

Regional Economic Observer



First Quarter, 2000

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The "Regional Economic Observer" (REO) provides a snapshot of provincial economic conditions in a convenient format. The REO does not interpret or evaluate government policies, and every attempt is made to present factual information in an informed and balanced manner consistent with generally accepted economic principles. This report uses data available as of May 31, 2000. It has been prepared by Marianne Blais, Julie Dubois, Alison McDermott and Karen Smith under the direction of Raynald Létourneau and Shane Williamson. All information is taken from public sources, primarily Statistics Canada, the Bank of Canada, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the Canadian Real Estate Association. Please address comments to Raynald Létourneau at 613-996-0474 or through the Internet at letourneau.raynald@ic.gc.ca.

Highlights: First Quarter, 2000

British Columbia

Building on gains in the second half of 1999, economic activity in British Columbia continued to improve early in 2000. Manufacturing activity rebounded, while retailing kept pace with previous quarters, driven by higher consumer confidence. As a consequence, employment rose, outpacing the national average and driving the unemployment rate to a near 20-year low.

Prairies

Economic activity firmed in the Prairies in the first quarter, sustained by higher oil and gas prices. Industrial activity outpaced the national average in the three provinces, while retailing surged. Labour market conditions improved further, with employment gains leading to lower unemployment rates in Alberta and Saskatchewan. However, a rising labour force drove the unemployment rate up slightly in Manitoba.

Ontario

Following a slowdown at the end of the year, the Ontario economy strengthened in the first quarter. Manufacturing activity advanced at a robust pace, led by aircrafts and electrical and electronic products. Moreover, strong consumer confidence was reflected in the vigour of the housing and retail sectors. The labour market performed well, as employment grew strongly and the unemployment rate remained at its 10-year low.

Quebec

Growth was also robust in Quebec as consumer spending rose and manufacturing activity posted its best quarter in four years. Job creation eased in the first quarter although all the new jobs added were full time and the unemployment rate stood at its lowest rate since 1976.

Atlantic

The Atlantic economy continued to look strong in the first quarter of 2000, with employment gains posted in all provinces with the exception of Newfoundland. Manufacturing activity fell back in several provinces after posting strong performances in previous quarter, while consumer spending slowed somewhat in the first quarter. Inflation was above the national average in all provinces, in the first quarter and in April.



British Columbia



Labour Markets

Employment growth outpaces the national average early in 2000...

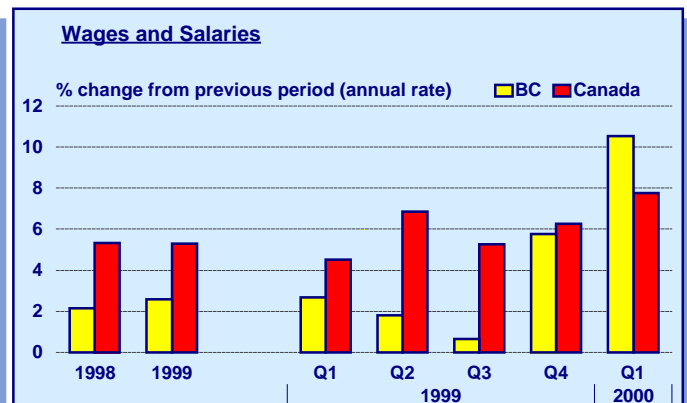
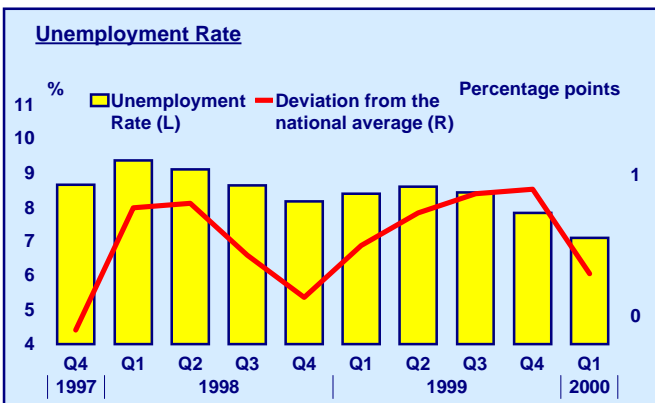
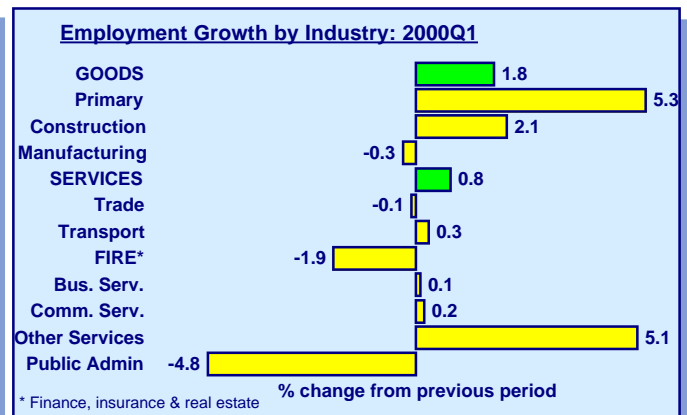
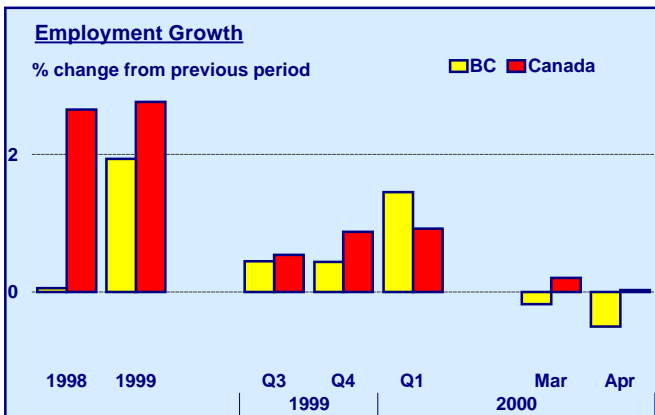
- Sharp gains in January and February resulted in a 1.5% increase in employment in the first quarter of 2000 as full-time employment recorded a solid advance. Gains were mostly concentrated in the primary industries, other services and construction. Losses in public administration and finance, insurance & real estate (FIRE) somewhat offset these gains.
- Employment edged down in March and April, mostly as a result of losses in the services-producing industries.

...and the unemployment rate continues to fall...

- In the first quarter, the unemployment rate fell 0.7 percentage points to 7.1%, a near 20-year low.
- The unemployment rate gap with the national average narrowed considerably in the first quarter as a result of solid employment gains in the province. The gap stood at only 0.3 percentage points above the national average, its lowest level in a year.

...while labour income records its fastest growth in more than a decade

- Wages and salaries surged 10.5% in the first quarter, building on a solid advance at the end of 1999. This strong performance was due to healthy gains in both earnings and employment. Income growth outpaced the national average for the first time in more than a year.





Economic Activity and Prices

Manufacturing activity surges in the first quarter...

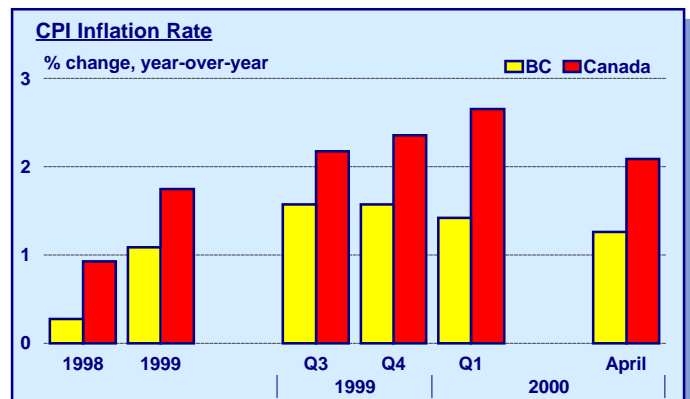
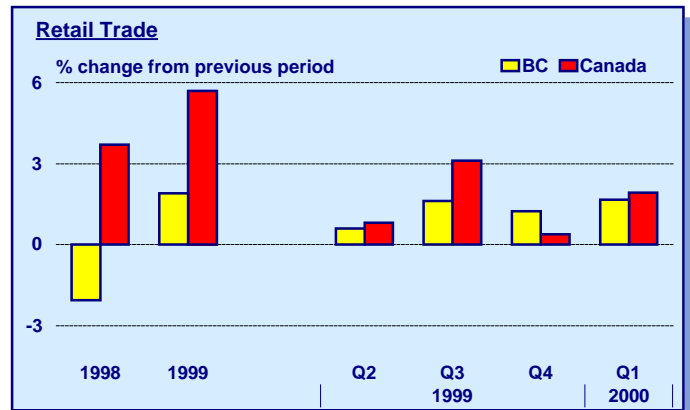
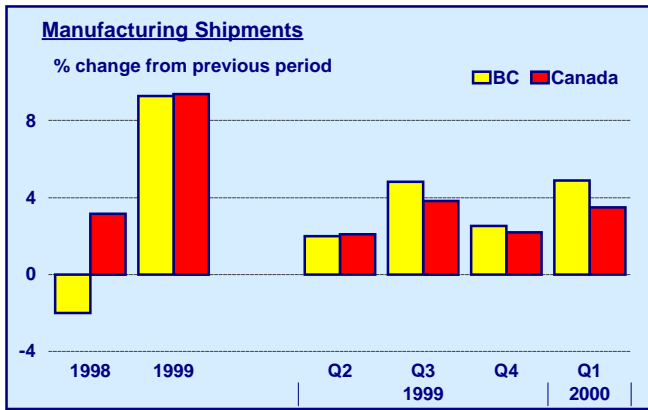
- Industrial production rose 4.9% in the first quarter, outpacing the national average by more than a full percentage point. This seventh consecutive quarterly advance was largely driven by higher output in forest products and chemical industries.

...while consumer spending figures are mixed

- Higher income prospects helped restore consumer confidence, leading to a 1.7% increase in retail sales in the first quarter. Retailing activity has advanced, on average, at a rate above the national average in the last two quarters, a departure from previous periods.
- However, housing starts lost their momentum, falling by more than 25% in the first quarter, while home resales were virtually unchanged.

Inflation rate remains subdued early in 2000

- On a year-over-year basis, consumer prices recorded a 1.4% increase in the first quarter of 2000. Inflation was 1.2 percentage points below the national average as food prices fell while those for shelter, alcohol and recreation rose at a slower pace than in the rest of Canada. Inflation remained relatively low in April, advancing 1.3%, still well below the national average.







Labour Markets

Gains in services-producing industries lead to higher employment in the first quarter...

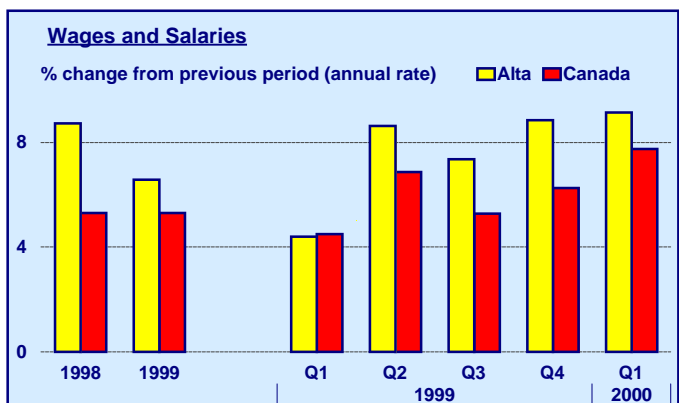
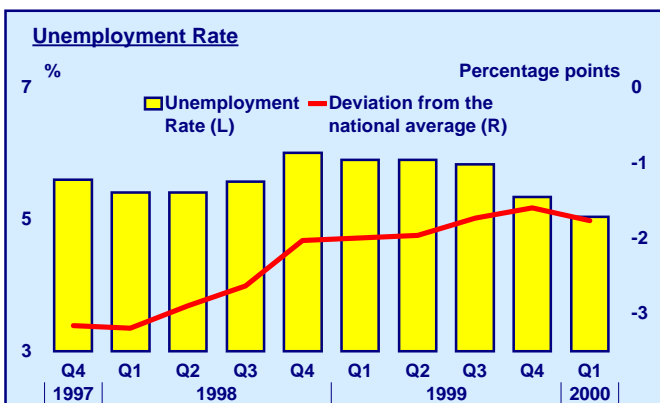
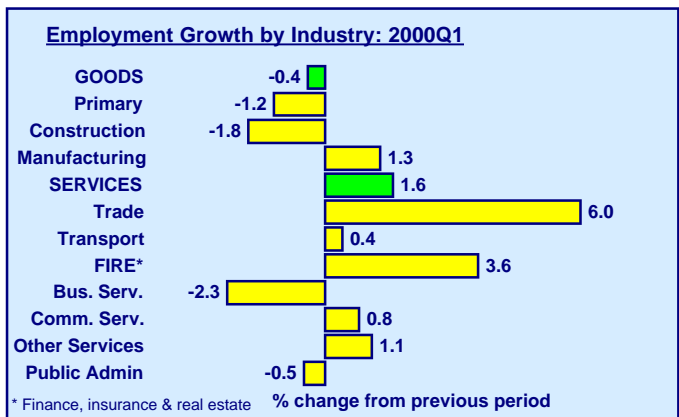
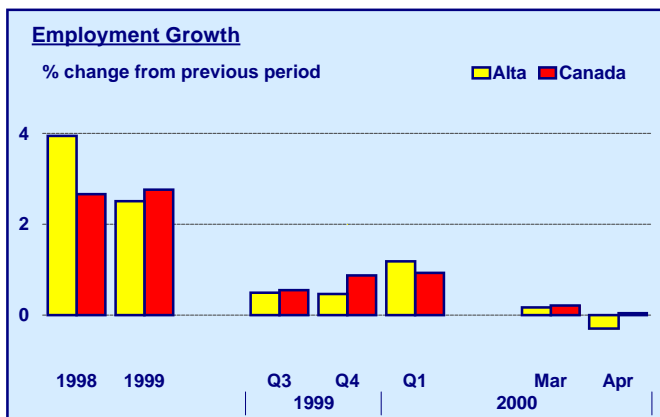
- Job creation advanced 1.2% in the first quarter, its largest gain in almost two years. Employment gains were mostly concentrated in services-producing industries, particularly in trade, FIRE and other services. The number of jobs in the goods industries edged down despite gains in manufacturing.
- On a monthly basis, employment fell in April following gains above the national average in the first quarter.

