

canadian economy buy consumers strong national outlook evaluations incline household
sent situation atlantic performance inflation moderate unchanged british columbia consiste
expectations provincial perceptions confidence employment regional results growing ontari



Canadian Confidence Index

a TNS Canadian Facts News Release

ons confidence employment regional results growing ontario value situation booming stead
nomy buy consumers strong national outlook evaluations incline household income quebe
tion atlantic performance inflation moderate unchanged british columbia consistent foreca
provincial perceptions confidence employment regional results growing ontario value situ

ners strong national outlook evaluations incline household income quebec purchases albe
m. unchanged british columbia consistent forecast sixth sense of



RESULTS

The *Consumer Confidence Index*, which captures all the variables, now stands at 105.6. This is a slight recovery from the drop that took place in January and February.

The *Present Situation Index*, which captures evaluations of the overall state of the economy and the employment situation, now stands at 116.8 (down from 118.7 in February). Current perceptions are down slightly but still very positive; half of all Canadians believe the economy is either very or fairly good.

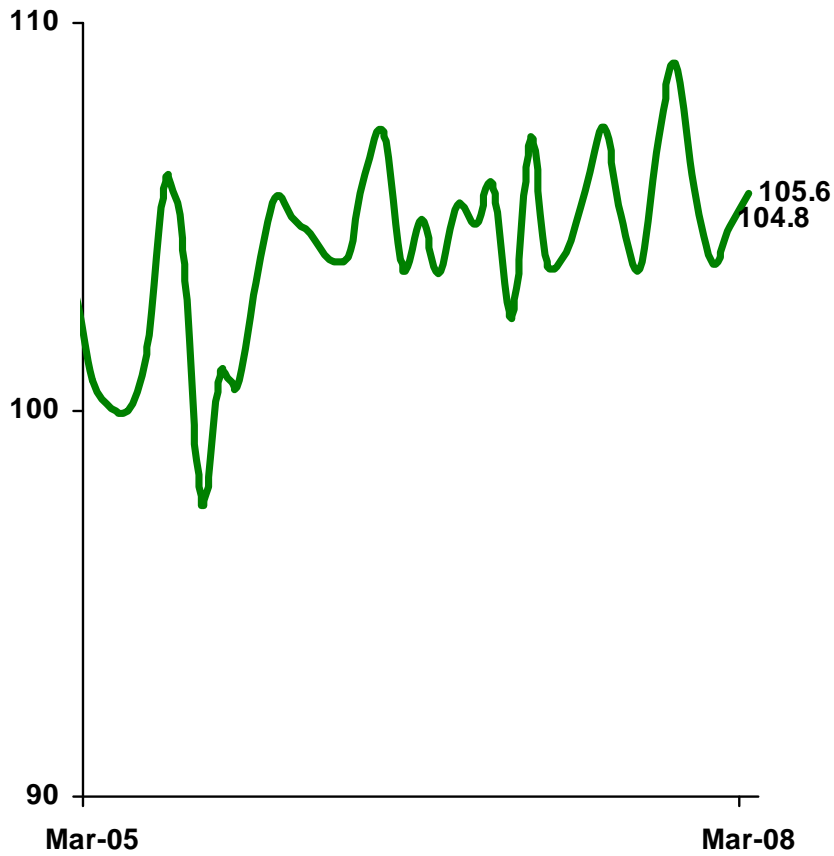
The *Expectations Index*, which measures consumers' estimation of the economy, household income and employment in six months, rebounded after three consecutive monthly declines. The March index value is 100.6 (up from 97.9 in February and slightly higher than the 100.4 value recorded in December).

The *Buy Index*, which gauges the degree to which people think the current period is a good time to make major purchases, also rebounded. The index now sits at 95.8 (up from 93.0 last month). Interestingly the rebound occurred in the wake of the Bank of Canada's bold move at the beginning of March to cut its key interest rate by 50 basis points.

