
Final domestic demand	0.1	1.3	-2.2	-5.7	-4.1	-2.0	0.9	2.3	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.4	1.7	0.0	-2.4	1.7
Exports	5.1	12.3	3.0	-23.6	-13.5	-9.5	0.1	1.5	3.1	4.0	3.1	4.5	8.4	6.2	-9.0	1.8
Imports	-0.8	-7.3	-3.5	-16.0	-12.8	-7.9	0.5	2.8	3.5	4.3	3.9	4.6	2.2	-3.3	-8.6	2.5
Inventories (change in \$b)	-10.2	-50.6	-29.6	-19.9	-51.0	-63.0	-47.8	-33.3	-10.3	4.1	27.3	51.7	-2.5	-27.6	-48.8	18.2
Real gross domestic product	0.9	2.8	-0.5	-6.2	-4.8	-2.3	1.4	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.0	1.1	-2.4	2.2

Other indicators

Business and labour																
Productivity*	3.4	3.0	1.9	2.7	0.6	0.1	0.7	1.8	2.0	1.7	0.9	0.5	1.6	2.7	0.8	1.3
Pre-tax corporate profits	-1.5	-8.3	-9.2	-10.1	-12.0	-10.1	-9.4	-4.1	2.0	7.4	9.1	9.8	-1.6	-7.3	-9.0	7.0
Unemployment rate (%)	4.9	5.4	6.1	6.9	8.0	8.5	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	4.6	5.8	8.5	8.8
Inflation																
Headline CPI	4.1	4.4	5.3	1.6	0.1	-1.3	-2.2	0.6	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	2.9	3.8	-0.7	1.1
Core CPI	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.3	2.3	1.3	1.1
External trade																
Current account balance (\$b)	-703	-724	-696	-548	-439	-391	-402	-419	-428	-441	-472	-501	-731	-668	-413	-460
% of GDP	-5.0	-5.1	-4.8	-3.9	-3.1	-2.8	-2.8	-2.9	-3.0	-3.0	-3.2	-3.4	-5.3	-4.7	-2.9	-3.2
Housing starts (000s)	1053	1025	876	661	497	572	689	636	709	748	759	780	1341	904	599	749
Motor vehicle sales (millions, saar)	15.2	14.1	12.9	10.3	9.2	9.5	9.7	10.2	11.0	11.4	11.6	11.8	16.1	13.1	9.7	11.5

*Productivity is calculated as total real GDP divided by employment.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, RBC Economics Research forecasts

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