...driving the unemployment rate down

- As a result of job gains in the first quarter, the unemployment rate fell to 5.0%, the lowest on record since 1981.
- This fall resulted in a widening of the Alberta-Canada unemployment rate gap for the first time in more than two years. Alberta's unemployment rate was 1.8 percentage points below the national average.

Income growth remains solid early in 2000

- Growth of wages and salaries exceeded 9.0% (annual rate) in the first quarter, outpacing still the national average. Higher employment, increases in the average hourly earnings and hours worked, all contributed to this quarter gains.





Economic Activity and Prices

Industrial activity accelerates at the beginning of the year...

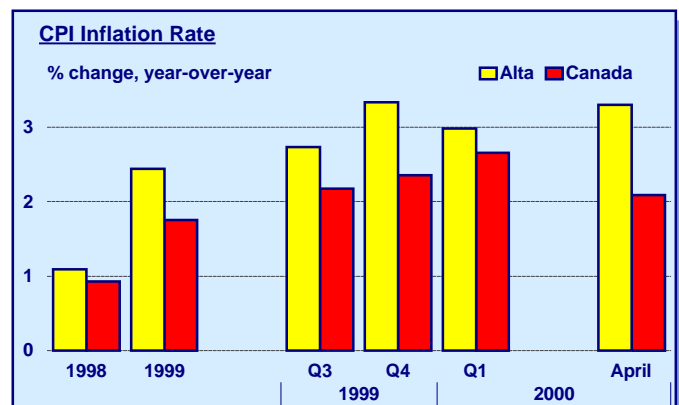
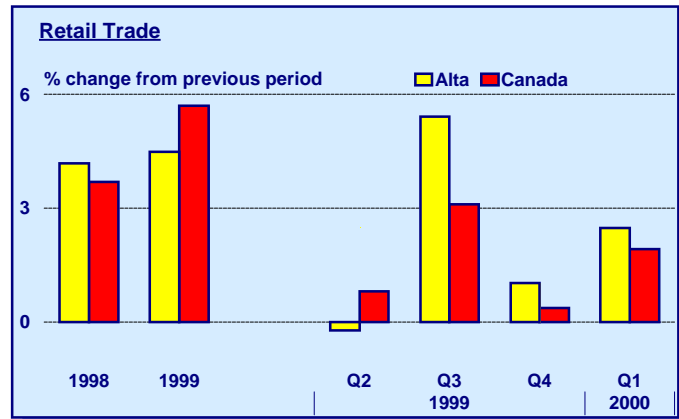
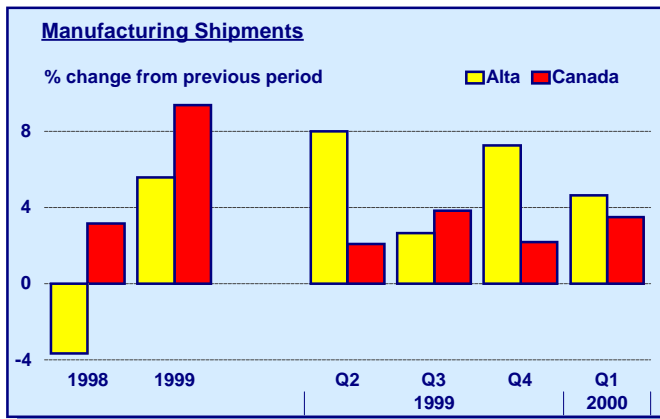
- For a second consecutive quarter, manufacturing activity outpaced the national average, advancing a healthy 4.7% in the first quarter. This growth was led by a surge in shipments of petroleum products, which increased 26.8% over the quarter. Higher production of clothing, transportation equipment, fabricated metal and machinery also contributed to this solid performance.

...and household spending picks up...

- Retail sales advanced 2.5% in the first quarter of 2000. Although retail activity slowed in recent quarters, sales continued to outperform the national average.
- Housing starts edged down in the first quarter of the year, putting an end to the upward trend of the last quarters. However, after declining steadily throughout the second half of 1999, home resales rebounded 8.5% early in 2000, reaching their highest level on record (data extend back to 1988).

...while inflation slows

- Consumer prices were up 3.0% in the first quarter on a year-over-year basis, down from a 3.3% increase in the previous quarter. This slowdown in inflation was mostly due to prices for clothing, shelter and food, which all rose at a much slower pace than in the previous quarter. Prices recorded a solid hike in April with inflation still well above the national average.





Labour Markets

Strong employment growth in the first quarter of 2000...

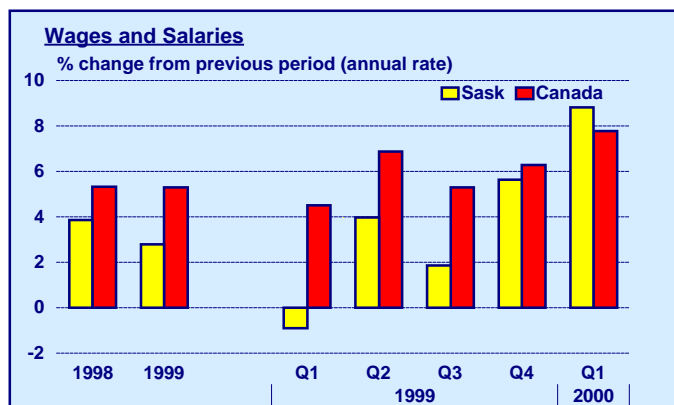
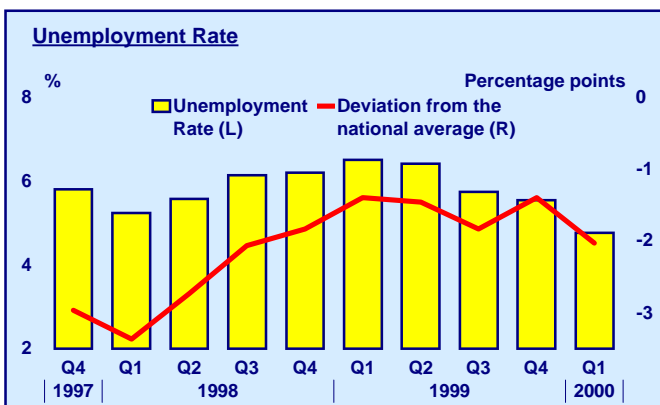
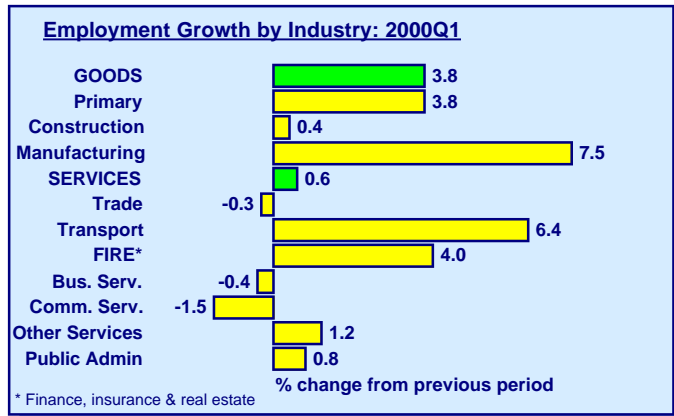
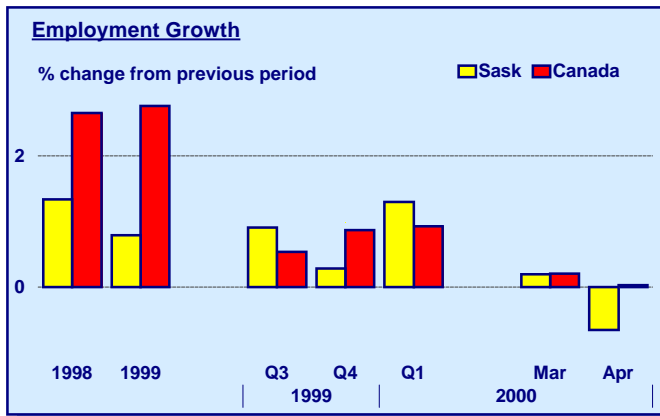
- Job creation was up 1.3% in the first quarter, outpacing the national average by nearly half of a percentage point. Gains were fairly widespread with only community services, business services and trade reporting declines. Overall, goods-producing industries accounted for most of the increase with a surge in manufacturing. Higher employment in transportation and FIRE helped push employment up slightly in the services industries.
- On a monthly basis, employment fell in April with the agriculture sector recording the largest employment decline.

...leads to a lower unemployment rate...

- The unemployment rate continued on its downward trend initiated a year ago and fell to 4.8% in the first quarter, the lowest rate among all provinces.
- The unemployment rate gap widened to 2 percentage points below the national average. Nonetheless, the gap remains much smaller than at the beginning of 1998.

...and a solid advance in earnings

- Wages and salaries advanced a solid 8.8% (annual rate) in the first quarter of the new year, outpacing the national average. Gains in average hourly earnings and higher employment largely explain this solid advance.
- However, farm cash receipts, which are not included in earnings, plummeted on a year-over-year basis in the first quarter. Abundant world grain supplies continued to put downward pressure on prices and crop receipts, which account for almost two thirds of farmers total receipts in the province.





Economic Activity and Prices

Manufacturing shipments grow above the 5% mark in the first quarter...

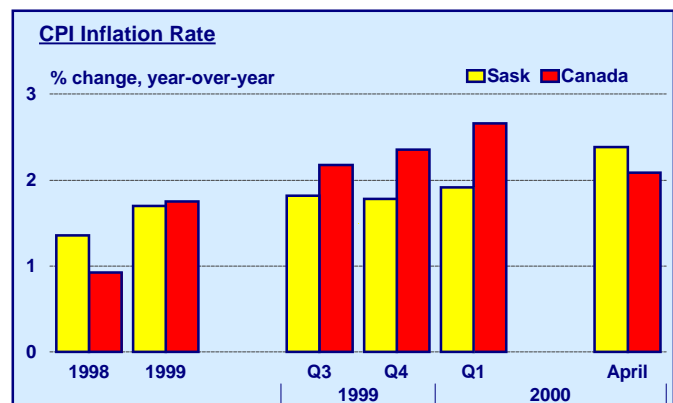
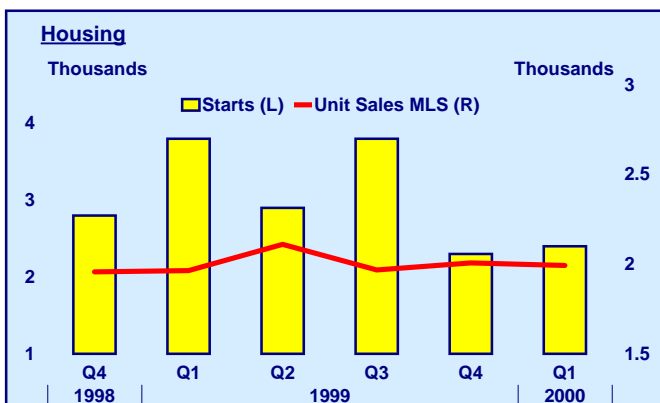
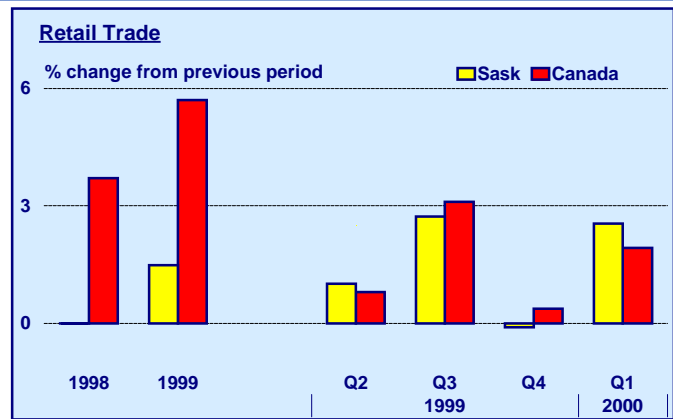
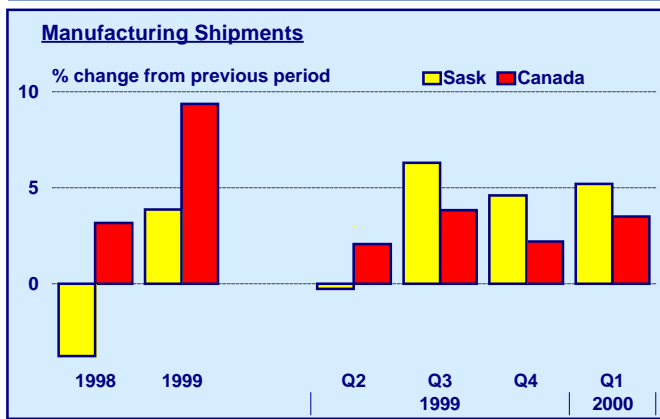
- Industrial production maintained its pace of previous quarters, recording a strong 5.2% increase in the first quarter. For the third consecutive quarter, manufacturing shipments advanced at a faster rate than the national average, largely as a result of higher output in electrical and food industries.

