

GAZIFÈRE INC .
Prime Rate Forecasting Process
2016 Rate Case

Overview

A consensus forecast is used to estimate the prime rate charged by commercial banks. As the prime rate is subject to competitive pressures faced by individual lenders and is set on an individual financial institution basis, the effective interest rate is not widely forecast.

However, the prime rate shares a consistent relationship with the Bank of Canada’s overnight interest rate target (or the “overnight rate”) which is a widely forecasted data series. To provide a reasonable estimate of the prime rate, the consensus view of the overnight rate is used as a proxy.

Process

Overnight Rate Forecast

A consensus approach is used to establish the overnight rate forecast. Six major Canadian financial institutions¹ views of the overnight rate target are provided multiple times throughout the year. In most cases, projections are published over a two-year horizon which allows for a 24-month consensus forecast.

Table 1 displays the six financial institutions’ forecasts of the overnight rate for the remainder of 2015 and 2016, as of May 22, 2015:

TABLE 1: Overnight Rate Forecasts by Six Canadian Financial Institutions

	BMO Capital Markets	CIBC Economics	Desjardins Economic Studies	RBC Economics Research	Scotiabank Group	TD Economics	Average
	FORECAST DATE:						
	19-May-15	1-May-15	5-May-15	8-May-15	30-Apr-15	8-Apr-15	2015 Q2
2015 Q1	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
2015 Q2	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
2015 Q3	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
2015 Q4	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
2016 Q1	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
2016 Q2	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	0.83
2016 Q3	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.25	0.75	0.75	0.96
2016 Q4	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.75	0.75	1.00	1.21

To determine an average that is representative of the overnight lending rate, a few considerations are made:

¹ The following six Canadian Financial Institutions are considered: BMO – Capital Markets, CIBC – Economics, Desjardins – Economic Studies, RBC – Economics Research, Scotiabank Group, TD – Economics.

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1. The Bank of Canada increases/decreases the overnight rate in 25 basis point increments.²
2. The Bank of Canada decides to increase/decrease the overnight rate each year on eight (8) predetermined dates.³

Recognizing the Bank of Canada’s mechanism for setting the overnight rate is important since the aim of this forecast is to closely mimic the process used by the Bank of Canada to arrive at a reasonable estimate of the overnight rate.

To satisfy this, the average quarter-end overnight rate forecast as determined in Table 1 is then rounded to the nearest 25-basis points. Table 2 displays the average quarter-end forecast of the consensus group rounded to the nearest 25 basis points:

TABLE 2: Average Quarter-End Overnight Rate
Forecast Rounded to Nearest 25 bps

	Average	Rounded to Nearest 25 bps
FORECAST DATE:		
	2015 Q2	2015 Q2
2015 Q1	0.75	0.75
2015 Q2	0.75	0.75
2015 Q3	0.75	0.75
2015 Q4	0.75	0.75
2016 Q1	0.75	0.75
2016 Q2	0.83	0.75
2016 Q3	0.96	1.00
2016 Q4	1.21	1.25

The next step in the process is to generate the expected overnight rate on the rate announcement dates based on the adjusted consensus quarterly forecasts.

Drawing on the average quarter-end view of the forecasters rounded to the nearest 25 basis points, and considering the eight dates on which rate announcements will take place, Figure 1 and Figure 2 display the daily expected overnight rate for 2015⁴ and 2016, respectively:

² Since August 9, 1996 the Bank of Canada has adjusted the overnight rate by increments of base 25.

³ Example of the Bank of Canada’s Interest Rate Announcement Schedule for 2015:

<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/core-functions/monetary-policy/key-interest-rate/>. Note that February, June, August and November have no scheduled rate announcement.

⁴ January 2015, February 2015, March 2015 and April 2015 are actual data.

