



# The Daily

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## Releases

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**Study: Impact of immigration on labour markets in Canada, Mexico and the United States** 2

Immigration has tended to lower wages in both Canada and the United States, according to a new study. However, it was also found that the impact of immigrants on the wages of domestic workers depends to a large extent on the skill mix of the newcomers.

**Study: Changes and challenges for Canada's residential real estate landlords, 1986 to 2005** 4

Many Canadian households have moved from renting to home ownership during the past two decades, providing new challenges for the nation's residential real estate landlords, according to a new study.

Machinery and equipment price indexes, first quarter 2007 6

Production and disposition of tobacco products, April 2007 7

Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries, 2006 7

Sawmills, March 2007 8

Construction type plywood, January, February and March 2007 8

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## New products

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9

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**Release dates: May 28 to June 1, 2007** 11

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## Releases

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### Study: Impact of immigration on labour markets in Canada, Mexico and the United States

Immigration has tended to lower wages in both Canada and the United States, according to a new study. However, it was found that the impact of immigrants on the wages of domestic workers depends to a large extent on the skill mix of the newcomers.

A significantly higher proportion of immigrants to Canada are highly skilled. In 2001, around 4 in 10 individuals with more than an undergraduate university degree were immigrants in Canada compared to about 1 in 5 in the United States. This has had the impact of curtailing the earnings growth of the most educated Canadians relative to the least educated, the study found.

In the United States, however, the opposite has happened. A significantly higher proportion of immigrants to the United States have been much less skilled. As a result, these newcomers have depressed the earnings of low-paid Americans and increased the gap relative to the highest-paid.

In Canada, immigration has dampened the trend to higher earnings inequality but in the United States, it has exacerbated it.

The study, based on census data from each country relating to workforce participants aged 18 to 64, explored the impact of the immigration on each nation's labour market.

Between 1980 and 2000, immigration increased the male labour force by 13.2% in Canada and 11.1% in the United States, the study found. However, Mexico experienced a 14.6% loss in the size of its potential male workforce.

#### **Inverse relation between immigrant-induced shifts in labour supply and wages**

One of the central questions in the economics of immigration concerns the impact on the labour markets of countries that send and receive immigrants.

A key finding of this study is that there was a sizable, statistically significant, and roughly comparable inverse relationship between immigrant-induced shifts in labour supply and wages in each of the three countries.

In each, a migration-induced shift of 10% in labour supply was associated with a 3% to 4% change in weekly earnings in the opposite direction.

#### **Note to readers**

Data used in this study are drawn from the Canadian, Mexican and American censuses, and the analysis is restricted to male labour market participants aged 18 to 64. The study used all the microdata files of the Canadian censuses taken every five years from 1971 to 2001. Each of these files represents a 20% sample of the Canadian population, except the 1971 file, which represents a 33.3% sample.

Data used to study the American labour market are the US decennial census files from 1960 through 2000, with 1960 representing a 1% sample of the population and 1970 a 3% sample. Files from 1980 to 2000 each represented 5% samples.

The analysis of the Mexican labour market uses the 1960, 1970, 1990 and 2000 Integrated Public Use Microdata Samples (IPUMS) of the Mexican decennial census; no microdata sample was available for 1980 as the primary records were destroyed in an earthquake. The 1960 file represents a 1.5% sample of the Mexican population; the 1970 file represents a 1% sample; the 1990 file represents a 10% sample; and the 2000 file represents a 10.6% sample.

The analysis focuses on weekly earnings adjusted for inflation. The skill mix of the various populations is measured by their educational attainment and experience.

But, as the study found, the mix of skills was a factor, causing real weekly wages to decline in different skill groups in each country.

While the United States and Canada are two major host countries for immigrants in North America, Mexico is a source country of immigrants, almost all leaving Mexico for the US.

Therefore, while evidence from the United States and Canada shows the impact of immigration on wages in host countries, Mexico provides a mirror image of the impact of emigration in a source country.

In Mexico, emigration has resulted in a decline in the labour supply and, consequently, an increase in wages. The study found that the effect on Mexican wages was almost identical in scale, though the changes were in the opposite direction. A labour supply decline of 10% was estimated to induce a wage increase of 3% to 4%. The impact of emigration on the wages of those who stay in Mexico also depends on the skill mix of those who leave the country.