...and household consumption surges

- Retail activity bounced back in the first quarter, increasing at a rate above the national average.
- Housing starts edged up in the first quarter. Home resales were virtually unchanged over this period, but remained nonetheless close to their record high of the end of 1997.

Inflation stays under the 2% mark

- The CPI index rose 1.9% in the first quarter on a year-over-year basis, keeping pace with previous quarters. Saskatchewan's inflation was still well below the national average, with higher prices mostly due to increasing costs for transportation and shelter. Prices rose at a faster pace in April, outpacing the national average.





Labour Markets

Employment strengthens in the first quarter...

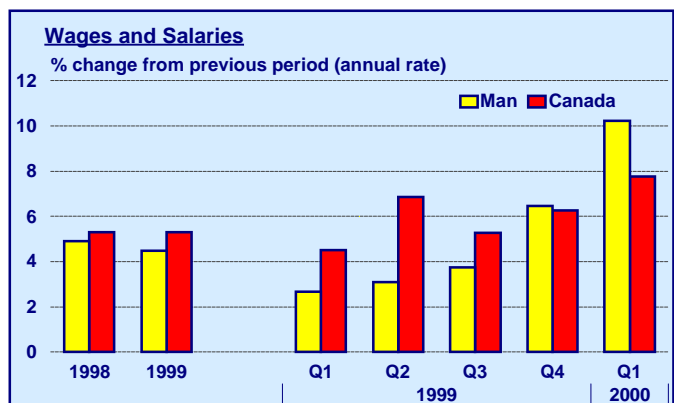
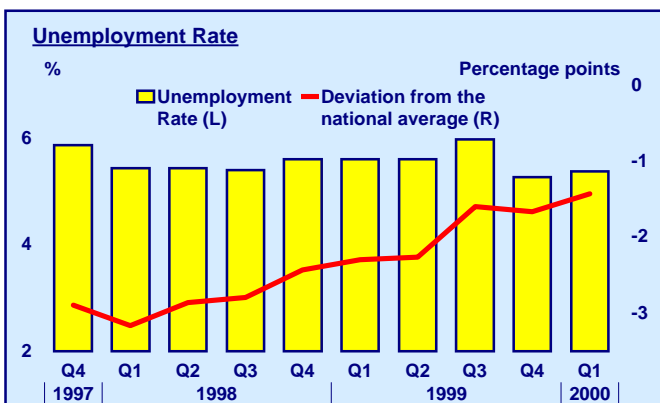
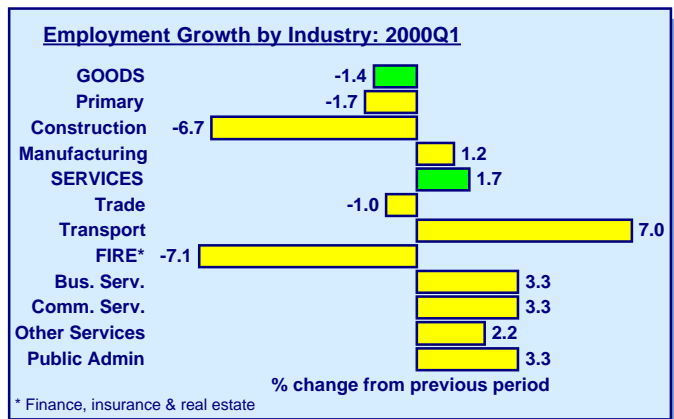
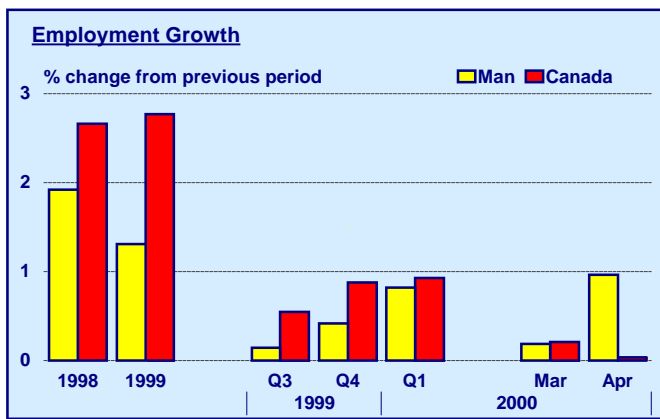
- In the first quarter, employment posted its biggest advance in six quarters, though growth was slightly below the national average. The 0.8% rise in employment was totally due to full-time job creation and was concentrated in the services sector. Transportation industries recorded the greatest advance while FIRE industries posted the largest decline. Losses in construction and primary industries led to a 1.4% decline in employment in the goods-producing sector.
- On a month-over-month basis, employment surged 1.0% in April, following a small increase in March.

...but the unemployment rate drifts up

- As employment gains were more than offset by a rising labour force, the unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage point to 5.4% in the first quarter. However, April's employment rise pushed the unemployment rate down to 5.0%, the lowest since January 1980.
- The rise in the provincial unemployment rate coupled with a fall in the national rate reduced the gap to 1.4 percentage points below the national average.

Wage increases accelerate in the first quarter

- Growth in wages and salaries increased for the fourth consecutive period and reached 10.2% (annual rate) in the first quarter, the highest growth recorded in 18 years. A solid advance in average hourly earnings mostly explains income growth over the first quarter.
- Farm cash receipts declined by 6.5% in the first three months of the year (in comparison with the same period a year ago). A big drop in crops receipts push down the total receipts, more than offsetting strong increase in livestock prices.





Economic Activity and Prices

Manufacturing activity outpaces the national average in the first quarter...

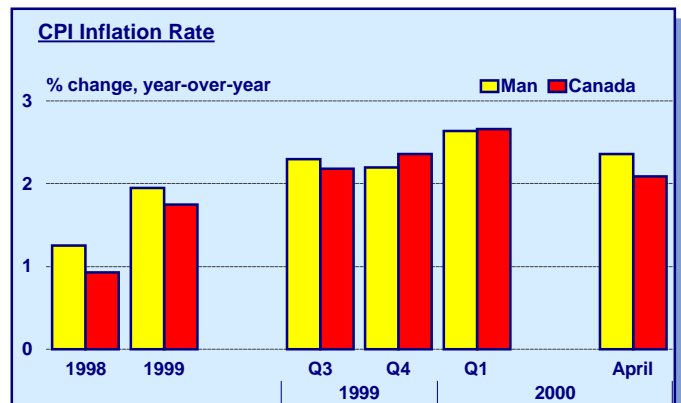
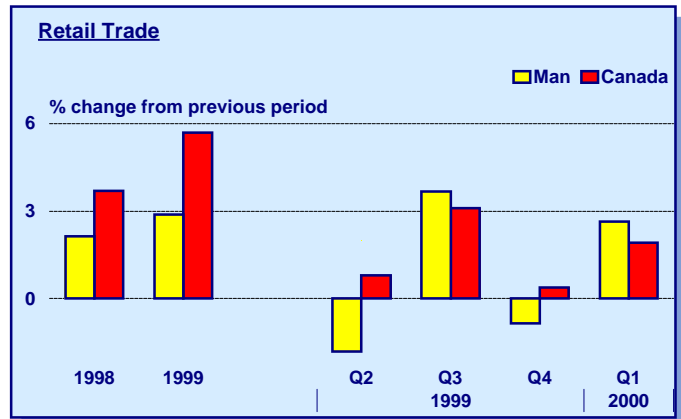
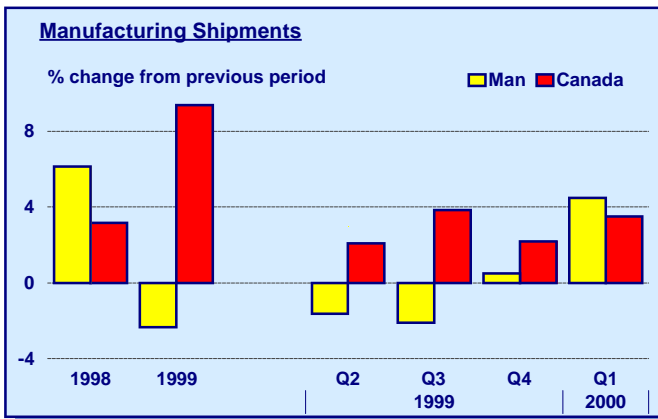
- Manufacturing shipments recorded their best performance in more than two years and exceeded the national average in the first quarter. Higher production of aircraft and aircraft parts, food and beverage, primary metal, wood, and printing led to a 4.5% increase in overall shipments.

...as does retailing

- Following a decline in the fourth quarter, retail sales rebounded in the first quarter, sustained by a strong increase in labour income.
- The housing sector weakened in the first quarter as both sales of existing houses and housing starts fell over the quarter.

Higher transportation costs put pressure on the CPI

- The CPI rose 2.6% in the first quarter, on a year-over-year basis, the highest increase in three years. This increase reflects higher prices for energy, which pushed transportation costs up. In April, inflation eased somewhat to 2.4%.







Labour Markets

Employment remains strong in the first quarter...

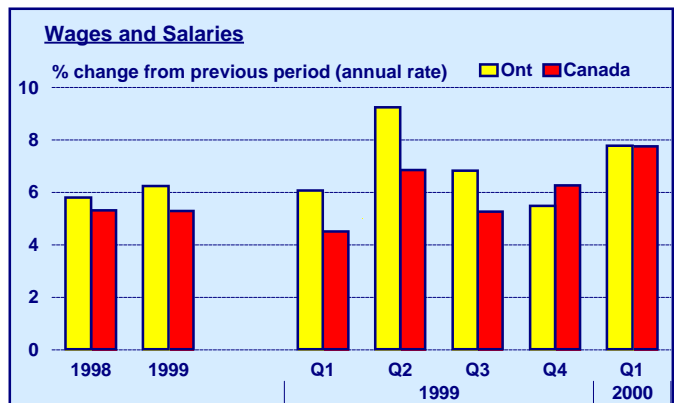
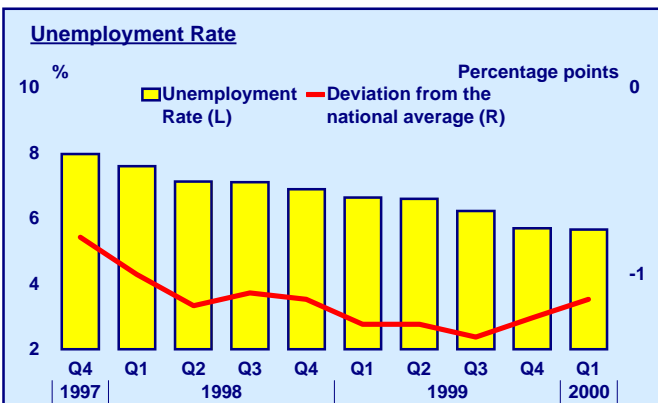
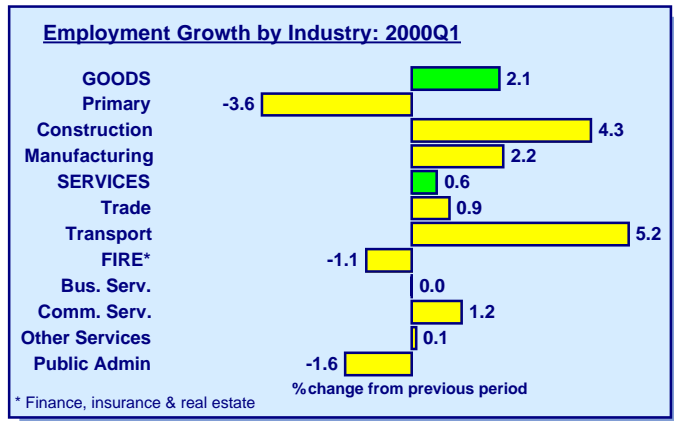
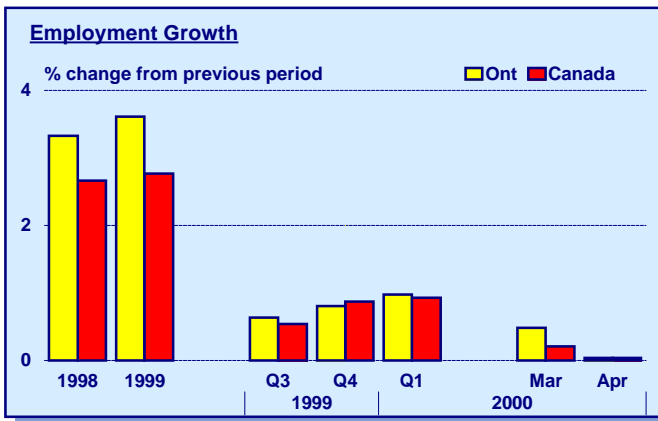
- Employment grew 1.0% in the first quarter, keeping pace with the national average. On a monthly basis, employment paused in April, following a net gain of 28,000 jobs in March.
- Job creation in the first quarter was concentrated mostly in the goods sector. Construction and manufacturing industries recorded large gains while employment in primary industries declined for the third consecutive quarter. Employment growth in services mainly reflected gains in transportation, community services and trade.

