

Technical Scoop E-Commentary April 1 2019

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Potential topping, cut calls, Canadian growth

A shortened E Commentary this week as we were tied up with functions. Thanks to Elliott Wave International www.elliottwave.com (EW) we are repeating our thoughts on it for our readers of an interesting market symmetry EW noted in a recent commentary. EW titled it "Two Similar Topping Processes". It looks at three tops in our current market 2018-2019 and compares them with three similar tops seen in 1999-2000.

In addition to the fascinating potential topping process we look at gold's drop this week and we comment on the recent calls by Trump's economic advisor Larry Kudlow and President Trump himself for the Fed to immediately cut rates by 50 bp. The Fed does not report to the White House so these calls from Kudlow and Trump are unprecedented. The Fed (FOMC) next meets April 30, May 1. We close with a note on the stronger than expected January GDP reported for Canada. The Canadian Dividend Strategy remains fully invested.

We will return with a full report next weekend.

DC

Elliott Wave International (www.elliottwave.com) (EW) recently noted an interesting piece of market symmetry in an addendum to its March 2019 *Elliott Wave Theorist* dated March 26, 2019. We thought it interesting enough to repeat it to the readers of the *Technical Scoop*.

What EW showed was how the topping process of 2018–2019 has mirrored to a “striking degree” the topping process of 1999–2000. It is not exact, as we do note. We also note below some minor differences in our chart and EW’s chart.

The high on July 16, 1999 was an interesting one. On that date, both the S&P/Gold and S&P/CRB ratios made their all-time highs. What that means is the S&P 500 in terms of both gold (real money) and the CRB (commodities) made their all-time high. Interestingly, the NYSE Composite made its all-time high (to date) also on the first date January 26, 2018. Some more interesting comparisons. In the second peak period the S&P 500 made its all-time high at the time on March 24, 2000. The second peak period of October 3, 2018 marked the all-time high (to date) of the Dow Jones Industrials (DJI). As to the third peak, we have noted the high day of the S&P 500; however, EW notes instead the intra-day high of the NYSE on September 11, 2001. That date aligns better in terms of days with the high of March 21, 2019.

We note this as the stock markets have been on a down swing since topping on March 21, 2019. Naturally, if that high is subsequently taken out then this exercise is just that—an exercise, albeit a somewhat interesting one. Given the rise since December 2018, we have wondered whether that five-wave rise is just an A wave up. A B wave down should now be underway. Once that wave is complete, a C wave to the upside could get underway.

To preserve the March 21, 2019 top, it may be that the C wave up is a flat that does not quite take out that high. The wave could also unfold an ABCDE-type triangle before beginning a wave to the downside. Following the high of September 1, 2000, the market did begin a choppy decline that found a low on October 18, 2000. A short-lived rally followed that made a lower top on November 6, 2000. That high was nowhere near the September 1, 2000 high. Another decline took place that found a low on December 21, 2000 followed by another lower high on January 31, 2001. It was after that high that the stock market began a more serious decline. If markets were to follow a similar path today that would take us to August 10, 2019 for a final top.

Our focus shifts to two lows of importance. The first low is the recent one on March 25, 2019 at 2,785 and the second one of more importance is the low of March 8, 2019 at 2,722. If these two lows are taken out, then odds highly favour a steeper decline. An even more concerning decline could take place if the S&P 500 were to break below 2,600 and the low of January 23, 2019 at 2,613. The final line in the sand would be seen below 2,367. Below that level new lows could be possible.