#### **Different skill mixes are the result of immigration policies**

The differences in skill mixes between Canada and the United States are the result of differences in immigration policies during the last four decades.

Canadian immigration policies since the 1960s have encouraged high-skilled workers to come to the country. During the same period, American immigration policy has emphasized family reunification, which resulted in a disproportionate number of low-skilled immigrants.

Significant illegal immigration to the United States since 1965 (an estimated 10.3 million as of 2005), more than half of which is estimated to have been from Mexico, has also contributed to the tendency for US immigrant workers to be lower-skilled than those who entered Canada.

Immigration to the United States, moreover, has tended to increase the supply of young workers; the opposite has been observed in Canada.

This study suggests that immigration played a role in the 7% drop in real weekly wages experienced by workers with more than a university undergraduate degree in Canada between 1980 and 2000. Over this period, the immigrant share of all workers with more than a university undergraduate degree in Canada increased. Between the 1986 and 2001 censuses, this share rose from 32.5% to 38.2%.

The study also suggests that, in the long run, low-skilled workers in Canada have gained relative to high-skilled workers. This has occurred not simply because disproportionately more highly educated immigrants to Canada have dampened upward pressure for the wages of high-skilled workers, but also because the share of low-skilled workers in the labour force has declined.

The net result is that migration-induced effects on the Canadian labour supply have served to reduce measured wage inequality between low-skilled and high-skilled workers. The weekly earnings gap of 38% between those who dropped out of high school and those with a university degree increased to almost 45% between 1980 and 2000. In the absence of immigration the study estimates this gap would have been 49%.

The story for the US labour market is different. The tendency for the supply of immigrant labour to the United

States to be concentrated among low-skilled workers served to depress the wages of workers in the lowest skill groups.

Coupled with only a small dampening effect of immigration on the wages of highly-skilled workers, who saw their real weekly wages increase by 20% in the United States between 1980 and 2000, immigration served to magnify growth in US wage inequality between low-skilled and high-skilled workers over the same period.

In Mexico, however, emigration rates are highest in the middle of the skill distribution and lowest at the extremes.

As a result, international migration has increased relative wages in the middle of the Mexican skill distribution and lowered the relative wages at the extremes.

Paradoxically, the large-scale migration of workers from Mexico actually slightly reduced the relative wage of low-skill workers remaining in that country.

Most of these effects, however, were small when compared to actual wage changes and were consequently not the main explanation for the developments in earnings inequality in these three countries.

A summary of the research paper "A comparative analysis of the labour market impact of international migration: Canada, Mexico, and the United States" is available in the publication *Update on Family and Labour Studies*, winter 2007 (89-001-XWE, free), from the *Publication* module of our website. A complete copy of the research paper is available in English only at the following website (<http://papers.nber.org/papers/w12327>).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Abdurrahman Aydemir (613-951-3821), Family and Labour Studies. ■

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## Study: Changes and challenges for Canada's residential real estate landlords

1986 to 2005

Many Canadian households have moved from renting to home ownership during the past two decades, providing new challenges for the nation's residential real estate landlords, according to a new study.

Lower interest rates, more attractive financing options and relatively strong economic conditions have encouraged more households to buy homes, in turn driving up house prices.

The study, published today in the *Services Industries Newsletter*, found that even though prices for homes have risen more rapidly than rents, households have consistently opted more and more for home ownership.

As a result, only about 3 in every 10 Canadian households rented in 2005, compared with 4 in every 10 in 1986.

The study found that households that turned from renting to owning in recent years tended to have higher incomes than those that did not. Therefore, Canada's pool of renters is now populated proportionally more by low-income households than it used to be.

The fastest-growing segment of the residential rental market has been households in the bottom 20% of the income distribution, or the lowest income quintile.

The study also showed that elderly people are playing a larger role in the rental market than they did two decades ago. Younger households, married couples with children and lone-parent households are playing a lesser role.

As the population ages, older households will likely represent an even higher proportion of renters. If so, landlords might be expected to provide better accommodation for aging renters, such as special facilities or equipment.