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FIGURE 1: 2015 Daily Overnight Rate Forecast

First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter	
Day	Overnight Rate Target (%)	Day	Overnight Rate Target (%)	Day	Overnight Rate Target (%)	Day	Overnight Rate Target (%)
1/1/2015	1.00	4/1/2015	0.75	7/1/2015	0.75	10/1/2015	0.75
1/2/2015	1.00	4/2/2015	0.75	7/2/2015	0.75	10/2/2015	0.75
1/3/2015	1.00	4/3/2015	0.75	7/3/2015	0.75	10/3/2015	0.75
1/4/2015	1.00	4/4/2015	0.75	7/4/2015	0.75	10/4/2015	0.75
1/5/2015	1.00	4/5/2015	0.75	7/5/2015	0.75	10/5/2015	0.75
1/6/2015	1.00	4/6/2015	0.75	7/6/2015	0.75	10/6/2015	0.75
1/7/2015	1.00	4/7/2015	0.75	7/7/2015	0.75	10/7/2015	0.75
1/8/2015	1.00	4/8/2015	0.75	7/8/2015	0.75	10/8/2015	0.75
1/9/2015	1.00	4/9/2015	0.75	7/9/2015	0.75	10/9/2015	0.75
1/10/2015	1.00	4/10/2015	0.75	7/10/2015	0.75	10/10/2015	0.75
1/11/2015	1.00	4/11/2015	0.75	7/11/2015	0.75	10/11/2015	0.75
1/12/2015	1.00	4/12/2015	0.75	7/12/2015	0.75	10/12/2015	0.75
1/13/2015	1.00	4/13/2015	0.75	7/13/2015	0.75	10/13/2015	0.75
1/14/2015	1.00	4/14/2015	0.75	7/14/2015	0.75	10/14/2015	0.75
1/15/2015	1.00	4/15/2015	0.75	7/15/2015	0.75	10/15/2015	0.75
1/16/2015	1.00	4/16/2015	0.75	7/16/2015	0.75	10/16/2015	0.75
1/17/2015	1.00	4/17/2015	0.75	7/17/2015	0.75	10/17/2015	0.75
1/18/2015	1.00	4/18/2015	0.75	7/18/2015	0.75	10/18/2015	0.75
1/19/2015	1.00	4/19/2015	0.75	7/19/2015	0.75	10/19/2015	0.75
1/20/2015	1.00	4/20/2015	0.75	7/20/2015	0.75	10/20/2015	0.75
1/21/2015	0.75	4/21/2015	0.75	7/21/2015	0.75	10/21/2015	0.75
1/22/2015	0.75	4/22/2015	0.75	7/22/2015	0.75	10/22/2015	0.75
1/23/2015	0.75	4/23/2015	0.75	7/23/2015	0.75	10/23/2015	0.75
1/24/2015	0.75	4/24/2015	0.75	7/24/2015	0.75	10/24/2015	0.75
1/25/2015	0.75	4/25/2015	0.75	7/25/2015	0.75	10/25/2015	0.75
1/26/2015	0.75	4/26/2015	0.75	7/26/2015	0.75	10/26/2015	0.75
1/27/2015	0.75	4/27/2015	0.75	7/27/2015	0.75	10/27/2015	0.75
1/28/2015	0.75	4/28/2015	0.75	7/28/2015	0.75	10/28/2015	0.75
1/29/2015	0.75	4/29/2015	0.75	7/29/2015	0.75	10/29/2015	0.75
1/30/2015	0.75	4/30/2015	0.75	7/30/2015	0.75	10/30/2015	0.75
1/31/2015	0.75	5/1/2015	0.75	7/31/2015	0.75	10/31/2015	0.75
2/1/2015	0.75	5/2/2015	0.75	8/1/2015	0.75	11/1/2015	0.75
2/2/2015	0.75	5/3/2015	0.75	8/2/2015	0.75	11/2/2015	0.75
2/3/2015	0.75	5/4/2015	0.75	8/3/2015	0.75	11/3/2015	0.75
2/4/2015	0.75	5/5/2015	0.75	8/4/2015	0.75	11/4/2015	0.75
2/5/2015	0.75	5/6/2015	0.75	8/5/2015	0.75	11/5/2015	0.75
2/6/2015	0.75	5/7/2015	0.75	8/6/2015	0.75	11/6/2015	0.75
2/7/2015	0.75	5/8/2015	0.75	8/7/2015	0.75	11/7/2015	0.75
2/8/2015	0.75	5/9/2015	0.75	8/8/2015	0.75	11/8/2015	0.75
2/9/2015	0.75	5/10/2015	0.75	8/9/2015	0.75	11/9/2015	0.75
2/10/2015	0.75	5/11/2015	0.75	8/10/2015	0.75	11/10/2015	0.75
2/11/2015	0.75	5/12/2015	0.75	8/11/2015	0.75	11/11/2015	0.75
2/12/2015	0.75	5/13/2015	0.75	8/12/2015	0.75	11/12/2015	0.75
2/13/2015	0.75	5/14/2015	0.75	8/13/2015	0.75	11/13/2015	0.75
