

# The Daily Roll

Market Recap Thursday, March 22, 2012



### Today's Commentary

The calm in the market extended as the benchmark indices in the US and Canada stayed within 0.2%. The S&P 500 declined 0.19% while US Treasuries gained for a second day in a row. The yield rates on 10 year US government bonds fell by 6 basis points as investors continued to follow risk off behavior. The S&P/TSX index stayed flat with a gain of 5 basis points. Both oil and natural gas prices rose by over a percent yesterday. Ben Bernanke stated yesterday that rising oil prices could threaten US economic growth in the short term by undermining consumer spending. The Fed is keeping a close watch on oil and gasoline prices as they threaten to boost inflation, at least temporarily. US jobless claims data was released this morning to be better than expected for both continuing and initial claims. Initial claims last week was the lowest it has been in four years, further showing the strengthening of the US labour market. Canadian Retail Sales came in significantly lower than expected, with the actual release at 0.5% vs. a predicted 1.8%. US Leading Indicators will be released at 10:00AM today.

The Chinese purchasing managers' index - an index that measures manufacturing in the country - has missed its expected value. The index's preliminary reading of 48.1 is the lowest since November and down from 49.6 in February. If the index reads below 50 then there is said to be a contraction in manufacturing for the country. This marks the fifth straight decline in manufacturing output which is the worst run since an 8-month stretch of contractions ending in March 2009. Analysts are predicting that this indication of China's economic climate will force Premier Wen Jiabao to enact further stimulus measures to sustain the country's ever worsening growth outlook for 2012

The outlook for Europe's economy became slightly worse overnight as euro-area services and manufacturing indices slipped below expectations. The services index fell from 48.8 in February to 48.7 in March, while the manufacturing index fell from 49 to 47.7 over the same time period. Any reading below 50 shows a contraction in output for the industry, or industries, in question. Although the downtown is somewhat mild, the missing indices – coupled with a third straight month of net job losses - are pointing to signs of a second straight quarter of a contraction in Europe's GDP.

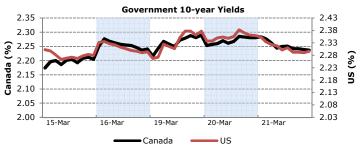
The Daily Roll is written by MFE Candidates Calum MacBeth and Chris Watson in partnership with the Rotman Finance Association. Please email onomics.utoronto.ca to subscribe/unsubscribe.

### Today's Major Economic Releases

United States	<u>Period</u>	Survey	<u>Actual</u>	Prior
Leading Indicators	31-Jan	0.6%		0.4%
Continuing Claims	10-Mar	3380K	3352K	3343K
Intial Jobless Claims	17-Mar	350K	348K	351K

Canada	<b>Period</b>	Survey	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Prior</u>
Retail Sales (MoM)	29-Feb	1.8%	0.5%	-0.2%

## Interest Rates



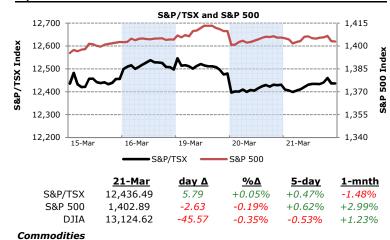
# Master of Financial Economics Program

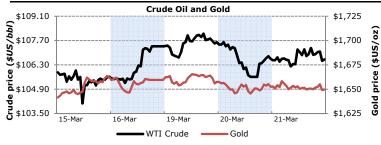
FINANCIAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

The Master of Financial Economics Program at the University of Toronto is a collaborative program of the Department of Economics and the Rotman School of Management. The program's key objective is to provide a broad understanding of Financial Theory and the Economics framework upon which that theory is based. Students follow a three-term, 16-month program, with 12 one-term courses and a four-month summer internship. For more information on the program and its students please see the website below.

