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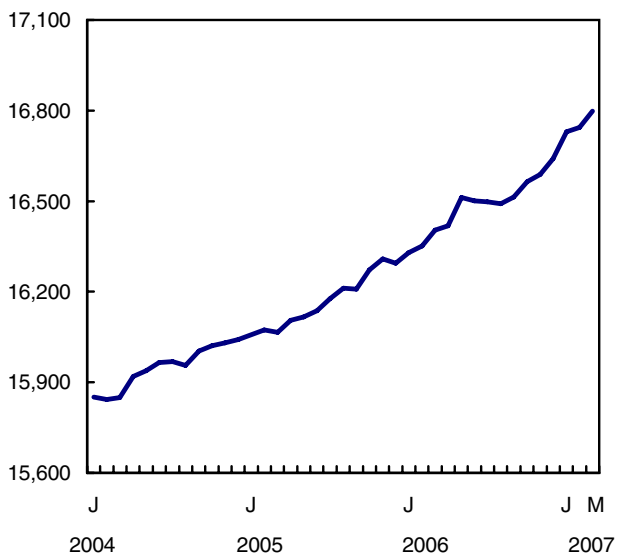
Labour Force Survey

March 2007

Employment jumped by an estimated 55,000 in March, continuing the upward trend that began in September 2006. Despite this growth in employment, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.1%, as more people entered the labour market.

Employment

Thousands



In the first quarter of 2007, employment grew by an estimated 158,000, the strongest first quarter growth since 2002. Provincial growth rates for the first quarter were particularly strong in British Columbia, Alberta and New Brunswick.

The employment rate in March reached 63.5%, its highest level in 31 years. March's employment increase is largely attributable to strength in Quebec and British Columbia. These two provinces, along with Manitoba, boosted their employment rates to record levels.

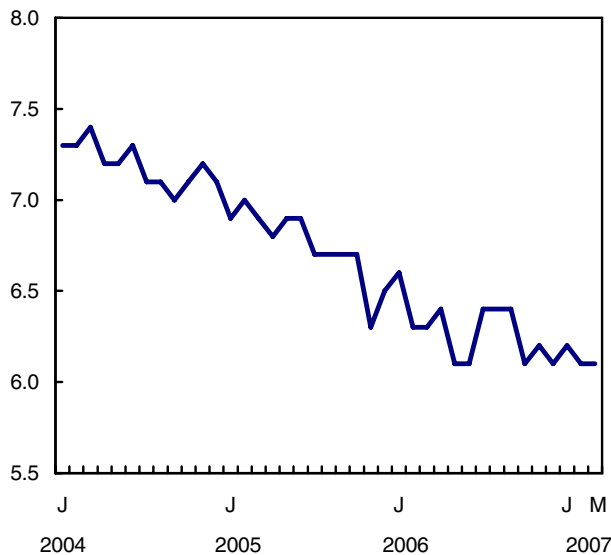
British Columbia's unemployment rate dipped to a record low of 3.9% in March.

The employment rate for adult women reached an all-time high of 59.0% in March, as women continue to be the main beneficiaries of employment growth.

Gains in March were based in the service sector, especially in trade, accommodation and food services, information, culture and recreation, and other services.

Unemployment rate

%



Women capture the lion's share of March growth

Women aged 25 and over captured most of the employment increases in March (+39,000). Steady employment growth since the start of 2006 has led to a series of record employment rates for adult women, reaching a new high of 59.0% in March. Over the past twelve months, employment growth for adult women (+3.8%) was more than double that of adult men (+1.7%). Employment growth among youths remained more modest at 1.2%.

Canada's labour force participation rate — the proportion of the working-age population that has a job or is looking for one — has jumped 0.6 percentage points since October 2006, reaching 67.7% in March. This strong increase is primarily the result of more women participating in the labour force.

Women aged 55 and over attained a record high employment rate of 25.8% in March. While the employment rate for women aged 25 to 54 has been increasing for several decades, the upward trend in the employment rate for older women began in 1997. Older men have also seen their employment rate rise over the same period.

Service sector powers growth

Employment growth in the service sector in March (+66,000) more than offset the weakness of the goods-producing sector. The largest increases in the service sector were in Ontario (+26,000), Quebec (+19,000) and Alberta (+19,000).