2/14/2015	0.75	5/15/2015	0.75	8/14/2015	0.75	11/14/2015	0.75
2/15/2015	0.75	5/16/2015	0.75	8/15/2015	0.75	11/15/2015	0.75
2/16/2015	0.75	5/17/2015	0.75	8/16/2015	0.75	11/16/2015	0.75
2/17/2015	0.75	5/18/2015	0.75	8/17/2015	0.75	11/17/2015	0.75
2/18/2015	0.75	5/19/2015	0.75	8/18/2015	0.75	11/18/2015	0.75
2/19/2015	0.75	5/20/2015	0.75	8/19/2015	0.75	11/19/2015	0.75
2/20/2015	0.75	5/21/2015	0.75	8/20/2015	0.75	11/20/2015	0.75
2/21/2015	0.75	5/22/2015	0.75	8/21/2015	0.75	11/21/2015	0.75
2/22/2015	0.75	5/23/2015	0.75	8/22/2015	0.75	11/22/2015	0.75
2/23/2015	0.75	5/24/2015	0.75	8/23/2015	0.75	11/23/2015	0.75
2/24/2015	0.75	5/25/2015	0.75	8/24/2015	0.75	11/24/2015	0.75
2/25/2015	0.75	5/26/2015	0.75	8/25/2015	0.75	11/25/2015	0.75
2/26/2015	0.75	5/27/2015	0.75	8/26/2015	0.75	11/26/2015	0.75
2/27/2015	0.75	5/28/2015	0.75	8/27/2015	0.75	11/27/2015	0.75
2/28/2015	0.75	5/29/2015	0.75	8/28/2015	0.75	11/28/2015	0.75
3/1/2015	0.75	5/30/2015	0.75	8/29/2015	0.75	11/29/2015	0.75
3/2/2015	0.75	5/31/2015	0.75	8/30/2015	0.75	11/30/2015	0.75
3/3/2015	0.75	6/1/2015	0.75	8/31/2015	0.75	12/1/2015	0.75
3/4/2015	0.75	6/2/2015	0.75	9/1/2015	0.75	12/2/2015	0.75
3/5/2015	0.75	6/3/2015	0.75	9/2/2015	0.75	12/3/2015	0.75
3/6/2015	0.75	6/4/2015	0.75	9/3/2015	0.75	12/4/2015	0.75
3/7/2015	0.75	6/5/2015	0.75	9/4/2015	0.75	12/5/2015	0.75
3/8/2015	0.75	6/6/2015	0.75	9/5/2015	0.75	12/6/2015	0.75
3/9/2015	0.75	6/7/2015	0.75	9/6/2015	0.75	12/7/2015	0.75
3/10/2015	0.75	6/8/2015	0.75	9/7/2015	0.75	12/8/2015	0.75
3/11/2015	0.75	6/9/2015	0.75	9/8/2015	0.75	12/9/2015	0.75
3/12/2015	0.75	6/10/2015	0.75	9/9/2015	0.75	12/10/2015	0.75
3/13/2015	0.75	6/11/2015	0.75	9/10/2015	0.75	12/11/2015	0.75
3/14/2015	0.75	6/12/2015	0.75	9/11/2015	0.75	12/12/2015	0.75
3/15/2015	0.75	6/13/2015	0.75	9/12/2015	0.75	12/13/2015	0.75
3/16/2015	0.75	6/14/2015	0.75	9/13/2015	0.75	12/14/2015	0.75
3/17/2015	0.75	6/15/2015	0.75	9/14/2015	0.75	12/15/2015	0.75
3/18/2015	0.75	6/16/2015	0.75	9/15/2015	0.75	12/16/2015	0.75
3/19/2015	0.75	6/17/2015	0.75	9/16/2015	0.75	12/17/2015	0.75
3/20/2015	0.75	6/18/2015	0.75	9/17/2015	0.75	12/18/2015	0.75
3/21/2015	0.75	6/19/2015	0.75	9/18/2015	0.75	12/19/2015	0.75
3/22/2015	0.75	6/20/2015	0.75	9/19/2015	0.75	12/20/2015	0.75
3/23/2015	0.75	6/21/2015	0.75	9/20/2015	0.75	12/21/2015	0.75
3/24/2015	0.75	6/22/2015	0.75	9/21/2015	0.75	12/22/2015	0.75
3/25/2015	0.75	6/23/2015	0.75	9/22/2015	0.75	12/23/2015	0.75
3/26/2015	0.75	6/24/2015	0.75	9/23/2015	0.75	12/24/2015	0.75
3/27/2015	0.75	6/25/2015	0.75	9/24/2015	0.75	12/25/2015	0.75
3/28/2015	0.75	6/26/2015	0.75	9/25/2015	0.75	12/26/2015	0.75
3/29/2015	0.75	6/27/2015	0.75	9/26/2015	0.75	12/27/2015	0.75
3/30/2015	0.75	6/28/2015	0.75	9/27/2015	0.75	12/28/2015	0.75
3/31/2015	0.75	6/29/2015	0.75	9/28/2015	0.75	12/29/2015	0.75
		6/30/2015	0.75	9/29/2015	0.75	12/30/2015	0.75
				9/30/2015	0.75	12/31/2015	0.75

