

[G7 Finance Ministers, Canada CPI & Retail Sales, US Existing Home Sales](#)

- The day started out with the **G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting** in Japan. I must admit I got the date of the meeting wrong: while there was a welcoming dinner on Thursday, the formal meetings began today and finish up tomorrow. So we'll get any statement and press conferences on Saturday, when the markets are closed. They'll affect the markets at the opening on Monday. As I said before, I expect some kind of statement about how the G7 is against "excess volatility," whatever that is, even if it's only the Japanese delegates making the point. As a result USD/JPY could gap higher at the opening on Monday.

Upcoming economic indicators and events					
Time (GMT)	Country	Indicator	Month	Expected	Previous
Friday 20-May					
n.a.	G7	G7 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors meet in Japan			
03:00	NZ	Credit card spending (yoy)	Apr	n.a.	4.8%
12:30	Canada	Retail sales (mom)	Mar	-0.6%	0.4%
12:30	Canada	Retail sales ex autos (mom)	Mar	-0.4%	0.2%
12:30	Canada	CPI NSA (mom)	Apr	0.3%	0.6%
12:30	Canada	CPI (yoy)	Apr	1.7%	1.3%
12:30	Canada	CPI core (yoy)	Apr	2.0%	2.1%
14:00	US	Existing home sales	Apr	5.40mn	5.33mn
Sunday 22-May					
23:50	Japan	Trade balance (NSA)	Apr	¥521.4bn	¥754.2bn
23:50	Japan	Trade balance (SA)	Apr	¥325.8bn	¥276.5bn

Then there's nothing major on the schedule until the North American day starts up, whereupon the focus is on **Canada**. The market expects a drop in **retail sales** in March. This follows the drop in manufacturing and wholesale volumes during the month and indicates that the strong start to the Canadian economy this year is starting to fade. That could be **negative for the CAD**.



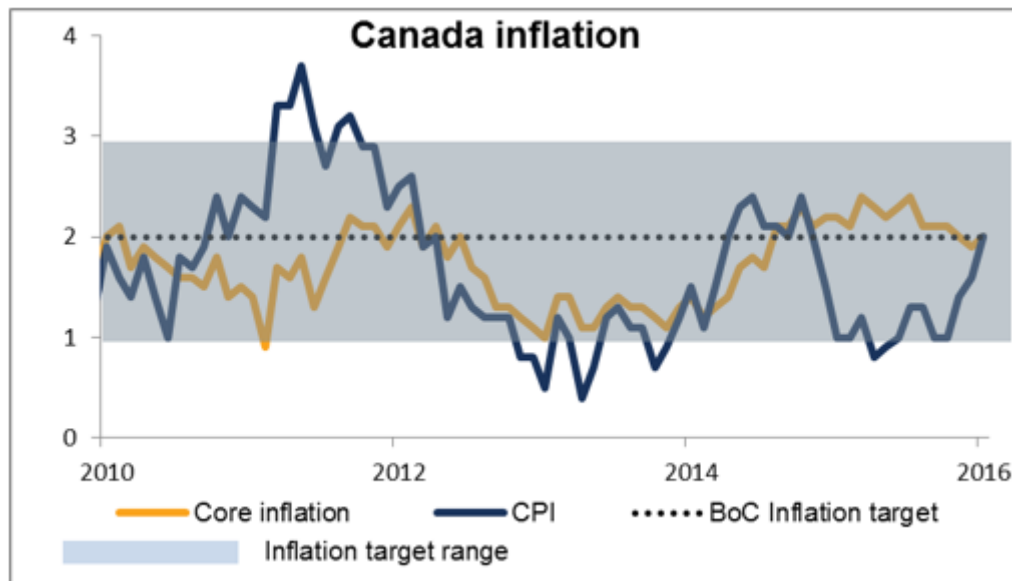
Canada's CPI comes out at the same time. In isolation, these figures could have the opposite effect from the retail sales figures. They're expected to show a sharp rise in headline inflation. And while core inflation is expected to fall slightly, it's still around the Bank of Canada's target. So taken by themselves these numbers might be bullish for CAD. However, I would say that they're consistent with the market's current view on Canadian inflation and it's really growth, not inflation, that's affecting the Bank of Canada's stance nowadays. **So I think the retail sales figures are likely to be more important than the CPI in determining CAD's course.**



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