...keeping the unemployment rate to a near 10-year low

- The rise in employment was accompanied by a similar increase in the labour force, leaving the unemployment rate unchanged at 5.7% in the first quarter, the lowest rate observed since the second quarter of 1990.
- The unemployment rate gap with respect to the national average narrowed in the last quarter due to a decline of the national rate.

Growth in wages and salaries increases in the first quarter

- Wage growth rose to 7.8% in the first quarter of 2000, as average weekly hours worked rebounded from a decline at the end of 1999.





Economic Activity and Prices

Manufacturing activity strengthens in the first quarter...

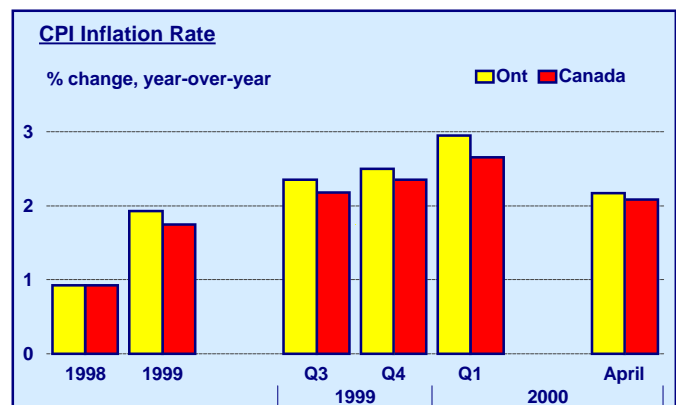
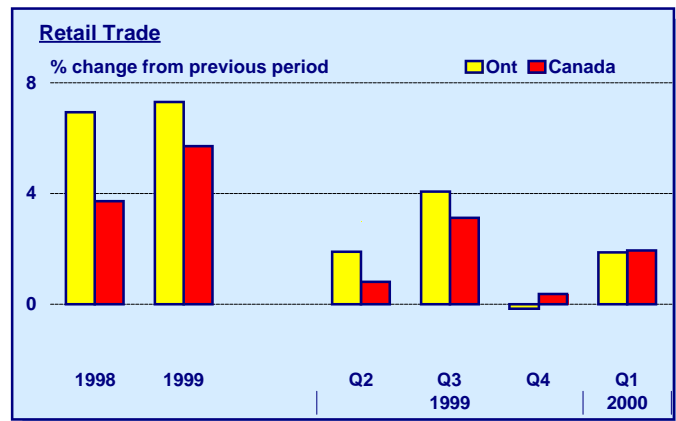
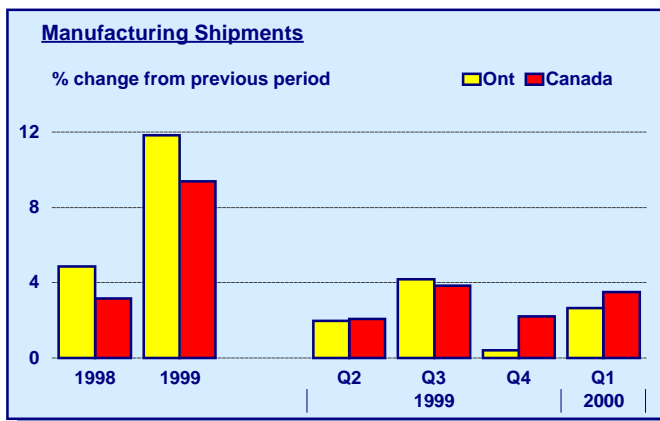
- Following a sluggish performance at the end of 1999, manufacturing shipments rose 2.6% in the first quarter. This advance was mostly due to higher output of aircraft and aircraft parts, electrical and electronic products, and machinery. A recovery in the transportation and wood industries also contributed to the overall increase.

...as does retailing and housing

- Ontario retail sales rebounded in the first quarter as labour income grew sharply and consumer confidence remained high.
- The housing sector was also vigorous in the first quarter. Housing starts reached their highest level in almost 10 years and home resales increased after two consecutive declines.

Inflation is on the rise

- In the first quarter, Ontario CPI inflation rose further to reach the 3% mark. However, on a monthly basis, year-over-year inflation fell back in April. Upward pressures on the CPI in the first quarter and in April were due largely to higher costs for transportation, recreation, education and reading material.



A light blue map of the province of Quebec, Canada, centered on a white background. The map shows the outline of the province, including its northern and eastern borders. The word "Quebec" is written in a bold, dark blue, italicized serif font across the center of the map.

Quebec



Labour Markets

Job creation eases in the first quarter...

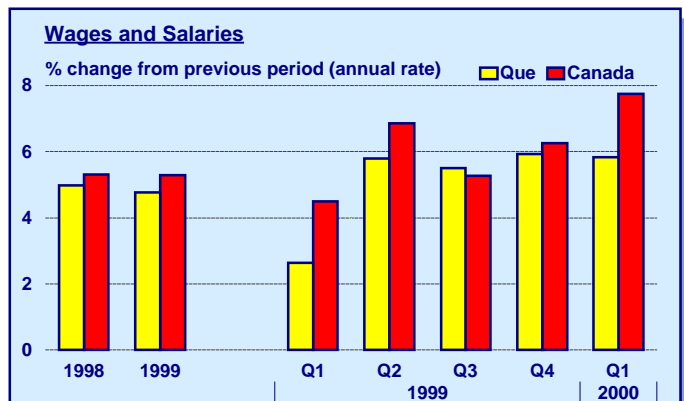
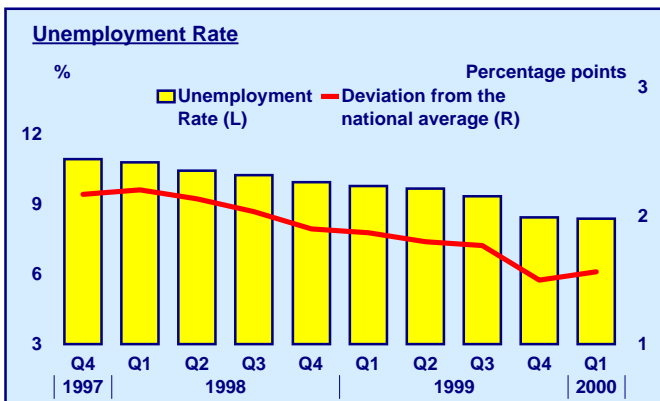
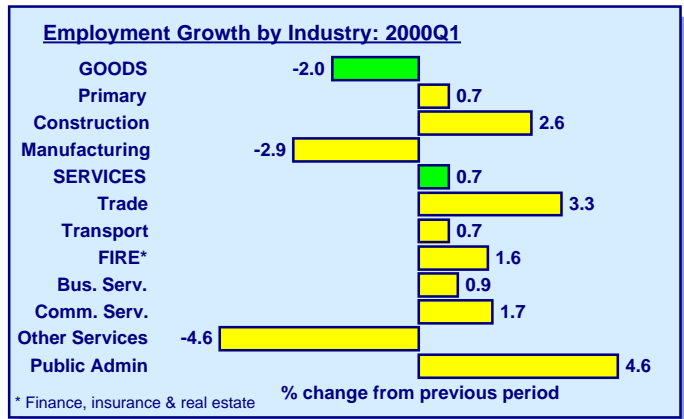
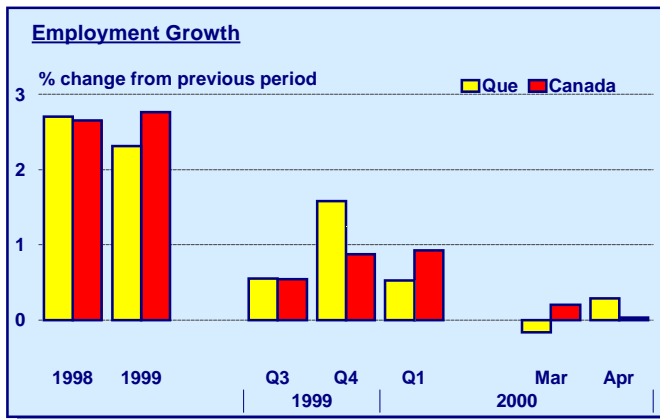
- Employment grew 0.5% in the first quarter, following a large gain in the previous quarter. All the new jobs added were full time. On a monthly basis, employment rose 0.3% in April, while it was unchanged for Canada as a whole.
- Employment growth in the first quarter was concentrated in the services sector with notable gains in public administration and trade. Employment in the goods sector declined by 2.0% as losses in manufacturing more than offset gains in primary and construction industries.

...but the unemployment rate holds steady...

- The unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.4% in the first quarter, the lowest quarterly rate observed since 1976.
- As the national rate fell slightly in the first quarter, the gap between the national average and Quebec's unemployment rate rose for the first time since the end of 1997.

...and growth in wages and salaries remains high

- Growth in wages and salaries edged down in the first quarter in line with slower job creation.





Economic Activity and Prices

Manufacturing shipments post their best growth since 1995...

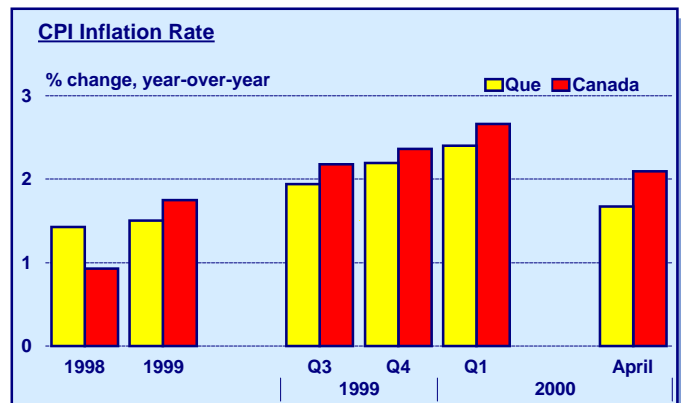
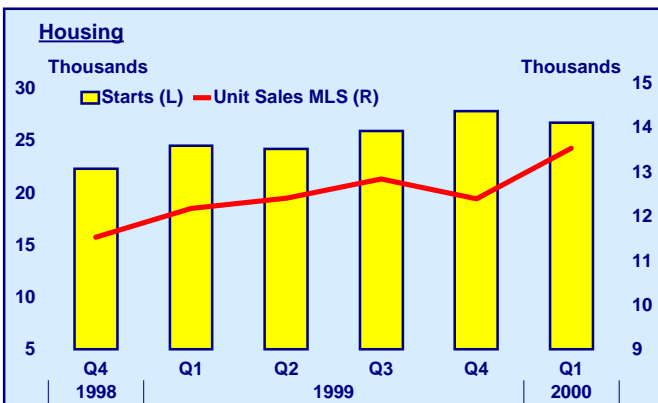
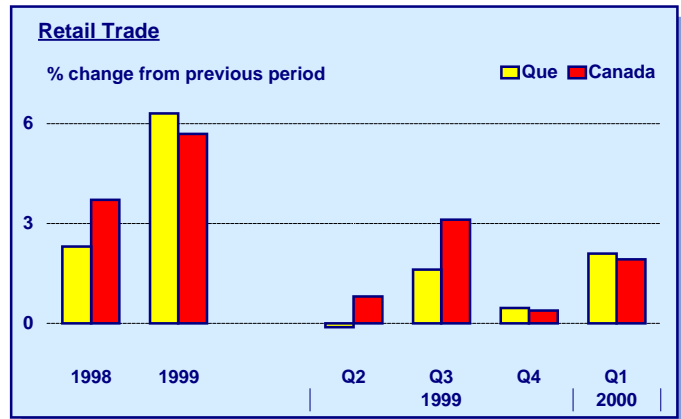
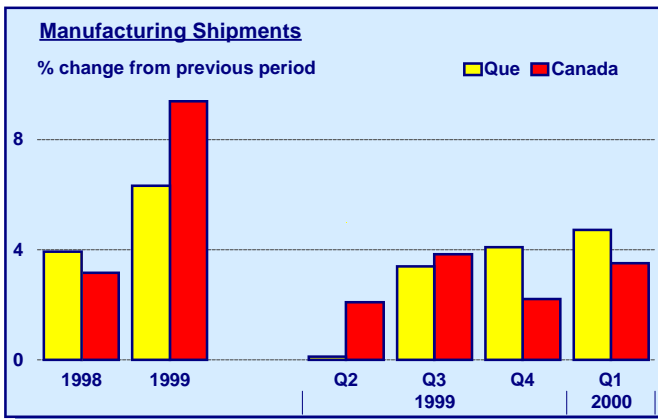
- Manufacturers' shipments climbed 4.7% in the first quarter, led by transportation, wood, and machinery industries. This represents the third consecutive strong quarterly increase.