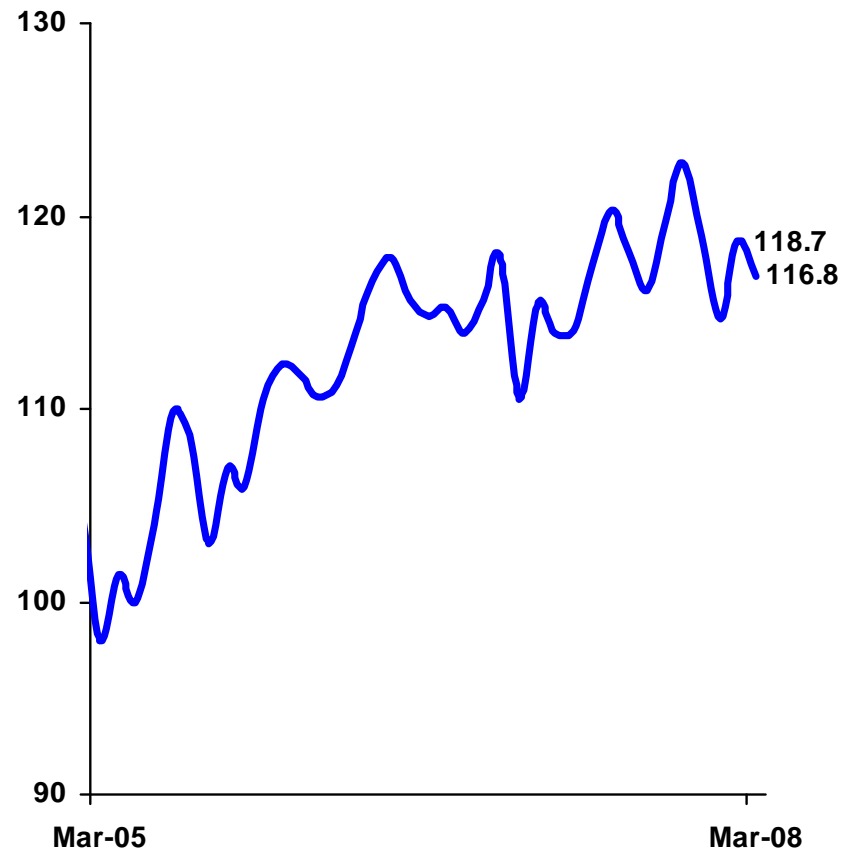
Strong domestic demand continues to drive consumer confidence in Canada even as many Canadian businesses and economists are reacting to the implications of weakening demand in the U.S.