Note: Yellow highlights indicate rate announcement.

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FIGURE 2: 2016 Daily Overnight Rate Forecast

First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter	
Day	Overnight Rate Target (%)	Day	Overnight Rate Target (%)	Day	Overnight Rate Target (%)	Day	Overnight Rate Target (%)
1/1/2016	0.75	4/1/2016	0.75	7/1/2016	0.75	10/1/2016	1.00
1/2/2016	0.75	4/2/2016	0.75	7/2/2016	0.75	10/2/2016	1.00
1/3/2016	0.75	4/3/2016	0.75	7/3/2016	0.75	10/3/2016	1.00
1/4/2016	0.75	4/4/2016	0.75	7/4/2016	0.75	10/4/2016	1.00
1/5/2016	0.75	4/5/2016	0.75	7/5/2016	0.75	10/5/2016	1.00
1/6/2016	0.75	4/6/2016	0.75	7/6/2016	0.75	10/6/2016	1.00
1/7/2016	0.75	4/7/2016	0.75	7/7/2016	0.75	10/7/2016	1.00
1/8/2016	0.75	4/8/2016	0.75	7/8/2016	0.75	10/8/2016	1.00
1/9/2016	0.75	4/9/2016	0.75	7/9/2016	0.75	10/9/2016	1.00
1/10/2016	0.75	4/10/2016	0.75	7/10/2016	0.75	10/10/2016	1.00
1/11/2016	0.75	4/11/2016	0.75	7/11/2016	0.75	10/11/2016	1.00
1/12/2016	0.75	4/12/2016	0.75	7/12/2016	0.75	10/12/2016	1.00
1/13/2016	0.75	4/13/2016	0.75	7/13/2016	0.75	10/13/2016	1.00
1/14/2016	0.75	4/14/2016	0.75	7/14/2016	0.75	10/14/2016	1.00
1/15/2016	0.75	4/15/2016	0.75	7/15/2016	1.00	10/15/2016	1.00
1/16/2016	0.75	4/16/2016	0.75	7/16/2016	1.00	10/16/2016	1.00
1/17/2016	0.75	4/17/2016	0.75	7/17/2016	1.00	10/17/2016	1.00
1/18/2016	0.75	4/18/2016	0.75	7/18/2016	1.00	10/18/2016	1.00
1/19/2016	0.75	4/19/2016	0.75	7/19/2016	1.00	10/19/2016	1.00
1/20/2016	0.75	4/20/2016	0.75	7/20/2016	1.00	10/20/2016	1.00
1/21/2016	0.75	4/21/2016	0.75	7/21/2016	1.00	10/21/2016	1.25
1/22/2016	0.75	4/22/2016	0.75	7/22/2016	1.00	10/22/2016	1.25
1/23/2016	0.75	4/23/2016	0.75	7/23/2016	1.00	10/23/2016	1.25
1/24/2016	0.75	4/24/2016	0.75	7/24/2016	1.00	10/24/2016	1.25
1/25/2016	0.75	4/25/2016	0.75	7/25/2016	1.00	10/25/2016	1.25
1/26/2016	0.75	4/26/2016	0.75	7/26/2016	1.00	10/26/2016	1.25
1/27/2016	0.75	4/27/2016	0.75	7/27/2016	1.00	10/27/2016	1.25