Employment in trade grew by an estimated 27,000 in March, with nearly half the increase in Alberta (+12,000). This month's strength was driven mainly by gains in wholesale trade, potentially a result of increased activity following the strike by Canadian National Railway Company workers that ended in February.

Accommodation and food services employment grew by 15,000 in March, a result of an increase in accommodation services. Over the past year, employment in accommodation and food services has risen by 8.8%. This represents the largest increase among the different service-producing industries, with Ontario accounting for more than half of the growth.

Record low unemployment rate in British Columbia

For a third straight month, British Columbia's unemployment rate reached a record low. In March, the unemployment rate dipped to 3.9%. The British Columbia economy added 13,000 workers in March, bringing total gains for the first quarter to 47,000 (+2.1%). The March employment rate, at 63.8%, was the highest in three decades.

The manufacturing sector continued to show strength in British Columbia, up 11,000 in March and 25,000 since August 2006. The provincial economy also benefited from strong gains in information, culture and recreation, up 18,000 (+17%) in the first three months of the year.

Quebec's employment rose by an estimated 29,000 in March, the largest monthly gain since May 2006. As a result, Quebec's employment rate increased to 60.8%, its highest level in three decades. Gains in March were spread across a number of industries. The unemployment rate in Quebec edged down to 7.6%, hovering near its 31-year low.

For the second consecutive month, employment was little changed in Alberta in March. Employment losses in the goods sector (-19,000) were offset by similar increases in the service sector. This was the first sizable monthly decline in the goods-producing sector since March 2005. The unemployment rate in Alberta remains the lowest in the country, at 3.6%.

Employment in Manitoba grew by an estimated 3,100 in March, primarily in accommodation and food services as well as in utilities. The province reached a new record high employment rate of 66.3%. For the first quarter of 2007, employment rose by 6,000 or 1.0%, mostly in the goods sector.

Overall employment in Ontario was little changed in March, as growth in the service sector was partly offset by weakness in the goods sector. So far this year employment is up only 0.4%, well below the national growth rate of 0.9%.

In the North, the proportion of people aged 15 and over working remains high. In Nunavut, the employment rate increased to 63.1% in March, up from 55.6% from one year ago (three-month moving average). Employment rates in the Northwest Territories at 75.0% and in the Yukon at 67.3% were virtually unchanged compared to March of last year.

Wages increase in several provinces

During the first three months of 2007, the average hourly wage in Canada rose an estimated 2.4% compared to the same period last year. This exceeds the most recent comparable Consumer Price Index, which increased by 1.6%.

Alberta's booming labour market continued to exert pressure on the province's wages, which rose 5.4% for the first quarter of 2007 compared to the same period last year. This increase was tempered by a 4.5% rise in consumer prices. Similarly, wage growth of 3.6% in British Columbia was dampened by a 2.2% increase in prices.

New Brunswick and Manitoba also benefited from sizeable wage increases in the first quarter of 2007. In New Brunswick, the average wage increase was 3.8%, well above the 0.6% increase in consumer prices. Manitoba also experienced a notable rise in the average hourly wage (+4.4%) compared to an increase in prices of 1.8%.

Note: The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are based on a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries will have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates, and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Data quality" section of the publication *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free).

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0099.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

Available at 7:00 a.m. online under *The Daily* module of our website.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free) is now available online for the week ending March 17. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*,

choose *Labour*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review, 2006* (71F0004XCB, \$209) is now available. See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *By Subject* module of our website choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on May 11.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720), Labour Statistics Division.

Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	February 2007	March 2007	February to March 2007	March 2006 to March 2007	February to March 2007	March 2006 to March 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Both sexes 15+						
Population	26,415.0	26,441.5	26.5	370.5	0.1	1.4
Labour force	17,827.5	17,892.8	65.3	378.0	0.4	2.2
Employment	16,743.5	16,798.4	54.9	394.9	0.3	2.4
Full-time	13,693.6	13,724.1	30.5	329.3	0.2	2.5
Part-time	3,049.8	3,074.3	24.5	65.6	0.8	2.2
Unemployment	1,084.0	1,094.4	10.4	-16.9	1.0	-1.5
Participation rate	67.5	67.7	0.2	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.1	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	63.4	63.5	0.1	0.6	...	...
Part-time rate	18.2	18.3	0.1	0.0	...	...
Youths 15 to 24						
Population	4,342.6	4,344.5	1.9	34.9	0.0	0.8
Labour force	2,894.4	2,908.9	14.5	17.0	0.5	0.6
Employment	2,575.4	2,589.4	14.0	31.0	0.5	1.2
Full-time	1,432.1	1,432.5	0.4	19.1	0.0	1.4
Part-time	1,143.3	1,156.9	13.6	12.0	1.2	1.0
Unemployment	319.1	319.4	0.3	-14.2	0.1	-4.3
Participation rate	66.7	67.0	0.3	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.0	11.0	0.0	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	59.3	59.6	0.3	0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	44.4	44.7	0.3	-0.1	...	...
Men 25+						
Population	10,781.0	10,793.3	12.3	167.4	0.1	1.6
Labour force	7,958.1	7,960.4	2.3	130.2	0.0	1.7
Employment	7,534.0	7,536.3	2.3	122.7	0.0	1.7
Full-time	7,025.3	7,034.9	9.6	93.7	0.1	1.3
Part-time	508.7	501.3	-7.4	28.8	-1.5	6.1
Unemployment	424.1	424.1	0.0	7.5	0.0	1.8
Participation rate	73.8	73.8	0.0	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.3	0.0	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	69.9	69.8	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Part-time rate	6.8	6.7	-0.1	0.3	...	...
Women 25+						
Population	11,291.4	11,303.7	12.3	168.1	0.1	1.5
Labour force	6,975.0	7,023.5	48.5	230.8	0.7	3.4
Employment	6,634.1	6,672.7	38.6	241.2	0.6	3.8
Full-time	5,236.3	5,256.6	20.3	216.4	0.4	4.3
Part-time	1,397.9	1,416.1	18.2	24.8	1.3	1.8
Unemployment	340.8	350.8	10.0	-10.4	2.9	-2.9
Participation rate	61.8	62.1	0.3	1.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	5.0	0.1	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	59.0	0.2	1.2	...	...
Part-time rate	21.1	21.2	0.1	-0.4	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS¹)

	February 2007	March 2007	February to March 2007	March 2006 to March 2007	February to March 2007	March 2006 to March 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,189.4	14,236.4	47.0	343.0	0.3	2.5
Self-employed	2,554.1	2,562.0	7.9	51.9	0.3	2.1
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,197.8	3,225.4	27.6	29.3	0.9	0.9
Private	10,991.6	11,011.0	19.4	313.7	0.2	2.9
All industries	16,743.5	16,798.4	54.9	394.9	0.3	2.4
Goods-producing sector	4,002.6	3,991.5	-11.1	2.6	-0.3	0.1
Agriculture	330.6	326.7	-3.9	-22.1	-1.2	-6.3
Natural resources	351.1	341.8	-9.3	18.0	-2.6	5.6
Utilities	128.1	131.1	3.0	14.8	2.3	12.7
Construction	1,110.3	1,107.9	-2.4	40.0	-0.2	3.7
Manufacturing	2,082.5	2,083.9	1.4	-48.1	0.1	-2.3
Service-producing sector	12,740.9	12,806.9	66.0	392.3	0.5	3.2
Trade	2,638.3	2,665.6	27.3	38.0	1.0	1.4
Transportation and warehousing	823.5	824.1	0.6	11.6	0.1	1.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,066.4	1,075.8	9.4	50.7	0.9	4.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,120.7	1,114.3	-6.4	28.7	-0.6	2.6
Business, building and other support services	702.5	691.9	-10.6	20.7	-1.5	3.1
Educational services	1,169.4	1,175.4	6.0	22.2	0.5	1.9
Health care and social assistance	1,847.1	1,838.8	-8.3	85.1	-0.4	4.9
Information, culture and recreation	763.5	777.7	14.2	26.3	1.9	3.5
Accommodation and food services	1,058.0	1,072.9	14.9	86.8	1.4	8.8
Other services	716.6	730.8	14.2	17.9	2.0	2.5
Public administration	834.9	839.8	4.9	4.5	0.6	0.5

1. North American Industry Classification System.

Note: Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Labour force characteristics by province