...while consumer spending strengthens

- Retail sales advanced 2.1% in the first quarter, outperforming the national average for a second consecutive quarter. Solid income gains in recent quarters together with high consumer confidence helped to push up retailing activity.
- Home resales registered their biggest advance in seven quarters. However, housing starts fell, ending the positive trend initiated in late 1998.

Inflation gains momentum

- CPI inflation rose further in the first quarter, lifted by rising costs for energy, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. On a monthly basis, year-over-year inflation stood at 1.7% in April.



A light blue map of Atlantic Canada, including the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, and the territories of Newfoundland and Labrador. The map is centered on a light blue background.

Atlantic Canada



New Brunswick

Labour Markets

Employment growth rebounds in the first quarter...

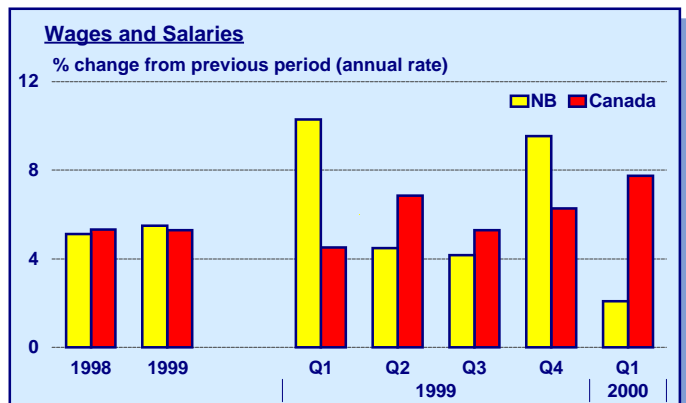
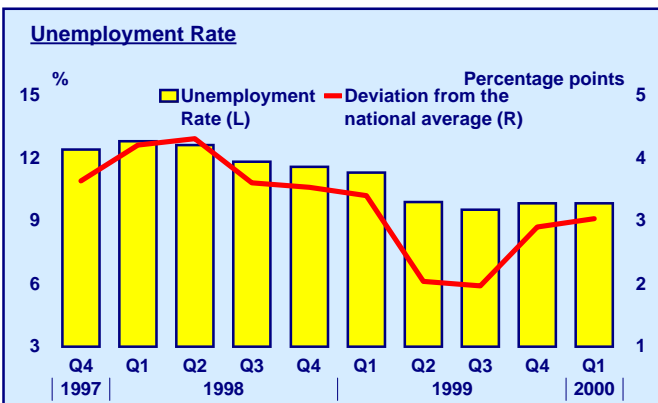
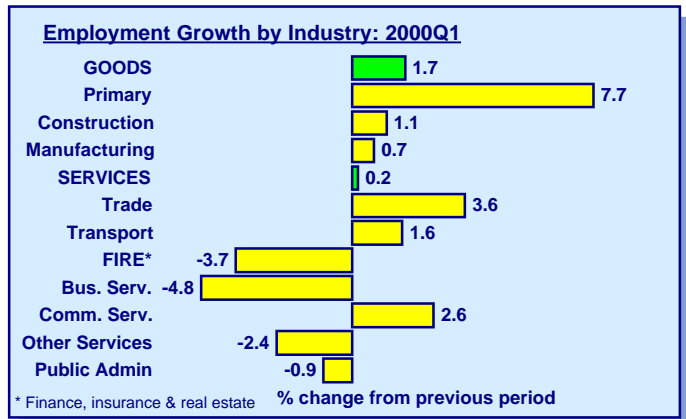
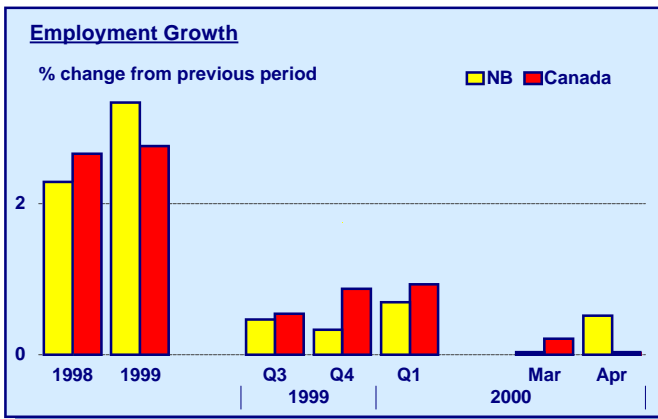
- Employment picked up in the first quarter, with all jobs created being full-time. This represents the third quarterly consecutive increase. Employment rose 0.5% in April, a rate well above the national average.
- Job creation in the goods-producing sector was led by strong gains in primary industries. In services, growth occurred largely in trade and community services while losses were concentrated in business services and in FIRE.

...while the unemployment rate holds steady

- The unemployment rate stood at 9.8% in the first quarter, unchanged from the previous quarter as employment gains were offset by a rising labour force.
- With the national unemployment rate declining in the first quarter, the gap widened to 3.0 percentage points above the national average.

Growth in wages and salaries slows

- In the first quarter of 2000, wages and salaries recorded their slowest advance in more than a year, increasing 2.1%, a rate well below the national average.





Economic Activity and Prices

Industrial activity firms up in the first quarter...

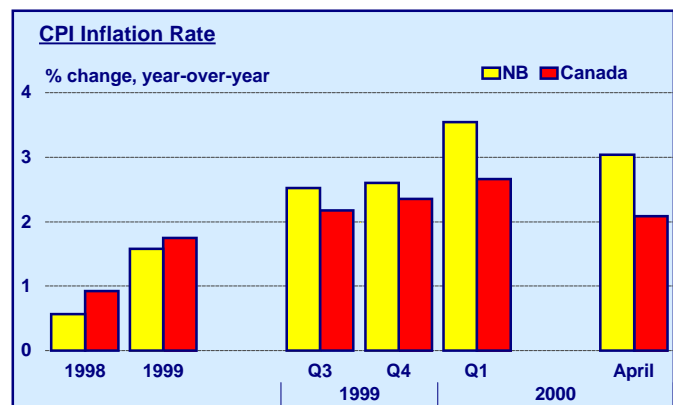
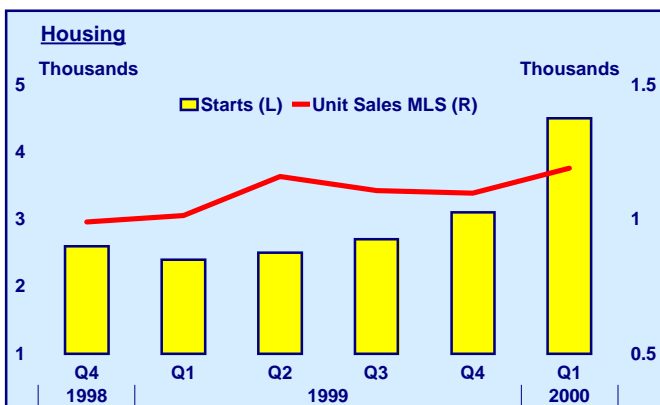
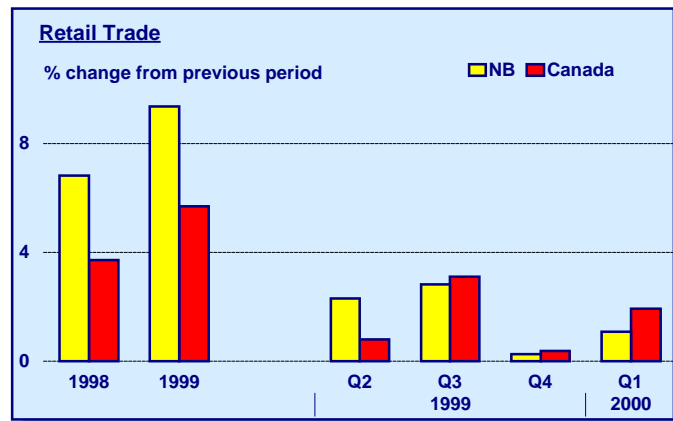
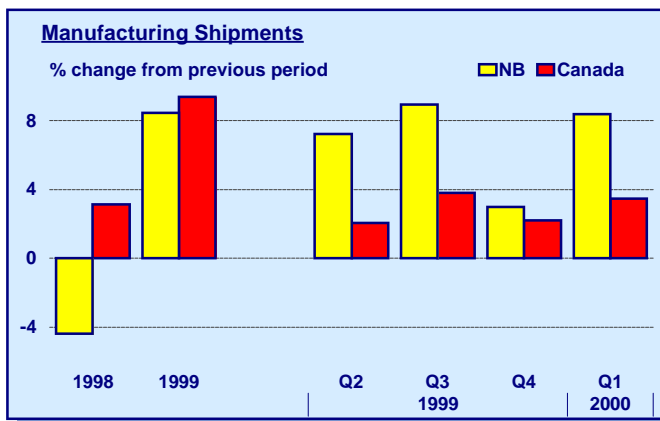
- Manufacturing shipments recorded their fourth consecutive advance in the first quarter of 2000. The largest contributors to this increase were paper, wood and fabricated metal products industries. Higher shipments in the paper and allied products industry were partially attributable to price increases while wood industries benefited from the housing boom.

...consumer spending picks up...

- After a modest performance at the end of 1999, retailing activity improved in the first quarter although growth remained below the national average.
- In the first quarter, existing home sales rose after two consecutive declines while housing starts reached the highest level since 1994.

...and inflation accelerates

- The CPI inflation rate stood at 3.5% in the first quarter, the biggest increase observed in 10 years. Surging energy prices and higher shelter costs were largely responsible for this increase. In April, the year-over-year inflation rate eased to 3.0%, a rate still well above the national average.





Nova Scotia

Labour Markets

Employment picks up in the first quarter...

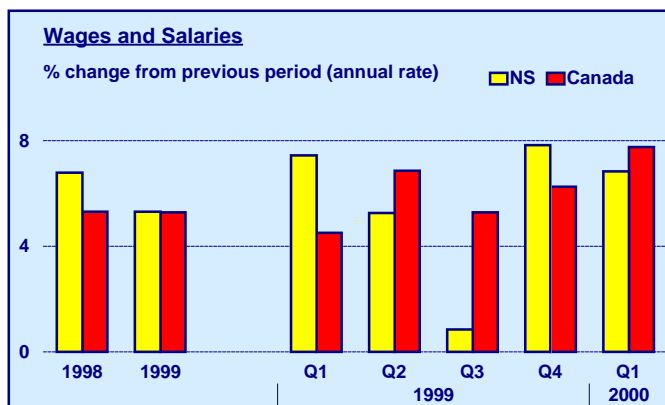
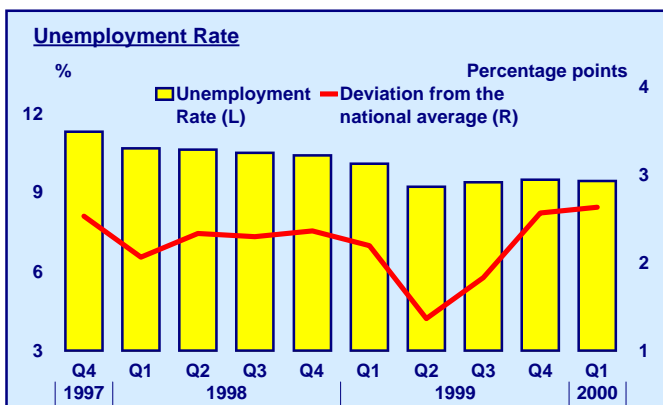
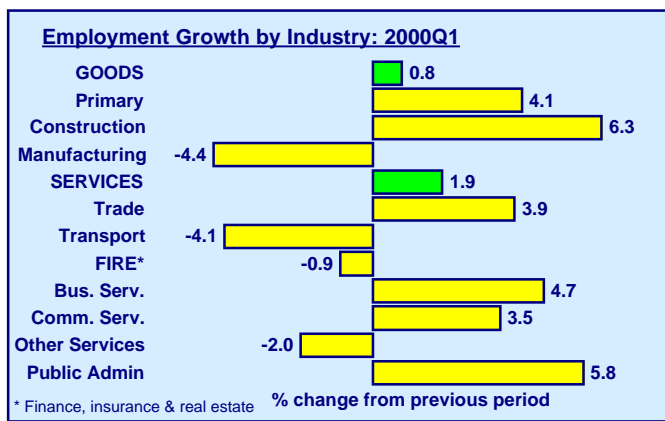
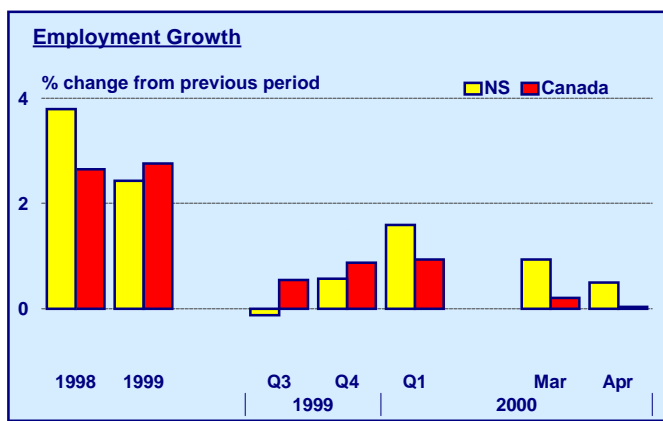
- Employment in Nova Scotia rose sharply in the first quarter. Job creation continued to exceed the national average in April.
- First quarter gains were widespread, but particularly strong in the service-producing sector, where the greatest advances took place in the public administration and business services categories. In the goods sector, strong growth in construction employment was partly offset by a decline in manufacturing employment.