1/28/2016	0.75	4/28/2016	0.75	7/28/2016	1.00	10/28/2016	1.25
1/29/2016	0.75	4/29/2016	0.75	7/29/2016	1.00	10/29/2016	1.25
1/30/2016	0.75	4/30/2016	0.75	7/30/2016	1.00	10/30/2016	1.25
1/31/2016	0.75	5/1/2016	0.75	7/31/2016	1.00	10/31/2016	1.25
2/1/2016	0.75	5/2/2016	0.75	8/1/2016	1.00	11/1/2016	1.25
2/2/2016	0.75	5/3/2016	0.75	8/2/2016	1.00	11/2/2016	1.25
2/3/2016	0.75	5/4/2016	0.75	8/3/2016	1.00	11/3/2016	1.25
2/4/2016	0.75	5/5/2016	0.75	8/4/2016	1.00	11/4/2016	1.25
2/5/2016	0.75	5/6/2016	0.75	8/5/2016	1.00	11/5/2016	1.25
2/6/2016	0.75	5/7/2016	0.75	8/6/2016	1.00	11/6/2016	1.25
2/7/2016	0.75	5/8/2016	0.75	8/7/2016	1.00	11/7/2016	1.25
2/8/2016	0.75	5/9/2016	0.75	8/8/2016	1.00	11/8/2016	1.25
2/9/2016	0.75	5/10/2016	0.75	8/9/2016	1.00	11/9/2016	1.25
2/10/2016	0.75	5/11/2016	0.75	8/10/2016	1.00	11/10/2016	1.25
2/11/2016	0.75	5/12/2016	0.75	8/11/2016	1.00	11/11/2016	1.25
2/12/2016	0.75	5/13/2016	0.75	8/12/2016	1.00	11/12/2016	1.25
2/13/2016	0.75	5/14/2016	0.75	8/13/2016	1.00	11/13/2016	1.25
2/14/2016	0.75	5/15/2016	0.75	8/14/2016	1.00	11/14/2016	1.25
2/15/2016	0.75	5/16/2016	0.75	8/15/2016	1.00	11/15/2016	1.25
2/16/2016	0.75	5/17/2016	0.75	8/16/2016	1.00	11/16/2016	1.25
2/17/2016	0.75	5/18/2016	0.75	8/17/2016	1.00	11/17/2016	1.25
2/18/2016	0.75	5/19/2016	0.75	8/18/2016	1.00	11/18/2016	1.25
2/19/2016	0.75	5/20/2016	0.75	8/19/2016	1.00	11/19/2016	1.25
2/20/2016	0.75	5/21/2016	0.75	8/20/2016	1.00	11/20/2016	1.25
2/21/2016	0.75	5/22/2016	0.75	8/21/2016	1.00	11/21/2016	1.25
2/22/2016	0.75	5/23/2016	0.75	8/22/2016	1.00	11/22/2016	1.25
2/23/2016	0.75	5/24/2016	0.75	8/23/2016	1.00	11/23/2016	1.25
2/24/2016	0.75	5/25/2016	0.75	8/24/2016	1.00	11/24/2016	1.25
2/25/2016	0.75	5/26/2016	0.75	8/25/2016	1.00	11/25/2016	1.25
2/26/2016	0.75	5/27/2016	0.75	8/26/2016	1.00	11/26/2016	1.25
2/27/2016	0.75	5/28/2016	0.75	8/27/2016	1.00	11/27/2016	1.25
2/28/2016	0.75	5/29/2016	0.75	8/28/2016	1.00	11/28/2016	1.25