	February 2007	March 2007	February to March 2007	March 2006 to March 2007	February to March 2007	March 2006 to March 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	425.9	425.7	-0.2	-3.1	0.0	-0.7
Labour force	254.7	254.0	-0.7	2.0	-0.3	0.8
Employment	218.3	217.7	-0.6	5.2	-0.3	2.4
Full-time	184.6	187.6	3.0	8.3	1.6	4.6
Part-time	33.7	30.1	-3.6	-3.1	-10.7	-9.3
Unemployment	36.3	36.3	0.0	-3.2	0.0	-8.1
Participation rate	59.8	59.7	-0.1	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	14.3	14.3	0.0	-1.4	...	...
Employment rate	51.3	51.1	-0.2	1.5	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	112.8	112.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.7
Labour force	77.9	78.3	0.4	1.0	0.5	1.3
Employment	69.9	70.1	0.2	2.3	0.3	3.4
Full-time	56.6	57.3	0.7	-0.2	1.2	-0.3
Part-time	13.3	12.9	-0.4	2.6	-3.0	25.2
Unemployment	7.9	8.1	0.2	-1.4	2.5	-14.7
Participation rate	69.1	69.4	0.3	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.1	10.3	0.2	-2.0	...	...
Employment rate	62.0	62.1	0.1	1.6	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	763.5	763.7	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.1
Labour force	486.8	486.1	-0.7	5.0	-0.1	1.0
Employment	450.8	447.8	-3.0	4.5	-0.7	1.0
Full-time	371.1	365.2	-5.9	6.3	-1.6	1.8
Part-time	79.8	82.6	2.8	-1.8	3.5	-2.1
Unemployment	36.0	38.3	2.3	0.5	6.4	1.3
Participation rate	63.8	63.7	-0.1	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.9	0.5	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	59.0	58.6	-0.4	0.5	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	611.8	612.1	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.1
Labour force	386.5	388.8	2.3	-6.3	0.6	-1.6
Employment	359.8	360.0	0.2	1.1	0.1	0.3
Full-time	302.7	302.8	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.2
Part-time	57.1	57.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	1.1
Unemployment	26.7	28.8	2.1	-7.4	7.9	-20.4
Participation rate	63.2	63.5	0.3	-1.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.9	7.4	0.5	-1.8	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	58.8	0.0	0.1	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,293.0	6,297.3	4.3	67.2	0.1	1.1
Labour force	4,122.2	4,143.7	21.5	44.4	0.5	1.1
Employment	3,799.0	3,828.2	29.2	73.4	0.8	2.0
Full-time	3,102.7	3,115.8	13.1	60.7	0.4	2.0
Part-time	696.3	712.5	16.2	12.8	2.3	1.8
Unemployment	323.2	315.5	-7.7	-29.0	-2.4	-8.4
Participation rate	65.5	65.8	0.3	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.8	7.6	-0.2	-0.8	...	...
Employment rate	60.4	60.8	0.4	0.5	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics by province

	February 2007	March 2007	February to March 2007	March 2006 to March 2007	February to March 2007	March 2006 to March 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Ontario						
Population	10,309.2	10,318.6	9.4	132.7	0.1	1.3
Labour force	7,002.7	7,030.2	27.5	137.9	0.4	2.0
Employment	6,560.2	6,572.5	12.3	105.2	0.2	1.6
Full-time	5,354.9	5,391.6	36.7	73.6	0.7	1.4
Part-time	1,205.3	1,181.0	-24.3	31.7	-2.0	2.8
Unemployment	442.5	457.7	15.2	32.7	3.4	7.7
Participation rate	67.9	68.1	0.2	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.5	0.2	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	63.6	63.7	0.1	0.2	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	894.7	895.6	0.9	5.1	0.1	0.6
Labour force	617.2	620.0	2.8	11.7	0.5	1.9
Employment	590.5	593.6	3.1	10.7	0.5	1.8
Full-time	478.4	472.9	-5.5	3.7	-1.1	0.8
Part-time	112.1	120.7	8.6	7.0	7.7	6.2
Unemployment	26.7	26.5	-0.2	1.1	-0.7	4.3
Participation rate	69.0	69.2	0.2	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	66.0	66.3	0.3	0.8	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	747.4	748.2	0.8	1.2	0.1	0.2
Labour force	524.0	524.3	0.3	14.7	0.1	2.9
Employment	503.3	504.4	1.1	20.2	0.2	4.2
Full-time	406.1	405.5	-0.6	13.5	-0.1	3.4
Part-time	97.2	98.9	1.7	6.8	1.7	7.4
Unemployment	20.7	19.9	-0.8	-5.5	-3.9	-21.7
Participation rate	70.1	70.1	0.0	1.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.0	3.8	-0.2	-1.2	...	...
Employment rate	67.3	67.4	0.1	2.6	...	...
Alberta						
Population	2,709.2	2,715.9	6.7	105.5	0.2	4.0
Labour force	2,008.1	2,010.1	2.0	99.8	0.1	5.2
Employment	1,938.7	1,938.6	-0.1	93.9	0.0	5.1
Full-time	1,639.0	1,631.2	-7.8	97.8	-0.5	6.4
Part-time	299.7	307.4	7.7	-3.9	2.6	-1.3
Unemployment	69.4	71.5	2.1	5.9	3.0	9.0
Participation rate	74.1	74.0	-0.1	0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	3.5	3.6	0.1	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	71.6	71.4	-0.2	0.7	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,547.4	3,551.7	4.3	59.3	0.1	1.7
Labour force	2,347.4	2,357.3	9.9	67.8	0.4	3.0
Employment	2,252.9	2,265.4	12.5	78.3	0.6	3.6
Full-time	1,797.5	1,794.3	-3.2	66.1	-0.2	3.8
Part-time	455.3	471.1	15.8	12.2	3.5	2.7
Unemployment	94.6	91.9	-2.7	-10.5	-2.9	-10.3
Participation rate	66.2	66.4	0.2	0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.0	3.9	-0.1	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	63.5	63.8	0.3	1.2	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