The study also found that, due to an aging stock of apartments, residential landlords devoted 14% of their operating expenses to repair and maintenance costs in 2004.

### Renters increasingly low-income households

The shift from renting to owning over the past two decades has occurred, at least to some extent, across all income quintiles, most age groups, and in every province except Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island.

Most notably, the role of households in the lowest income quintile (that is, the 20% at the bottom of the

income distribution) has grown rapidly in the rental market in the past two decades.

In fact, these households have been the fastest-growing segment of the residential rental market. Total spending on rents by households in the lowest quintile rose by 5.2% on average each year from 1986 to 2005. This far exceeds the 3.4% average growth recorded for all other households.

In 1986, these households made 24% of all rent payments. By 2005, this proportion had reached nearly 30%.

Landlords are, therefore, relying increasingly on the lowest income households to rent their units. The primary reason for this is the rapid shift away from renting, and towards home ownership, for all but the lowest income households.

### City dwellers, Quebecers far more likely to rent

City-dwellers are far more likely than other Canadians to rent their place of residence. In 2005, 37% of households living in Canada's 14 largest cities rented their dwellings, compared to only 28% of households elsewhere.

Québec has long been the province where households are most likely to rent, followed by British Columbia. Conversely, households are least likely to rent in New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador.

In addition, between 1986 and 2005, every province experienced a decline in the proportion of households living in rentals, except for Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador.

In other words, across most of the nation, households are more likely to be homeowners than they were 20 years ago. The biggest shifts occurred in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The residential rental market has expanded most rapidly in British Columbia, where households spent \$4.8 billion on rents in 2005, up 167% from 1986. In 2005, households in British Columbia accounted for 16% of Canada's residential rental market, up from 12% in 1986.

### Youngest households most likely to rent

Younger households are over-represented in the rental market relative to the size of their population. Those headed by someone younger than 35 accounted for 34% of all household spending on rents in 2004, even though they comprised only 20% of all households.

Nevertheless, young households are not as predominant in the rental market as they were in the 1980s. For instance, in 1986, households headed

by someone younger than 35 accounted for nearly half of all household expenditures on rents in Canada. By 2004, this proportion had fallen sharply to just over one-third.

In the last two decades, a number of factors reduced the importance of this age group in Canada's residential rental market. First, they now comprise a smaller proportion of Canada's population of households. Second, they are more likely than previously to own rather than rent their place of residence. And, finally, there has been an increase in the number of young adults returning to live with their parents. Many of these young people would otherwise have been renters.

Older households, those headed by someone aged 75 or older are also playing a larger role in the rental market. In 2004, they made 11% of all rent payments, up from 7% in 1986. This is not surprising given the gains in life expectancy.

### **Singles more likely to rent than couples**

Almost half of all renting households are headed by unattached individuals even though they comprise only one-quarter of all households.

In terms of total expenditures on rents, nearly 41% of such spending came from unattached individuals in 2005. This was up markedly from 33% two decades ago. There has been a relatively sharp increase not only in the size of Canada's unattached population, but also in the number of these households that rent.

Between 1986 and 2005, the number of unattached individuals who rented rose 26%. In contrast, there was a 3.7% decline in the number of renters among other household types.

Also over-represented in the residential rental market are lone-parent households. However, their 6% contribution to all rental spending in 2005 was down sharply from a 10% share in 1986. This decline occurred even though there are now more lone-parent families.

The primary reason that lone-parent families now comprise a lower share of the rental market is that, on average, they are far less likely to be renting their dwellings than they were two decades ago. In 2005, 45% of lone-parent households were renters, well below the proportion of 64% in 1986.

On the other hand, couples (married and common-law) are under-represented among renters. In 2005, they comprised 63% of Canada's households but represented only 43% of Canada's rental spending.

The article "Changes and challenges for residential real estate lessors" is now available as part of the *Analytical Paper Series - Services Industries Division* (63F0002XIE2007052, free) from the *Publications* module of our website. Other information from the Services Industries Division can be found in the *Services Industries Newsletter* (63-018-XWE, free), also available on our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Don Little (613-951-6739; fax: 613-951-6696; [don.little@statcan.ca](mailto:don.little@statcan.ca)), Services industries Division. ■

## Machinery and equipment price indexes

First quarter 2007

The Machinery and equipment price index (MEPI) stood at 93.3 (1997=100) in the first quarter, up 2.3% from the previous quarter. The import component index rose 3.5%, while the domestic index edged up 0.3%. Compared to the first quarter of 2006, the total MEPI was up 1.9%, the import index increasing by 3.3%, while the domestic index declined 0.6%.

