

Quarterly market update

As of March 31, 2020

Global economic highlights

- < The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the global economy into a deep recession. Global economic output has significantly fallen in many countries to lows not seen since the Great Depression in the 1930s
- < The amount of fiscal and monetary stimulus injected into the economic and financial system has surpassed the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. This has provided a necessary income buffer for individuals and the support needed to ensure the ongoing functioning of financial markets
- < Leading economic indicators, such as employment, housing, spending and inflation, among others, have experienced a dramatic decline
- < In many countries, unemployment rates have skyrocketed due to business closures and layoffs. 22 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits from mid-March to mid-April
- < The level of economic activity in much of the global economy after reopening will remain well below that of Q4 2019 owing to the severity of the downturn and the gradual rate at which economies are expected to reopen

Source: Scotia Economics Forecast, April 17, 2020

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