February 2007 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products increased in six of the seven major product groups in February compared to February 2006.

Sales totaled 8 125 100 cubic metres, up 6.4% year over year. (One cubic metre is equivalent to 6.3 barrels.)

Diesel fuel sales showed the biggest increase by volume, climbing 207 500 cubic metres or 10.3%. Light fuel oil sales were up 19.1%, or 105 300 cubic metres. Motor gasoline sales rose 2.7% or 81 100 cubic metres.

Sales increased in two of the three categories of motor gasoline. Premium grade moved up 7.1%, while regular unleaded rose 2.6%. Mid-grade fell 6.7%.

On a year-to-date basis, sales of refined petroleum at the end of February reached 16 361 000 cubic metres, up 6.0% from February 2006.

Gains were registered in all of the seven major product groups, with the highest increase in diesel fuel oil where sales rose 354 800 cubic metres or 8.8%. Motor gasoline sales were up 241 700 cubic metres or 3.9%.

Note: Preliminary data on domestic sales of refined petroleum products are no longer available on CANSIM.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact client services (toll-free 1-866-873-8789 or 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	February 2006 ^r	February 2007 ^P	February 2006 to February 2007 % change
thousands of cubic metres			
Total, all products	7,633.1	8,125.1	6.4
Motor gasoline	3,015.9	3,097.0	2.7
Diesel fuel oil	2,022.2	2,229.7	10.3
Light fuel oil	552.7	658.0	19.1
Heavy fuel oil	517.4	582.4	12.6
Aviation turbo fuels	439.8	522.6	18.8
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	378.9	316.6	-16.4
All other refined products	706.2	718.7	1.8
January–February 2006 to January–February 2007			
	January to February 2006 ^r	January to February 2007 ^P	% change
thousands of cubic metres			
Total, all products	15,439.8	16,361.0	6.0
Motor gasoline	6,153.6	6,395.3	3.9
Diesel fuel oil	4,026.3	4,381.1	8.8
Light fuel oil	1,121.2	1,267.2	13.0
Heavy fuel oil	1,064.3	1,078.9	1.4
Aviation turbo fuels	957.2	1,006.2	5.1
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	638.8	723.3	13.2
All other refined products	1,478.5	1,509.0	2.1

^r revised

^P preliminary

1. Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

New products

Canada at a Glance, 2007
Catalogue number 12-581-XWE
(free).

Canada at a Glance, 2007
Catalogue number 12-581-XPE
(free).

Building Permits, February 2007, Vol. 51, no. 2
Catalogue number 64-001-XWE
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Labour Force Information, March 11 to 17, 2007
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The Daily, April 5, 2007

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10	Informatics professional services price indexes	2005
11	Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey	Fourth quarter 2006 and annual
12	Canadian Economic Observer (Internet)	April 2007
12	Demographic changes in Canada from 1971 to 2001 within a metro-to-rural gradient	1971 to 2001
12	New Housing Price Index	February 2007
13	Canadian international merchandise trade	February 2007
13	Investment in non-residential building construction	First quarter 2007