...nudging the unemployment rate down...

- As growth in the number of people seeking work partly offset employment gains in the first quarter, the unemployment rate fell only one tenth of a percentage point to 9.4%. Falling unemployment at the national level drove the Nova Scotia-Canada unemployment rate differential up to its highest point since 1997.
- Significant job creation in April pushed the unemployment rate down sharply to 8.4%, the lowest rate seen since April 1976.

...and keeping wage and salary growth strong

- Wages and salaries grew at 6.8% (annual rate) in the first quarter, following an even stronger result in the fourth quarter, marking a convincing recovery from the weak performance of the third quarter 1999. This growth came from an increase in average hourly earnings, as average weekly hours actually fell in the first quarter.





Nova Scotia

Economic Activity and Prices

Industrial activity recedes in the first quarter...

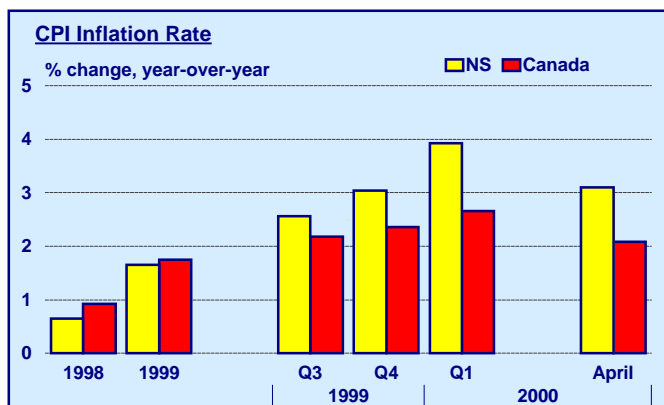
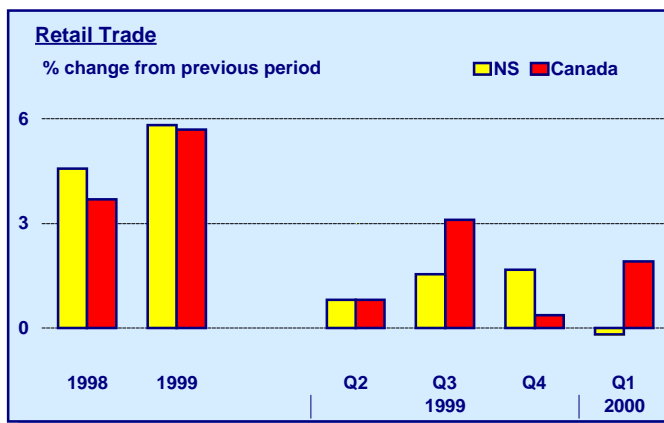
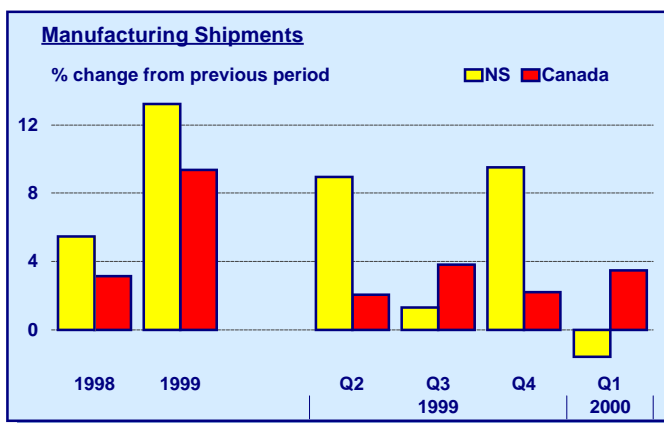
- Manufacturing shipments declined in the first quarter after a burst of activity in December. Declines were concentrated in the durable goods sector, led by setbacks in the transportation equipment, machinery and fabricated metal industries. Shipments of non-durables increased, most notably in paper production, which rose by 24.3%.

...and consumer spending declines...

- After keeping pace with the national average in both 1998 and 1999, retail trade declined in the first quarter of 2000.
- The housing market registered a positive note, as new housing starts were up by a third in the first quarter. Sales of existing homes posted a modest increase.

...but inflation rises sharply

- Inflation in Nova Scotia rose to 3.9% in the first quarter, standing well above the national rate as it had in the previous two quarters. Climbing prices for shelter and transportation led overall increases, but all major components recorded price advances on a year-over-year basis. The inflationary trend eased somewhat in April, with year-over-year inflation falling to 3.1%.





Prince Edward Island

Labour Markets

Employment surges in the first quarter...

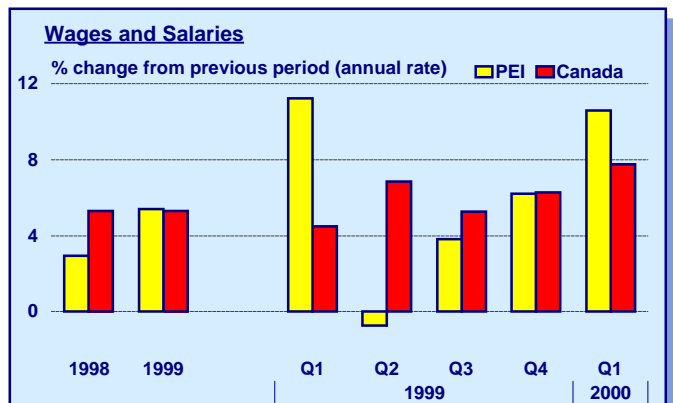
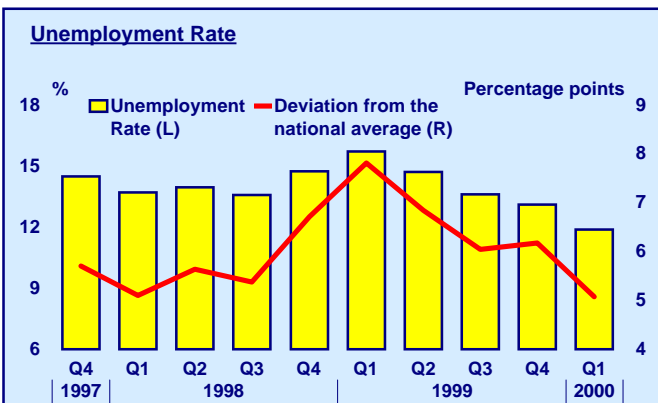
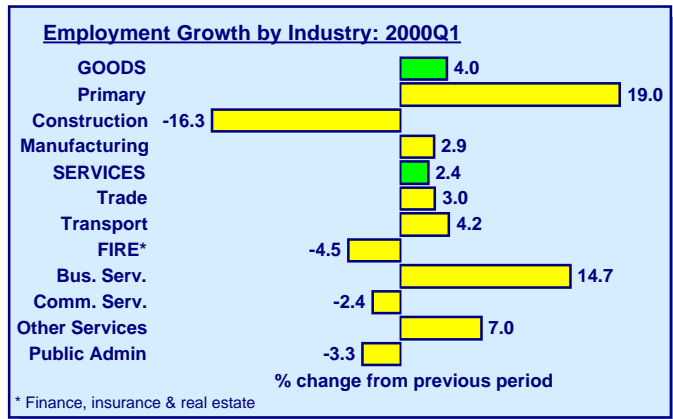
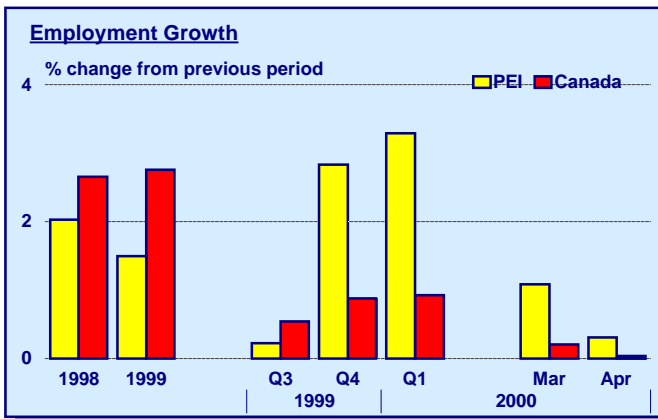
- PEI experienced strong employment growth in the first quarter, building on the fourth quarter advance. Gains were particularly strong in March, which witnessed growth well above the national average.
- Several sectors recorded advances in the first quarter, with primary and business services leading overall gains. Construction employment fell back significantly, but is expected to pick up in coming periods, as large construction projects get underway.

...and the unemployment rate continues to decline...

- The strong advance in employment pushed PEI's unemployment rate down to 11.9% in the first quarter, the lowest quarterly average in over ten years.
- The fall in the unemployment rate brought it to 5.1 percentage points above the national average, the smallest differential recorded since 1996. This gap has narrowed by 3.4 percentage points since its peak in January 1999.

...while earnings growth soars

- Growth in wages and salaries stood well above the national average in the first quarter, reflecting the recent strength of the labour market.





Prince Edward Island

Economic Activity and Prices

Industrial activity falls in the first quarter...

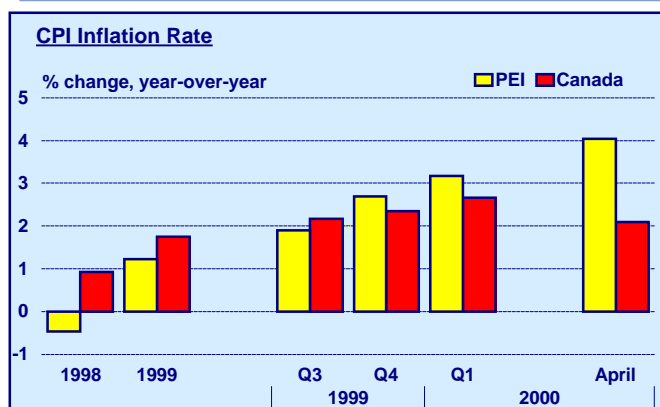
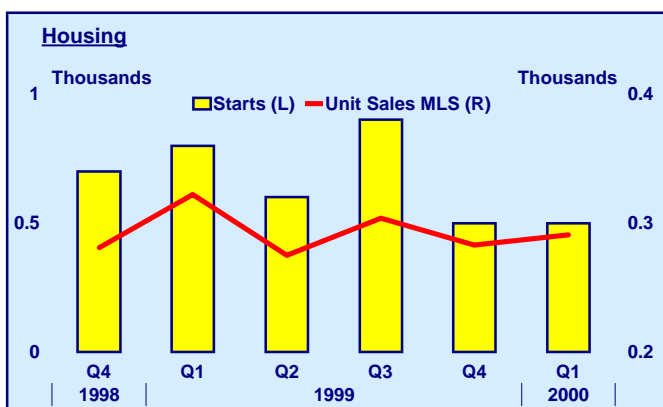
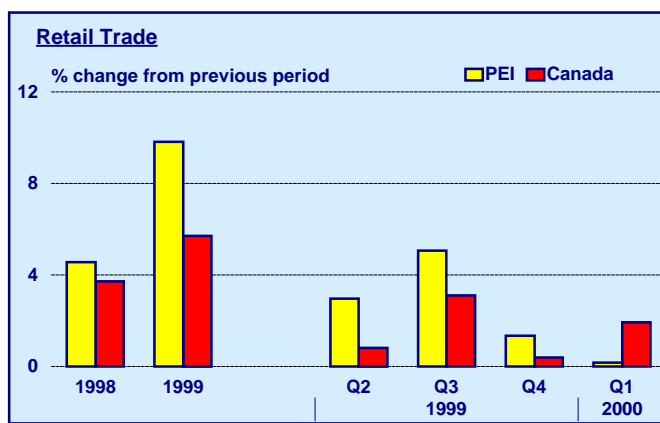
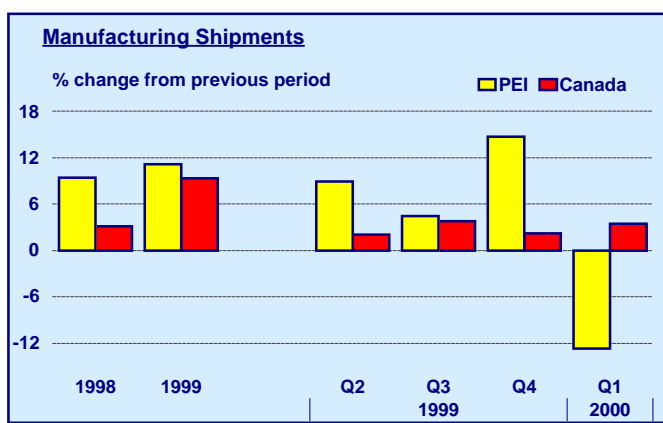
- Following a very strong year for manufacturing in 1999, industrial activity dropped sharply in the first quarter of 2000. The setback was concentrated in the durable goods sector, with transportation equipment responsible for most of the decline. Although this sector (which comprises the burgeoning aerospace industry) fell back from the pace of the previous quarter, its production is up 28.8% on a year-over-year basis.