In the first quarter, all industries recorded increases in prices of machinery and equipment purchased. Manufacturing industries (+2.9%) contributed significantly to the total MEPI quarterly increase. Among its subcomponents, the largest contributors in the quarterly increase were paper manufacturing (+3.1%), transportation equipment manufacturing (+2.9%) and primary metal and fabricated metal product manufacturing (+2.7%). The second largest contributor to the total quarterly increase was finance, insurance and real estate (+1.5%), with its finance and insurance sector also rising 1.5%.

Among commodities, price increases for other industry-specific machinery (+3.6%) and trucks,

road tractors and chassis (+3.4%) were the largest contributors to the quarterly increase.

The US dollar appreciated 2.8% against its Canadian counterpart in the first quarter of 2007. The strengthening of the US dollar has an upward affect on the price movements of imported goods.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0041 and 327-0042.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2312.**

The first quarter 2007 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; [prices-prix@statcan.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.ca)) or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612), Prices Division.

## Machinery and equipment price indexes

(1997=100)

Industries	Relative importance	First quarter 2007 <sup>P</sup>	Fourth quarter 2006 to first quarter 2007 % change	First quarter 2006 to first quarter 2007
<b>Total machinery and equipment price index</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Domestic</b>	<b>32.03</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
<b>Imported</b>	<b>67.97</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Crop and animal production	4.07	103.8	3.0	3.5
Forestry and logging	0.27	103.8	2.9	2.4
Fishing, hunting and trapping	0.08	110.7	3.2	5.2
Support activities for agriculture and forestry	0.10	100.8	2.5	2.3
Mines, quarries and oil wells	4.26	106.6	3.4	4.1
Utilities	3.55	98.9	3.7	5.4
Construction	3.54	99.9	2.9	3.3
Manufacturing	22.34	100.1	2.9	3.4
Trade	8.38	90.1	1.6	0.6
Transportation (excluding pipeline transportation)	7.66	107.2	2.8	3.4
Pipeline transportation	1.18	105.9	3.2	4.3
Warehousing and storage	0.26	104.5	1.9	2.3
Finance, insurance and real estate	19.90	86.6	1.5	-0.3
Private education services	0.12	79.9	2.8	1.1
Education services (excluding private), health care and social assistance	2.09	88.3	2.2	0.6
Other services (excluding public administration)	16.39	81.1	1.6	-0.1
Public administration	5.81	84.8	1.9	0.6

<sup>P</sup> preliminary

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## Production and disposition of tobacco products

April 2007

Total cigarettes sold in April by Canadian manufacturers jumped 45.4% from March to 1.6 billion cigarettes, down 28.1% compared with April 2006.

Cigarette production in April increased 38.4% from March to 1.5 billion cigarettes, down 32.6% from April 2006.

At 1.7 billion cigarettes, the level of closing inventories for April decreased 2.7% from March, down 51.7% from April 2006.

**Note:** This survey collects data on the production of tobacco products in Canada by Canadian manufacturers and the disposition or sales of this production. It does not collect data on imported tobacco products. Therefore, sales information in this release is not a proxy for domestic consumption of tobacco products.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.**

The April 2007 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 36, no. 4 (32-022-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries 2006

The area dedicated to growing greenhouse products continued to expand, settling just short of 230 million square feet. Slightly more than half of the area was used for growing flowers and plants while the remaining 48% was dedicated to vegetables. Although the area distributions are similar, flower and plant sales make up 65% of the total greenhouse sales, compared to 35% for vegetables. Operators reported total sales of \$2.34 billion in 2006, making it a record year.

Growers reported \$1.52 billion in sales of flowers and plants in 2006. The leading purchasers of these products were wholesalers, followed by consumers. Potted plants recorded their highest sales, generating \$679 million in revenue. The most popular potted plants were geraniums and tropical varieties.

