



Japan

Economic Indicators—Schedule and Forecasts

Ellis/Wroblewski

May 7 – May 18, 2012 (Local Times)

<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> BOJ Monetary Policy Meeting Minutes (8:50) (April 9, 10)	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> Official Reserves (\$Billion, NSA) (8:50) Nov 1304.8 Feb 1302.9 Dec 1295.8 Mar 1288.7 Jan 1306.7 Apr (f) 1298.0 Business Conditions Composite Indexes (Prelim.) (14:00) Leading Coincident Jan 94.6 94.1 Feb 96.3 95.0 Mar (f) 96.9 96.2	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> Current Account Balance (¥Billion, NSA) (8:50) 2012 2011 Jan -437.3 547.2 Feb 1177.8 1700.8 Mar (f) 1576.0 1738.6 Current Account Visible Trade (¥Billion, NSA) (8:50) 2012 2011 Jan -1381.6 -399.4 Feb 102.1 720.3 Mar (f) -5.0 236.8 Bank Lending (Y/Y) (8:50) Nov 0.2% Feb 0.6% Dec 0.4% Mar 0.8% Jan 0.6% Apr (f) 0.8%	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> Money Supply (M2) (Y/Y) (8:50) Nov 3.0% Feb 2.9% Dec 3.2% Mar 3.0% Jan 3.1% Apr (f) 3.0%
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> Corporate Goods Price Index (Y/Y) (8:50) Nov 1.6% Feb 0.6% Dec 1.1% Mar 0.6% Jan 0.5% Apr (f) 0.6%	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> Tertiary Industry Activity (SA) (M/M) (8:50) Oct 0.6% Jan -0.6% Nov -0.8% Feb unch Dec 1.6% Mar (f) 0.3% Industrial Production (Revised) (SA) (M/M) (13:30) Nov -1.7% Feb -1.6% Dec 2.3% Mar (p) 1.0% Jan 0.9% Mar (f) 1.0% Machinery Orders, Core (SA) (14:00) Oct -6.9% Jan 3.4% Nov 14.8% Feb 4.8% Dec -7.1% Mar (f) unch	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> Real GDP (SA) (Q/Q) (8:50) 10:Q4 -0.2% 11:Q3 1.7% 11:Q1 -1.8% 11:Q4 -0.2% 11:Q2 -0.3% 12:Q1 (f) 0.5%	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>

Recent History-Latest Results

 M/M=month-over-month f= forecast
 Y/Y=year-over-year c=consensus

<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> Holiday	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> Vehicle Sales (Y/Y) (14:00) Nov 24.1% Feb 31.9% Dec 23.5% Mar 78.2% Jan 40.7% Apr 92.0%	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> Holiday	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> Holiday
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Indicator Highlights

Key potential market-moving indicators and events include: Current Account Balance and Current Account Visible Trade (Thu., May 10, 8:50); Bank Lending (Thu., May 10, 8:50); Corporate Goods Price Index (Mon., May 14, 8:50); Tertiary Industry Activity (Wed., May 16, 8:50); Machinery Orders, Core (Wed., May 16, 14:00); and Real GDP (Thu., May 15, 8:50).

Current account results will give an update on portfolio income flows, in a seasonally healthy month—important for gauging their potential to cushion the effect of deteriorating visible trade. Bank lending numbers will be watched for hints whether the firming evident into fiscal-year end will carry forward.

The domestic corporate goods price index is an important cost-side indicator for the BOJ—with the Monetary Policy Board laying out specific projections in its semi-annual *Outlook*. Tertiary industries represent nearly two-thirds of the production-side breakdown of the economy. Machinery orders give a prompt update on the state of business sentiment. Real GDP is important for synthesizing many economic indicators into a summary indicator of the general trend in the economy.

Indicator	Forecast	Consensus	Analysis
Official Reserves (NSA)	\$1298.0 Billion		Relatively little change this month.
Business Conditions Composite Indexes (Prelim.)			
Leading	96.9		Steadying out.
Coincident	96.2		
Current Account Balance	¥1576.0 Billion		Seasonally strong income inflow supports the total.
Current Account Visible Trade	-¥5.0 Billion		
Bank Lending (Y/Y)	+0.8%		Decent gains extended another month.
Money Supply (M2) (Y/Y)	+3.0%		Well- established trend continues.
Corporate Goods Price Index (Y/Y)	+0.6%		No sharp new pressures.
Tertiary Industry Activity (SA) (M/M)	+0.3%		Growth stabilizes again.
Industrial Production (Revised) (SA) (M/M)	+1.0%		Little or no revision.
Machinery Orders, Core (SA) ()	unch		Earlier strong increases are consolidated.
Real GDP (SA)(QQ)	+0.5%		Decent growth, boosted by consumption.

Post Mortem—Recent Data Results

Vehicle sales growing strongly. April data saw an eighth successive positive reading in regard to vehicle sales. Indeed, sales rose by 92.0%, up clearly from the 78.2% rise of the previous month. Subsidies and base effects help explain the strength.

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