2/29/2016	0.75	5/30/2016	0.75	8/29/2016	1.00	11/29/2016	1.25
3/1/2016	0.75	5/31/2016	0.75	8/30/2016	1.00	11/30/2016	1.25
3/2/2016	0.75	6/1/2016	0.75	8/31/2016	1.00	12/1/2016	1.25
3/3/2016	0.75	6/2/2016	0.75	9/1/2016	1.00	12/2/2016	1.25
3/4/2016	0.75	6/3/2016	0.75	9/2/2016	1.00	12/3/2016	1.25
3/5/2016	0.75	6/4/2016	0.75	9/3/2016	1.00	12/4/2016	1.25
3/6/2016	0.75	6/5/2016	0.75	9/4/2016	1.00	12/5/2016	1.25
3/7/2016	0.75	6/6/2016	0.75	9/5/2016	1.00	12/6/2016	1.25
3/8/2016	0.75	6/7/2016	0.75	9/6/2016	1.00	12/7/2016	1.25
3/9/2016	0.75	6/8/2016	0.75	9/7/2016	1.00	12/8/2016	1.25
3/10/2016	0.75	6/9/2016	0.75	9/8/2016	1.00	12/9/2016	1.25
3/11/2016	0.75	6/10/2016	0.75	9/9/2016	1.00	12/10/2016	1.25
3/12/2016	0.75	6/11/2016	0.75	9/10/2016	1.00	12/11/2016	1.25
3/13/2016	0.75	6/12/2016	0.75	9/11/2016	1.00	12/12/2016	1.25
3/14/2016	0.75	6/13/2016	0.75	9/12/2016	1.00	12/13/2016	1.25
3/15/2016	0.75	6/14/2016	0.75	9/13/2016	1.00	12/14/2016	1.25
3/16/2016	0.75	6/15/2016	0.75	9/14/2016	1.00	12/15/2016	1.25
3/17/2016	0.75	6/16/2016	0.75	9/15/2016	1.00	12/16/2016	1.25
3/18/2016	0.75	6/17/2016	0.75	9/16/2016	1.00	12/17/2016	1.25
3/19/2016	0.75	6/18/2016	0.75	9/17/2016	1.00	12/18/2016	1.25
3/20/2016	0.75	6/19/2016	0.75	9/18/2016	1.00	12/19/2016	1.25
3/21/2016	0.75	6/20/2016	0.75	9/19/2016	1.00	12/20/2016	1.25
3/22/2016	0.75	6/21/2016	0.75	9/20/2016	1.00	12/21/2016	1.25
3/23/2016	0.75	6/22/2016	0.75	9/21/2016	1.00	12/22/2016	1.25
3/24/2016	0.75	6/23/2016	0.75	9/22/2016	1.00	12/23/2016	1.25
3/25/2016	0.75	6/24/2016	0.75	9/23/2016	1.00	12/24/2016	1.25
3/26/2016	0.75	6/25/2016	0.75	9/24/2016	1.00	12/25/2016	1.25
3/27/2016	0.75	6/26/2016	0.75	9/25/2016	1.00	12/26/2016	1.25
3/28/2016	0.75	6/27/2016	0.75	9/26/2016	1.00	12/27/2016	1.25
3/29/2016	0.75	6/28/2016	0.75	9/27/2016	1.00	12/28/2016	1.25
3/30/2016	0.75	6/29/2016	0.75	9/28/2016	1.00	12/29/2016	1.25
3/31/2016	0.75	6/30/2016	0.75	9/29/2016	1.00	12/30/2016	1.25
				9/30/2016	1.00	12/31/2016	1.25