...and consumer spending eases...

- Consumer spending also started the new year slowly, barely advancing in the first quarter, following growth of nearly 10% in 1999.
- The housing market also remained flat in the first quarter, with very slight increases posted in housing starts and in sales of existing homes.

...while inflation edges up

- Inflation stood at 3.2% in the first quarter, outpacing the national average for the second consecutive quarter. Higher transportation and shelter costs were primarily responsible for the quarterly rise in the price index, with increases also recorded in prices for alcohol and for recreation, education and reading.
- The upward momentum in prices carried over into the next quarter, pushing inflation to 4.0% in April, almost twice the national level. This differential was caused primarily by shelter costs, which rose almost 6 percentage points faster in PEI than for Canada as a whole.





Newfoundland

Labour Markets

Employment falls back in the first quarter...

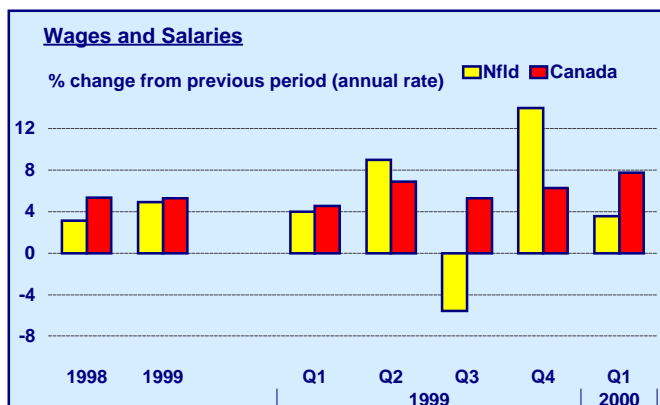
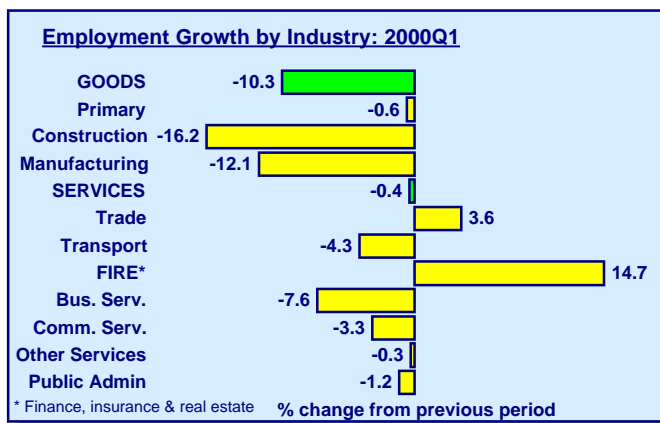
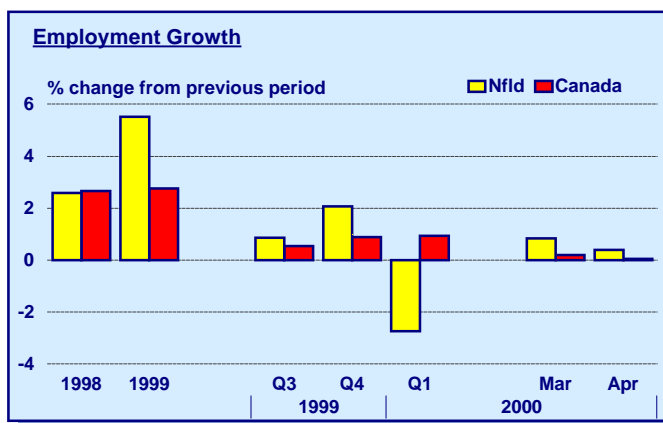
- Employment in Newfoundland declined by 2.7% in the first quarter of 2000, after growing much faster than the national average in 1999. Indeed, for 1999 as a whole, Newfoundland experienced the highest growth rate in Canada. Although the labour market weakened in the early part of the new year, employment growth picked up in March and April.
- The first quarter setback was broad-based, with 8 of 10 sectors reporting declines. Construction and manufacturing were the hardest hit, after enjoying the greatest gains in the previous quarter. Job gains were reported in the trade sector, and in the finance, insurance & real estate sector, which experienced a noticeable surge, reversing a fourth quarter retreat.

...pushing the unemployment rate higher...

- With the participation rate remaining close to its all-time high reached in 1999, these job losses pushed up the unemployment rate by over 2 percentage points to 17.5%. Coupled with falling unemployment at the national level, Newfoundland's unemployment rate gap with respect to the national average grew even more sharply, reaching a high of nearly 11 percentage points, the widest differential since 1996.

..while wage and salary growth retreats

- Earnings growth slowed significantly in the first quarter but managed to remain positive in spite of falling employment.





Economic Activity and Prices

Industrial activity slows in the first quarter...

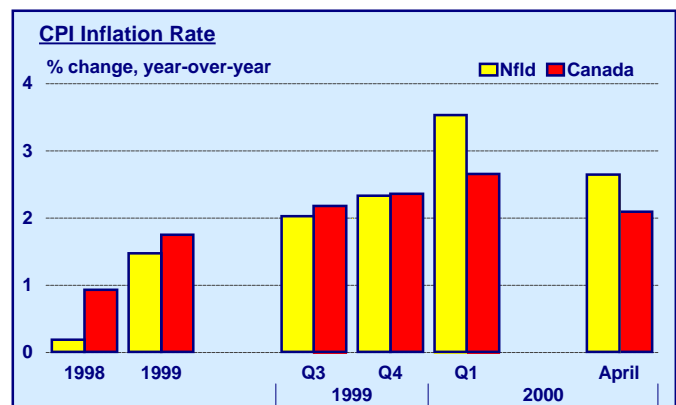
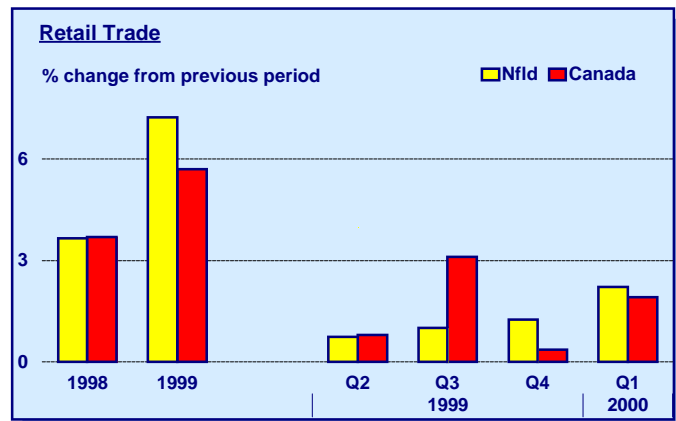
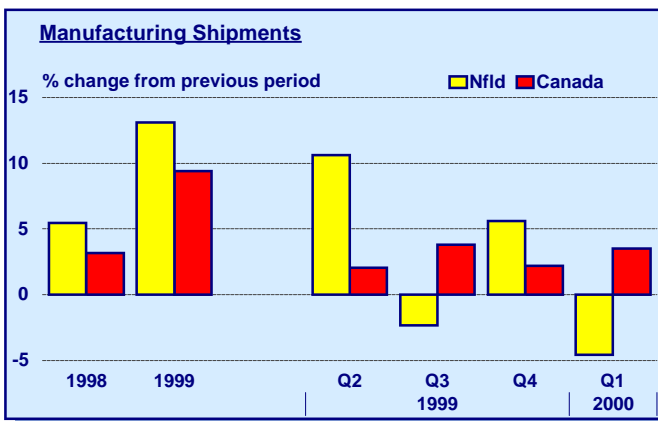
- Manufacturing shipments fell in the first quarter, with food and fabricated metal products posting the largest declines. Shipments of non-metallic minerals registered the largest increase. Although shipments continue to fluctuate from period to period, the underlying trend remains positive.

...while consumer expenditures heat up...

- Retail sales advanced 2.2% in the first quarter, solidifying the upward trend observed in the previous quarters. As in 1999, spending in Newfoundland continues to outpace the national average, buoyed by high consumer confidence.
- Reflecting this strength, housing activity in Newfoundland also picked up in the first quarter, with gains reported in both new housing starts and sales of existing homes. St. John's was one of the hottest housing markets in the country in the first quarter, posting price increases comparable to those of Toronto and Ottawa.

...along with prices

- Newfoundland's rate of inflation stood at 3.5% in the first quarter, the largest year-over-year increase since 1993. Climbing prices for shelter and transportation accounted for most of this increase. After remaining below the national average in 1998 and 1999, Newfoundland's inflation jumped well above the national average in the first quarter, and in April.





Territories

A word of caution:

Data for the Territories are less reliable than for the Provinces because of the small size of the samples. They are, therefore, subject to large revisions.

Territories

Economic Activity and Prices

Employment growth slows in the first quarter...

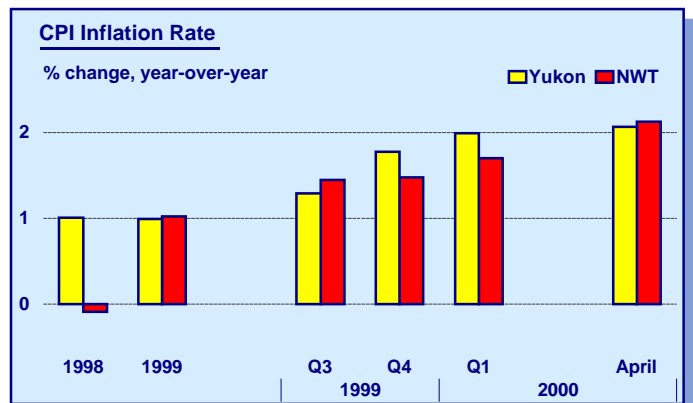
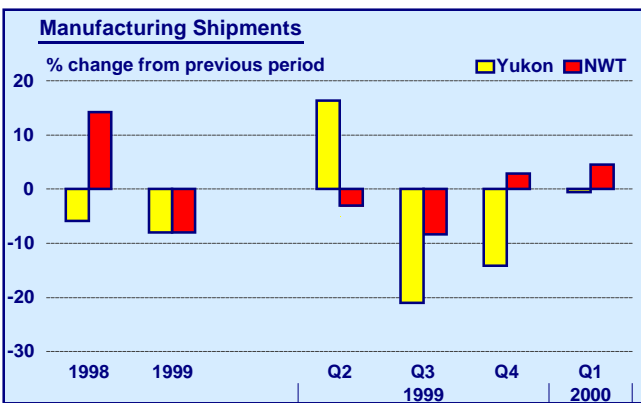
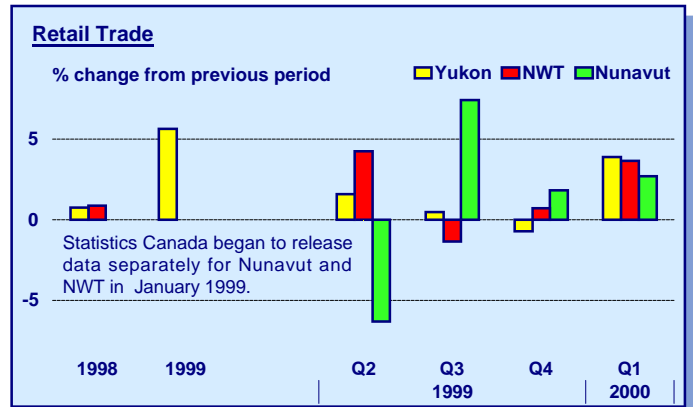
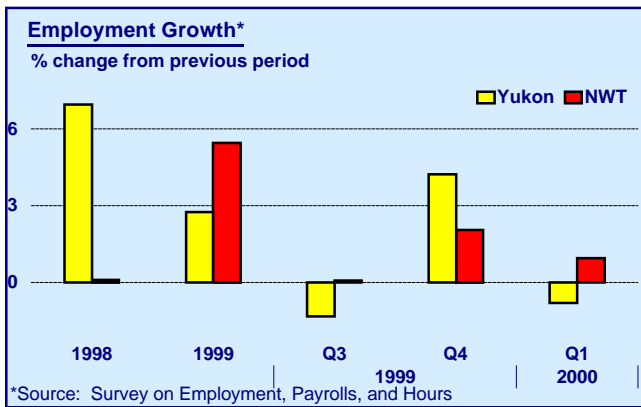
- Employment continued to advance in the first quarter in the Northwest Territories, albeit at a slower pace than in the previous quarter. Gains were recorded in goods and services-producing industries.
- However, employment edged down in Yukon following a solid performance in the fourth quarter.

...and data on economic activity are mixed

- Household expenditures strengthened in all territories early in the new year with Yukon registering the largest increase.
- Industrial activity in the Northwest Territories built on a solid fourth quarter and increased a further 4.5% in the first quarter of 2000. Moreover, industrial activity in Yukon may be set to rebound as overall manufacturing shipments declined at a smaller pace than in previous quarters.

Inflation accelerates in the first quarter

- Inflation was up in the first quarter, but remained below the 2% mark in the Northwest Territories and reached 2.0% in Yukon. The CPI inflation rate was close to 2% in April in both territories.