Matching Triple Tops? July 1999 – September 2000, January 2019 – March 2019



Source: www.stockcharts.com

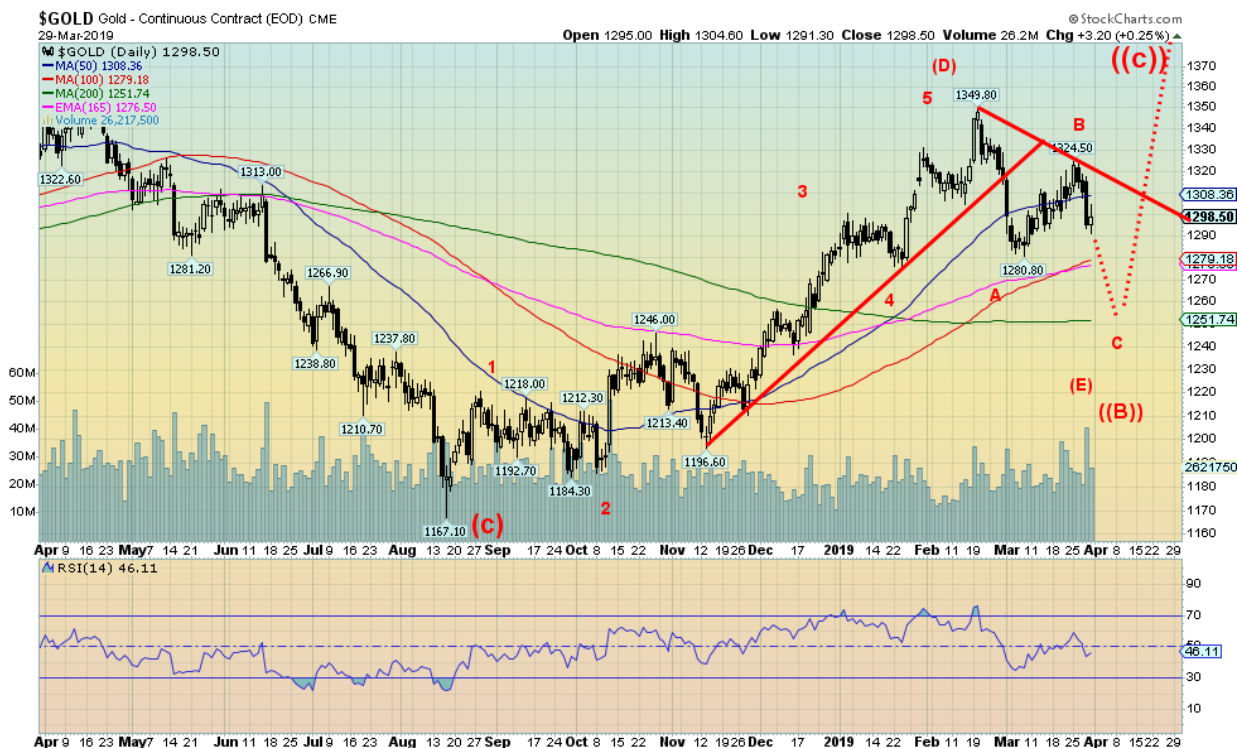


Source: www.stockcharts.com

The EW comparison is fascinating, given the symmetry in the markets. As noted, however, new highs would make this an academic exercise. As long as key areas noted above hold then the potential for the market to regain the highs remains alive and well. We can't help but note that the NYSE advance-decline line once again shot to new all-time highs this past week. Other stock market indicators such as the McLellan Oscillator, McLellan Summation Index and the NYSE new highs – new lows Index, and the NYSE up volume – down volume Index remain positive. We note as well that comparable indicators on the NASDAQ are not quite as

robust. So, a few mixed signals here. But the new all-time highs of the NYSE advance-decline line suggests that the stock market could once again make new all-time highs.

Gold, along with silver and the gold stocks, took a tumble this past week. Gold fell 1.1% while silver was off almost 2.0%. The gold stocks as represented by the Gold Bugs Index (HUI) and the TSX Gold Index (TGD) both fell roughly 1.9%. Pushing gold down was a higher US\$ Index (+0.7% on the week) and a lower Euro (down 0.6%). Gold was pushed down at one point by almost \$25 on March 28, 2019. There were rumours of central bank selling, in particular the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). The story was the BIS forced gold lower to help the mark-to-market of gold derivatives at the bullion banks. That forced gold into backwardation and strong physical buying of gold at lower prices was noted. We note as well that the commercial COT for gold slid to 34% from 38%, but the commercial COT for silver only slipped to 37% from 38%. Most of the selling by the commercials was unwinding of long open interest although some short selling also took place. We do not view the commercial COT as being overly bearish.



Source: www.stockcharts.com

All of this fits with our thoughts that gold is the throes of an E wave to the downside. The E wave could unfold as an ABC pattern or an ABCDE-type pattern. Ultimately, potential targets are around \$1,250, give or take, and we could go into May before we see the final low. We note that sentiment as reported by EW is still around 63% so it has a lot of room to move lower. A move to 15% or lower in sentiment would not be surprising at the lows.

Silver broke its channel line at \$15.15, closing at \$15.11. Silver now appears to be targeting down to \$14.40 to \$14.80. Palladium finally put in a bad week, falling almost 14% to \$1,341. Nothing in particular was noted for the fall except the rising U.S. dollar and high prices scaring off buyers.

As gold goes lower, we expect the U.S. dollar will move higher above 97. The US\$ Index was up 0.7% this past week to 96.85. While U.S. economic numbers are softening, they remain more buoyant than comparable numbers in the eurozone. China is softening but still maintains 6% plus growth. The eurozone is slowing but it is not officially in recession. Same with Japan.

There are a number of economic numbers to watch this coming week, including retail sales for February (expected +0.3%), U.S. PMI (expected +52.5, anything above 50 is positive and suggest the economy remains healthy), and nonfarm payrolls for March (expected +170 thousand following the 20 thousand gain in February). The unemployment rate is expected to remain at 3.8%.