Note: Yellow highlights indicate rate announcement. 2016 dates assume 2015 rate announcement schedule.

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Daily projections of the overnight rate from Figure 1 and Figure 2 are rolled up to determine the monthly, quarterly and yearly averages in Figure 3. Please note that January 2015-April 2015 are actual data.

FIGURE 3: Various Overnight Rate Forecasts

<u>Monthly</u> ^{†*}		<u>Quarterly</u> [*]		<u>Yearly</u> [*]	
Month	Overnight Rate (%)	Quarter	Overnight Rate (%)	Year	Overnight Rate (%)
Jan-15	1.00	2015 Q1	0.75	2015	0.75
<i>Feb-15</i>	<i>0.75</i>	2015 Q2	0.75	2016	1.00
Mar-15	0.75	2015 Q3	0.75		
Apr-15	0.75	2015 Q4	0.75		
May-15	0.75	2016 Q1	0.75		
<i>Jun-15</i>	<i>0.75</i>	2016 Q2	0.75		
Jul-15	0.75	2016 Q3	1.00		
<i>Aug-15</i>	<i>0.75</i>	2016 Q4	1.25		
Sep-15	0.75				
Oct-15	0.75				
<i>Nov-15</i>	<i>0.75</i>				
Dec-15	0.75				
Jan-16	0.75				
<i>Feb-16</i>	<i>0.75</i>				
Mar-16	0.75				
Apr-16	0.75				
May-16	0.75				
<i>Jun-16</i>	<i>0.75</i>				
Jul-16	1.00				
<i>Aug-16</i>	<i>1.00</i>				
Sep-16	1.00				
Oct-16	1.00				
<i>Nov-16</i>	<i>1.25</i>				
Dec-16	1.25				

[†] *Red Italics* indicate month in which no interest rate announcement is scheduled.

Dashed line (----) indicates quarter-end.

* Monthly, Quarterly and Yearly forecasts are averages of the daily rate, rounded to two decimal places.

Prime Rate Differential

Table 3 on the next page displays the recent historical relationship between the overnight rate and the prime rate data series' extracted from Statistics Canada's CANSIM II database:

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TABLE 3: Historical Prime Rate Differential