A light blue map of Canada is centered on the page. The map shows the outlines of the provinces and territories. Overlaid on the map is the text "STATISTICAL APPENDIX" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font.

STATISTICAL APPENDIX

Key Provincial Data

	1998	1999	1999Q4	2000Q1	March 2000	April 2000
BRITISH COLUMBIA						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	33,890.2	37,034.0	9,698.5	10,174.0	3,471.6	N/A
% change (1)	-2.0	9.3	2.5	4.9	3.5	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	33,044.9	33,672.2	8,575.5	8,718.9	2,914.9	N/A
% change	-2.0	1.9	1.2	1.7	0.4	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	20.3	16.2	17.9	13.3	12.4	15.3
Labour Force (000's)	2,051.2	2,079.1	2,079.5	2,093.3	2,094.1	2,080.7
% change	0.5	1.4	-0.2	0.7	-0.2	-0.6
Employment (000's)	1,870.2	1,906.4	1,916.6	1,944.5	1,947.1	1,937.5
% change	0.1	1.9	0.4	1.5	-0.2	-0.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.8	8.3	7.8	7.1	7.0	6.9
Participation Rate (%)	64.9	65.1	64.8	65.0	64.9	64.5
CPI Inflation	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.3
ALBERTA						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	33,409.0	35,273.6	9,581.2	10,027.5	3,463.6	N/A
% change (1)	-3.6	5.6	7.3	4.7	4.5	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	28,064.9	29,323.9	7,577.3	7,765.2	2,609.8	N/A
% change	4.2	4.5	1.0	2.5	1.5	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	27.3	25.2	27.4	26.0	26.7	27.2
Labour Force (000's)	1,605.1	1,647.9	1,653.1	1,666.8	1,671.9	1,669.1
% change	3.7	2.7	0.0	0.8	0.3	-0.2
Employment (000's)	1,515.4	1,553.3	1,564.7	1,583.2	1,588.3	1,583.6
% change	3.9	2.5	0.5	1.2	0.2	-0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6	5.7	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.1
Participation Rate (%)	72.5	72.6	72.3	72.6	72.7	72.4
CPI Inflation	1.1	2.4	3.3	3.0	3.5	3.3
SASKATCHEWAN						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	5,895.5	6,123.0	1,629.7	1,714.5	583.9	N/A
% change (1)	-3.8	3.9	4.6	5.2	1.7	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	7,621.5	7,734.6	1,962.9	2,012.8	678.3	N/A
% change	0.0	1.5	-0.1	2.5	1.7	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	3.0	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1
Labour Force (000's)	505.3	511.0	511.9	514.5	515.0	512.6
% change	1.2	1.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	-0.5
Employment (000's)	476.3	480.1	483.6	489.9	491.2	488.0
% change	1.3	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.2	-0.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	6.1	5.5	4.8	4.6	4.8
Participation Rate (%)	66.6	67.0	67.1	67.4	67.4	67.1
CPI Inflation	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.4
MANITOBA						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	10,613.2	10,365.4	2,562.7	2,677.7	903.3	N/A
% change (1)	6.1	-2.3	0.5	4.5	1.9	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	8,771.6	9,023.5	2,271.8	2,331.8	783.5	N/A
% change	2.1	2.9	-0.9	2.6	0.8	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	2.8	3.2	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.9
Labour Force (000's)	566.8	574.8	575.9	581.3	583.2	585.2
% change	0.9	1.4	-0.3	0.9	0.4	0.3
Employment (000's)	535.7	542.7	545.6	550.0	550.6	555.9
% change	1.9	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.0
Participation Rate (%)	67.0	67.5	67.4	67.9	68.1	68.3
CPI Inflation	1.3	1.9	2.2	2.6	3.2	2.4

(1) % change refers to period-to-period except for CPI inflation which is year-over-year.

Key Provincial Data

	1998	1999	1999Q4	2000Q1	March 2000	April 2000
ONTARIO						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	240,016.0	268,447.9	69,023.4	70,849.0	24,104.9	N/A
% change (1)	4.8	11.8	0.4	2.6	4.8	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	92,411.9	99,149.8	25,366.4	25,837.0	8,693.0	N/A
% change	6.9	7.3	-0.2	1.9	2.0	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	54.7	67.0	69.3	78.8	82.9	75.0
Labour Force (000's)	5,914.3	6,070.8	6,101.5	6,159.0	6,178.5	6,173.1
% change	1.9	2.6	0.2	0.9	0.4	-0.1
Employment (000's)	5,490.0	5,688.1	5,754.6	5,810.6	5,832.3	5,834.6
% change	3.3	3.6	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.2	6.3	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5
Participation Rate (%)	66.0	66.6	66.5	66.9	67.0	66.9
CPI Inflation	0.9	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.4	2.2
QUEBEC						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	107,331.7	114,110.1	29,882.6	31,287.6	10,512.9	N/A
% change (1)	3.9	6.3	4.1	4.7	2.6	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	57,157.8	60,766.1	15,361.1	15,681.5	5,305.6	N/A
% change	2.3	6.3	0.5	2.1	3.5	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	23.0	25.6	27.8	26.7	27.7	26.3
Labour Force (000's)	3,660.2	3,701.6	3,724.2	3,740.8	3,746.0	3,765.1
% change	1.5	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.5
Employment (000's)	3,281.5	3,357.4	3,410.1	3,428.2	3,425.2	3,435.1
% change	2.7	2.3	1.6	0.5	-0.2	0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.3	9.3	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.8
Participation Rate (%)	62.6	62.8	63.0	63.2	63.2	63.5
CPI Inflation	1.4	1.5	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.7
NEW BRUNSWICK						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	8,078.6	8,762.1	2,372.6	2,571.3	875.4	N/A
% change (1)	-4.4	8.5	3.0	8.4	0.1	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	6,042.5	6,607.6	1,687.4	1,705.8	582.9	N/A
% change	6.8	9.4	0.2	1.1	5.1	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	2.2	2.7	3.1	4.5	3.8	2.8
Labour Force (000's)	361.9	365.7	365.4	367.8	369.8	372.2
% change	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6
Employment (000's)	317.8	328.4	329.4	331.7	331.4	333.1
% change	2.3	3.3	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.2	10.2	9.8	9.8	10.4	10.5
Participation Rate (%)	60.7	61.0	60.8	61.1	61.4	61.7
CPI Inflation	0.6	1.6	2.6	3.5	4.2	3.0
NOVA SCOTIA						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	6,829.4	7,732.2	2,123.5	2,090.5	721.7	N/A
% change (1)	5.5	13.2	9.5	-1.6	0.6	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	7,710.8	8,159.6	2,085.3	2,081.5	708.4	N/A
% change	4.6	5.8	1.7	-0.2	1.4	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	3.1	4.4	4.8	6.4	6.7	5.0
Labour Force (000's)	445.9	452.0	455.1	462.0	461.8	462.0
% change	1.9	1.4	0.7	1.5	0.0	0.0
Employment (000's)	398.9	408.6	411.9	418.5	420.9	423.0
% change	3.8	2.4	0.6	1.6	0.9	0.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.5	9.6	9.5	9.4	8.9	8.4
Participation Rate (%)	60.7	61.0	61.2	62.0	61.9	61.9
CPI Inflation	0.6	1.7	3.0	3.9	4.4	3.1

(1) % change refers to period-to-period except for CPI inflation which is year-over-year.

Key Provincial Data

	1998	1999	1999Q4	2000Q1	March 2000	April 2000
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	882.6	981.0	282.5	246.7	86.3	N/A
% change (1)	9.4	11.2	14.7	-12.7	6.0	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	1,053.7	1,156.9	301.4	301.9	100.5	N/A
% change	4.5	9.8	1.3	0.2	-1.3	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4
Labour Force (000's)	70.1	71.6	72.4	73.6	74.1	74.3
% change	0.1	2.1	2.3	1.7	1.2	0.3
Employment (000's)	60.4	61.3	62.8	64.9	65.5	65.7
% change	2.0	1.5	2.8	3.3	1.1	0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.8	14.4	13.1	11.9	11.6	11.6
Participation Rate (%)	65.7	66.4	66.7	67.6	67.9	68.1
CPI Inflation	-0.5	1.2	2.7	3.2	3.5	4.0
NEWFOUNDLAND						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	1,750.1	1,748.0	522.0	498.3	160.0	N/A
% change (1)	5.4	-0.1	5.6	-4.5	-4.6	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	3,938.5	3,954.2	1,073.0	1,096.8	370.8	N/A
% change	3.7	0.4	1.3	2.2	2.6	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.7
Labour Force (000's)	237.0	246.7	248.3	247.6	249.8	247.6
% change	1.9	4.1	0.2	-0.3	1.1	-0.9
Employment (000's)	194.2	204.9	210.1	204.3	205.3	206.1
% change	2.6	5.5	2.1	-2.7	0.8	0.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	18.0	16.9	15.4	17.5	17.8	16.8
Participation Rate (%)	53.9	56.3	56.6	56.3	56.7	56.3
CPI Inflation	0.2	1.5	2.3	3.5	3.5	2.7
CANADA						
Mfg Shipments (\$M)	448,749.5	490,858.3	127,688.5	132,146.5	44,886.2	N/A
% change (1)	3.2	9.4	2.2	3.5	3.8	N/A
Retail Trade (\$M)	246,641.0	260,690.8	66,484.0	67,762.4	22,826.0	N/A
% change	3.7	5.7	0.4	1.9	2.1	N/A
Housing Starts (000's)	138.3	149.6	157.0	162.7	167.3	158.6
Labour Force (000's)	15,417.7	15,721.2	15,787.3	15,906.8	15,944.1	15,941.9
% change	1.7	2.0	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.0
Employment (000's)	14,140.4	14,531.2	14,689.5	14,825.7	14,857.8	14,862.6
% change	2.7	2.8	0.9	0.9	0.2	0.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	7.6	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8
Participation Rate (%)	65.1	65.6	65.5	65.8	65.9	65.8
CPI Inflation	0.9	1.7	2.4	2.7	3.0	2.1

(1) % change refers to period-to-period except for CPI inflation which is year-over-year.

Provincial Economic Accounts

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Real GDP at Market Prices (\$1992M)							
BC	87,066	90,543	93,355	95,370	97,788	99,467	99,708
% change		4.0	3.1	2.2	2.5	1.7	0.2
Alberta	74,748	79,792	84,622	87,161	89,040	95,547	98,630
% change		6.7	6.1	3.0	2.2	7.3	3.2
Sask	21,102	22,654	23,603	23,934	24,542	25,782	26,116
% change		7.4	4.2	1.4	2.5	5.1	1.3
Manitoba	24,420	24,468	25,298	25,445	25,990	26,955	27,842
% change		0.2	3.4	0.6	2.1	3.7	3.3
Ontario	285,101	288,164	305,223	316,581	321,562	335,616	350,083
% change		1.1	5.9	3.7	1.6	4.4	4.3
Quebec	158,357	160,897	167,241	170,366	172,826	178,611	183,223
% change		1.6	3.9	1.9	1.4	3.3	2.6
New Brunswick	14,029	14,358	14,643	15,071	15,320	15,427	15,782
% change		2.3	2.0	2.9	1.7	0.7	2.3
Nova Scotia	18,071	18,193	18,256	18,578	18,602	19,124	19,674
% change		0.7	0.3	1.8	0.1	2.8	2.9
PEI	2,331	2,370	2,492	2,629	2,667	2,680	2,706
% change		1.7	5.1	5.5	1.4	0.5	1.0
Nfld	9,550	9,668	10,126	10,348	10,007	10,154	10,785
% change		1.2	4.7	2.2	-3.3	1.5	6.2
Yukon	1,090	874	864	1,005	1,110	989	994
% change		-19.8	-1.1	16.3	10.4	-10.9	0.5
NWT	2,286	2,242	2,318	2,315	2,380	2,426	2,466
% change		-1.9	3.4	-0.1	2.8	1.9	1.6
Canada	698,544	714,583	748,350	769,082	782,130	813,031	838,265
% change		2.3	4.7	2.8	1.7	4.0	3.1

Population ('000s)

BC	3,470	3,572	3,682	3,784	3,882	3,961	4,003
% change		2.9	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.0	1.1
Alberta	2,634	2,671	2,705	2,740	2,781	2,838	2,910
% change		1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	2.0	2.5
Sask	1,004	1,007	1,010	1,014	1,019	1,022	1,026
% change		0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4
Manitoba	1,113	1,118	1,124	1,130	1,134	1,136	1,138
% change		0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2
Ontario	10,572	10,689	10,827	10,964	11,101	11,263	11,413
% change		1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.3
Quebec	7,114	7,165	7,207	7,241	7,274	7,308	7,335
% change		0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
New Brunswick	748	750	751	752	753	754	753
% change		0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1
Nova Scotia	919	924	926	928	931	935	936
% change		0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1
PEI	131	132	134	135	136	137	137
% change		0.8	1.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0
Nfld	580	580	575	568	561	554	546
% change		0.0	-0.9	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.4
Yukon	30	31	30	31	32	32	32
% change		3.3	-3.2	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.0
NWT	62	64	65	67	68	68	68
% change		3.2	1.6	3.1	1.5	0.0	0.0
Canada	28,377	28,703	29,036	29,354	29,672	30,008	30,297
% change		1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0