Greenhouse vegetable growers reported selling a total of \$826.9 million worth of products in 2006, the majority of which were sold to wholesalers. The vegetables that generated the highest revenue were tomatoes, followed by peppers and cucumbers. Tomatoes accounted for almost half of all vegetable revenue, while peppers and cucumbers each generated approximately one quarter of the total revenue. The area dedicated to tomatoes was the largest, at 51.0 million square feet, followed by cucumbers and peppers with 29.3 million square feet and 27.5 million square feet respectively.

Canada's total nursery area was 55,735 acres in 2006. Nursery sales in 2006 were \$595.2 million. The largest buyers of nursery stock were landscapers and garden centres, contributing to just over half of all nursery revenues.

Total sod area continued to rise in 2006, reaching 58,945 acres. The increase in sod area was due to a higher demand for sod for golf courses, homes and parks. Along with the increase in area, growers recorded sod sales of \$128.0 million.

**Note:** On May 16, 2007, Statistics Canada released census data that included area figures for greenhouse, nursery and sod operations. There are differences between the Annual Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery Survey (GSN) figures and data from the Census of Agriculture 2006 for various reasons. For example, although the GSN survey frame is updated on an ongoing basis, the Census of Agriculture often identifies operations that now have a greenhouse or nursery or sod as part of the operation. In addition, there are differences in the target populations of the GSN survey and the Census of Agriculture, which result in differences in the data.

The GSN survey collects data from commercial operations and has higher area cut-offs, while the Census of Agriculture figures include areas that do not meet the size requirements for the GSN survey population. In 2007, intercensal revisions will be made to data points that may have subject to undercoverage and non-response over the past five years. For this reason, direct comparisons between 2005 and 2006 should be made with caution. These revisions will be published in the next issue of *Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery Industries*, to be released in April 2008.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3416.**

The 2006 issue of *Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery Industries* (22-202-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publication* module of our website.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marco Morin (613-951-2074; [marco.morin@statcan.ca](mailto:marco.morin@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Sawmills

March 2007

Monthly lumber production by sawmills rose 6.8% to 6 726.7 thousand cubic metres in March.

Sawmills shipped 6 577.5 thousand cubic metres of lumber in March, an increase of 19.7% from February. Compared with the same month in 2006, lumber shipments dropped 10.7%.

Between February and March, stocks edged up 1.8% to 9 345.2 thousand cubic metres.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2134.**

The March 2007 issue of *Sawmills*, Vol. 61, no. 3 (35-003-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

To order data, to obtain more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Construction type plywood

January, February and March 2007

Data on construction type plywood for January, February and March are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0056 and 303-0057.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■



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## New products

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**Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery Industries**, 2006  
**Catalogue number 22-202-XIB**  
(free).

**Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products**,  
April 2007, Vol. 36, no. 4  
**Catalogue number 32-022-XWE**  
(free).

**Sawmills**, March 2007, Vol. 61, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 35-003-XWE**  
(free).

**Analytical Paper Series - Service Industries**  
**Division : "Changes and challenges for residential**  
**real estate lessors"**, no. 52  
**Catalogue number 63F0002XIE2007052**  
(free).

**Service Industries Newsletter**, Vol. 2007, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 63-018-XWE**  
(free).

**Update on Family and Labour Studies**, Winter 2007  
**Catalogue number 89-001-XWE**  
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.



**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six rides on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses and industry work force in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- Map-based Index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 9
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr 8, 1997 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11



### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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**Release dates: May 28 to June 1, 2007**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

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<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
28	<b>Farm cash receipts</b>	2005, 2006 and first quarter 2007
28	<b>Net farm income</b>	2005 and 2006
29	<b>Characteristics of international travellers</b>	Fourth quarter 2006
29	<b>International travel account</b>	First quarter 2007
29	<b>Employment Insurance</b>	March 2007
29	<b>Payroll employment, earnings and hours</b>	March 2007
30	<b>Balance of international payments</b>	First quarter 2007
30	<b>Industrial product and raw materials price indexes</b>	April 2007
31	<b>National economic and financial accounts</b>	First quarter 2007
31	<b>Gross domestic product by industry</b>	March 2007

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