	<i>col. 1</i>	<i>col. 2</i>	<i>col. 3</i>
	Overnight Rate Target (%)	Prime Rate (%)	Prime Rate - Overnight Rate
	<i>CANSIM II Series ID: v39079</i>	<i>CANSIM II Series ID: v122495</i>	<i>col. 2 - col 1</i>
Mar-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
Apr-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
May-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jun-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jul-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
Aug-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
Sep-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
Oct-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
Nov-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
Dec-11	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jan-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Feb-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Mar-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Apr-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
May-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jun-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jul-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Aug-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Sep-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Oct-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Nov-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Dec-12	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jan-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Feb-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Mar-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Apr-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
May-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jun-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jul-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Aug-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Sep-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Oct-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Nov-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Dec-13	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jan-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Feb-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Mar-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Apr-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
May-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jun-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jul-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Aug-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Sep-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Oct-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Nov-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Dec-14	1.00	3.00	2.00
Jan-15	1.00	2.85	1.85
Feb-15	0.75	2.85	2.10
Mar-15	0.75	2.85	2.10
Apr-15	0.75	2.85	2.10

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Prime Rate Forecast

From March 2011 to December 2014 there has been a consistent 200 basis point differential between the prime rate and the overnight rate. This 200 basis point differential is consistent with historical data as far back as late 2008. Prior to 2008, the relationship was stable at 175 basis points, a slightly lower differential. However, since the Bank of Canada decreased the overnight rate to 0.75% at the end of January 2015 the differential between the prime rate and the overnight rate has increased slightly to 210 basis points. Since this differential has persisted since the rate change it is likely to remain until the overnight rate changes again. Given that the new differential is only 10 basis points above the historical differential of 200, it is assumed that the differential will decrease back to 200 basis points once the overnight is increased.

Therefore, adding the 210 basis point differential to the overnight rate forecasts from May 2015 to June 2016 and a 200 basis point differential from July 2016 onwards results in the following prime rate forecasts. Please note that January 2015-April 2015 are actual data.

FIGURE 4: Various Prime Rate Forecasts

<u>Monthly</u>		<u>Quarterly</u>		<u>Yearly</u>	
Month	Prime Rate (%)	Quarter	Prime Rate (%)	Year	Prime Rate (%)
Jan-15	3.00	2015 Q1	2.90	2015	2.85
Feb-15	2.85	2015 Q2	2.85	2016	2.95
Mar-15	2.85	2015 Q3	2.85		
Apr-15	2.85	2015 Q4	2.85		
May-15	2.85	2016 Q1	2.85		
Jun-15	2.85	2016 Q2	2.85		
Jul-15	2.85	2016 Q3	3.00		
Aug-15	2.85	2016 Q4	3.15		
Sep-15	2.85				
Oct-15	2.85				
Nov-15	2.85				
Dec-15	2.85				
Jan-16	2.85				
Feb-16	2.85				
Mar-16	2.85				
Apr-16	2.85				
May-16	2.85				
Jun-16	2.85				
Jul-16	3.00				
Aug-16	3.00				
Sep-16	3.00				
Oct-16	3.00				
Nov-16	3.25				
Dec-16	3.25				

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Overall

The prime rate is the rate commercial banks charge on loans to their best customers. Financial institutions set their own prime rates based on the cost of short-term funds and based on the competitive pressures among them.

A consensus view from financial institutions is used to forecast the prime rate. However, the prime rate is not widely forecast, so an approach to arrive at a reasonable forecast of the prime rate is needed. Conveniently, the prime rate shares a consistent relationship with the Bank of Canada's overnight rate. The overnight rate is widely forecast and, through a consensus view of overnight rate expectations, a prime rate forecast can be generated.

Forecasting of the overnight rate through a consensus approach requires consideration of the overnight rate setting mechanism used by the Bank of Canada. This process includes forecasting eight (8) interest rate announcements during a given year and ensuring that any expected interest rate change at those announcement dates is made in the order of 25 basis points.

Finally, determining the consistent relationship between the reported prime rate and the overnight rate, and then applying this differential to the overnight rate forecast, yields the prime rate forecast. Although the prime rate has deviated slightly from its relationship to the overnight rate in recent months, the relationship is expected to hold over the long term. Therefore, the prime rate is forecast to remain 210 basis points above the overnight rate until July 2016 when the overnight rate is expected to increase to 1.00% and the differential to return to 200 basis points.