http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/index/mfe/

### **Equities**





	<u> 21-Mar</u>	<u>day ∆</u>	<u>%∆</u>	<u>5-day</u>	<u>1-mnth</u>
Oil (\$US/BbI)	\$107.27	1.2	+1.13%	+1.75%	+0.96%
Nat Gas (\$US/Bcf)	\$2.36	0.025	+1.07%	+3.33%	-10.13%
Gold (\$US/oz)	\$1,650	-0.34	-0.02%	+0.34%	-4.23%
Copper (\$US/lb)	\$3.85	0.0215	+0.56%	+0.20%	+3.82%

### Foreign Exchange



(USDCAD implies \$1-USD to CAD)		Historical levels			
Spot	<u>21-Mar</u>	day ∆	-5 days	<u>-1 mnth</u>	-1 year
USDCAD	\$0.992	+0.001	0.993	0.997	0.982
EURUSD	\$1.322	-0.001	1.303	1.323	1.409
USDJPY	¥83.41	-0.290	83.730	79.74	80.92
AUDUSD	\$1.046	-0.002	1.045	1.066	1.013

## Rotman Finance Association



The purpose of the Rotman Finance Association is to bridge the gar between classroom financial theory and finance-based careers by offering students industry speaker sessions, alumni networking seminars and competitions. For more information please see the website below