We are hearing increasing cries from President Trump's economic advisor Larry Kudlow and President Trump himself for the Fed to immediately cut its benchmark rate by 50 bp. The cry is also being repeated by Trump's nominee for the Fed Stephen Moore. Moore has not yet been confirmed and there is some doubt he will be confirmed given his lack of an economic banking background and that he is seen as too much of a Trump partisan. Nonetheless, the cries are strong emanating from the White House for the Fed to immediately acquiesce to their demands.

It is highly unlikely to happen. The FOMC does not meet again until April 30, May 1. The Fed does not take direction from the White House. The Fed is an independent agency created by an Act of Congress. Its policy decisions do not have to be approved by the White House, nor any legislative branch of government. It does not receive funding from Congress. Its board of governors spans multiple congressional and presidential terms. The Chairman of the Fed (Jerome Powell) is appointed by the President but does not report to the President or Congress. The Chairman can only be fired "for cause" and not because he fails to do the President's bidding as to interest rate policy.

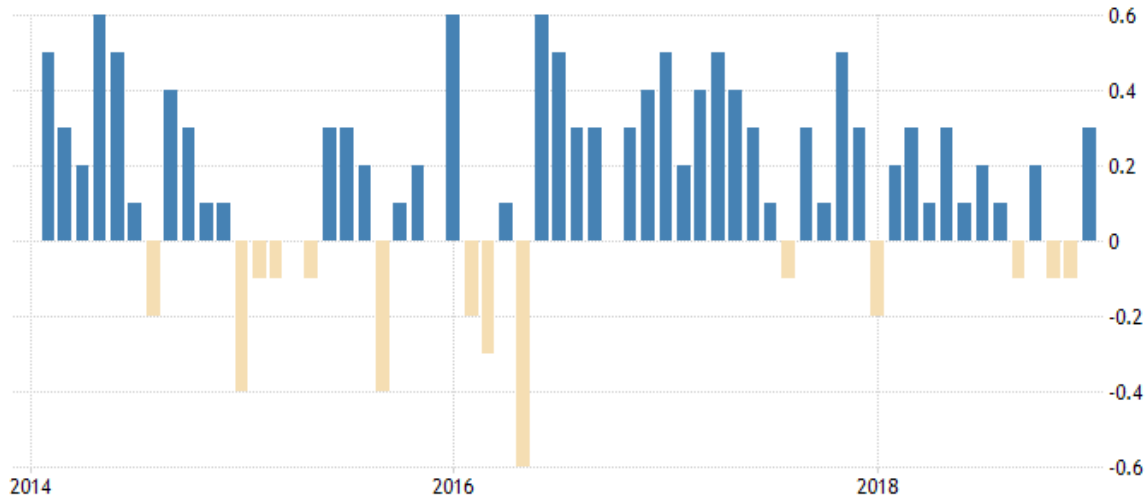
Nonetheless, the constant barrage from the White House is "high theater," but the Chairman of the Fed and the Fed itself can and do ignore it.

Interest rates have continued to fall. This past week the 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell to 2.41% down from the previous week's 2.44%. The low on the week was 2.39%. The 10-year minus 2-year spread, however, rose to 14 bp from 13 bp. That closely watched spread is not signaling recession any time soon. After slipping into negative territory the previous week, the 10-year minus 3-month treasury bill spread returned positive +1 bp.

There was heavy demand for 3-month treasury bills this past week as traders shortened their maturities. Bond sentiment as reported by EW hit 93% this past week, a level often associated with tops in bond prices (low in yields as yields move inversely to prices). If that proves to be correct then bond yields could rise in the coming weeks. That is something the market is not expecting. The fall in yields may have to have overshot its mark. Over the past week or two recession hysteria has hit the market. However, while there is admitted slowing there are few signs that a recession is imminent either in the U.S. or the eurozone and certainly not China.

With Canada reporting stronger than expected economic data for January for both the trade data and GDP, this helped strengthen the Canadian dollar in past week and held the 10-year Government of Canada bond, unchanged on the week at 1.60%. The 10-year minus 2-year spread rose slightly to 7 bp from 6 bp, indicating that a recession remains sometime in the future.

Canada GDP Month over Month



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | STATISTICS CANADA

Source: www.tradingeconomics.com, www.statcan.gc.ca

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GLOSSARY

Trends

Daily – Short-term trend (For swing traders)

Weekly – Intermediate-term trend (For long-term trend followers)

Monthly – Long-term secular trend (For long-term trend followers)

Up – The trend is up.

Down – The trend is down

Neutral – Indicators are mostly neutral. A trend change might be in the offing.

Weak – The trend is still up or down but it is weakening. It is also a sign that the trend might change.

Topping – Indicators are suggesting that while the trend remains up there are considerable signs that suggest that the market is topping.

Bottoming – Indicators are suggesting that while the trend is down there are considerable signs that suggest that the market is bottoming.

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