http://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/financeassociation

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+1.83%

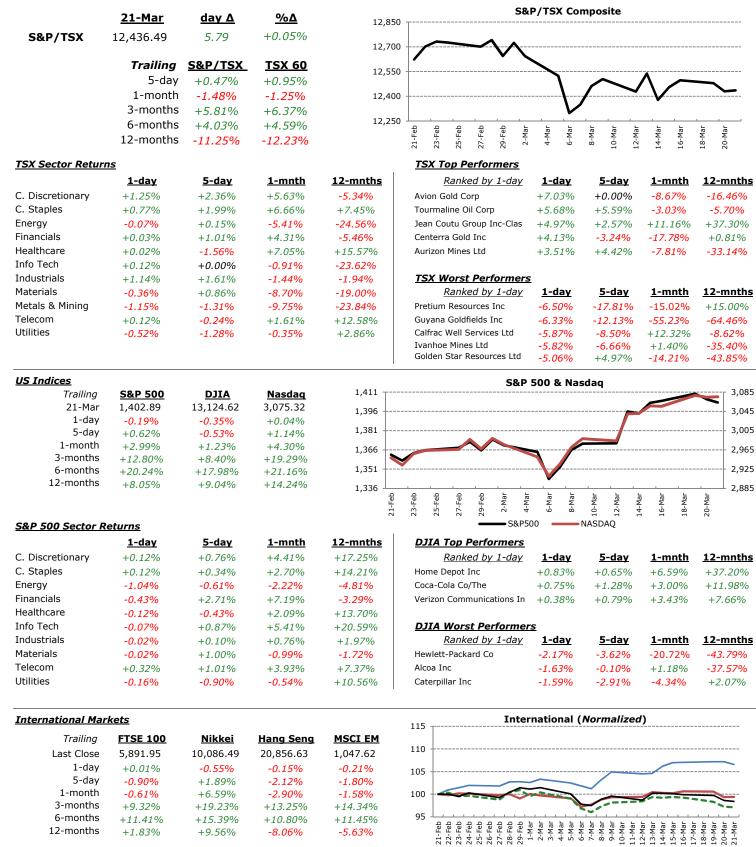
+9.56%

-8.06%

# The Equities Roll

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FTSE

NIK

--- HS

ΕM

-5.63%

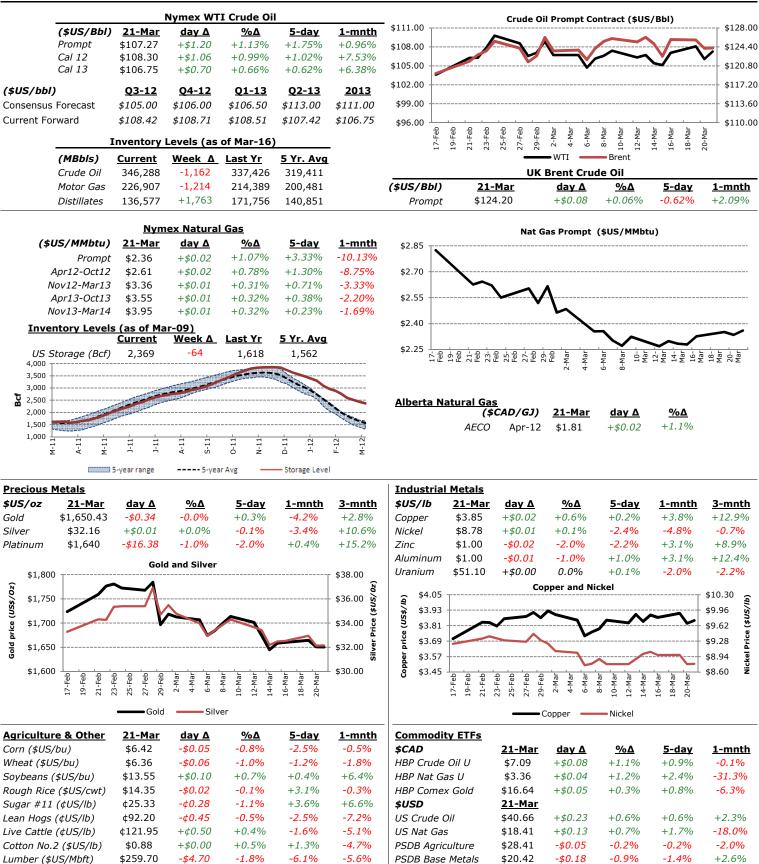
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## The Commodities Roll

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Real GDP

9.50%

9.10%

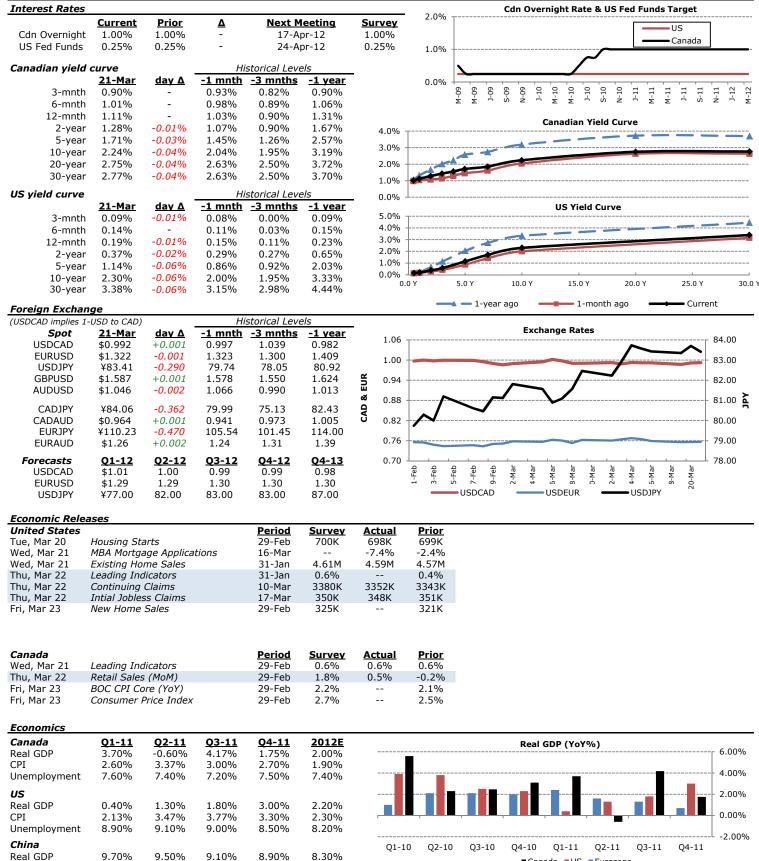
8.90%

8.30%

# The Rates, FX, & Economics Roll

Thursday, March 22, 2012





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■Canada ■US ■Eurozone

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