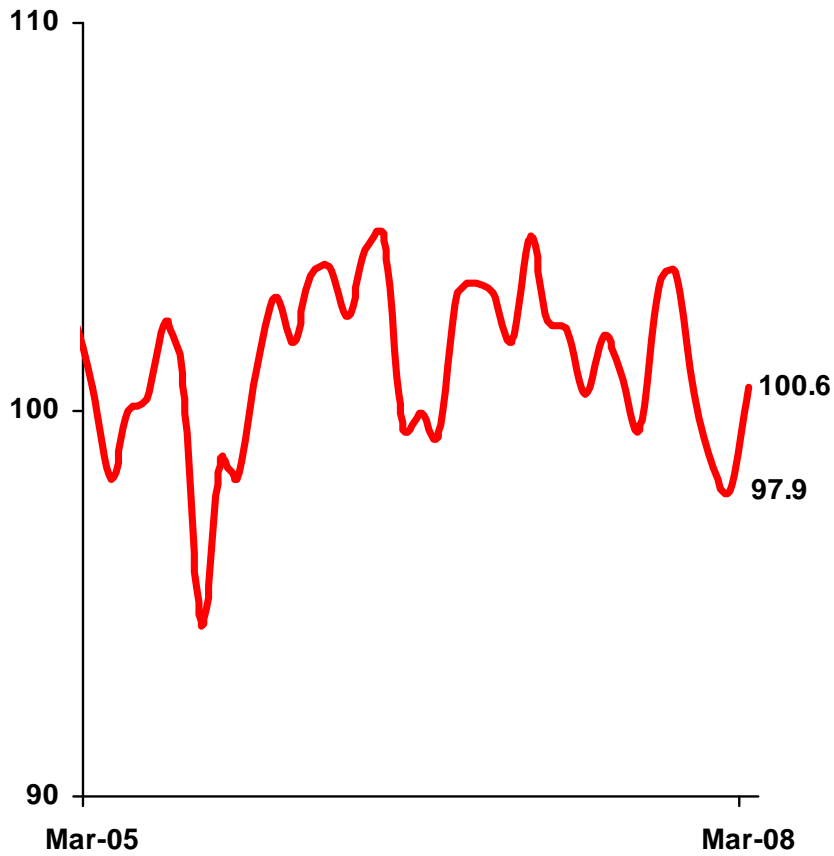
Consumer Confidence Index



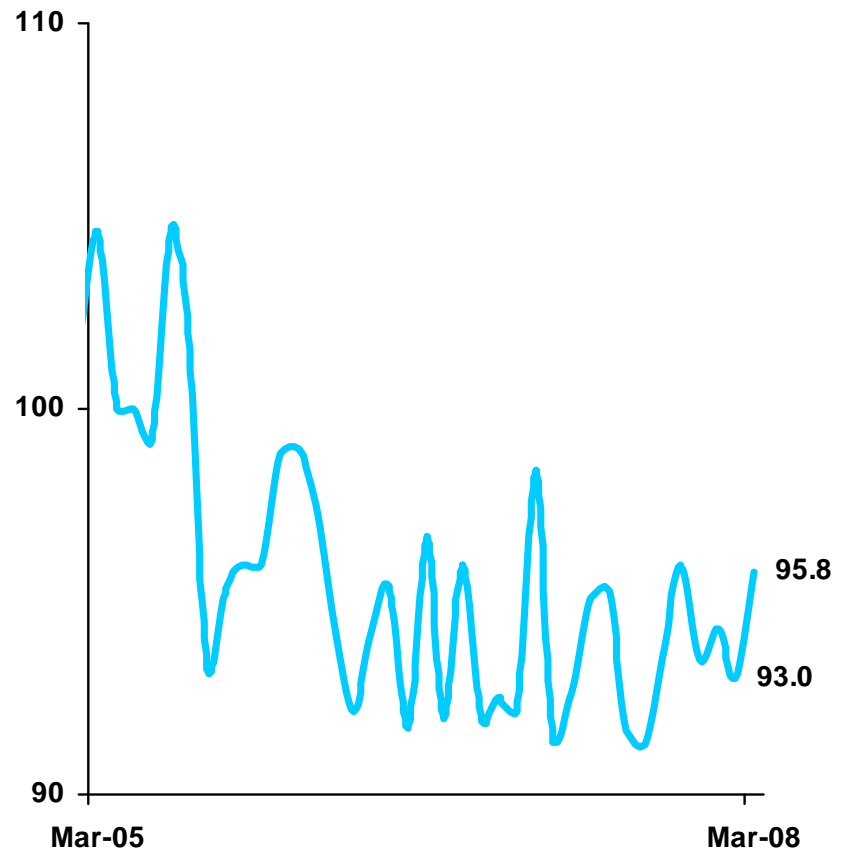
Present Situation Index



Expectations Index



Buy Index



About the CCI study

Seven questions make up the core survey of Consumer Confidence. While the overall CCI index uses all 7 questions to produce an index score, there are three sub-indices that rely on some of the questions.

CCI Index: Includes all 6 variables

Present Situation Index:

- How would you describe your country's current economic situation?
- How would you describe your country's current employment situation?

Expectations Index:

- What do you think will be your country's economic situation in the next 6 months?
- What do you think will be your country's employment situation in the next 6 months?
- What do you think your income will be in 6 months time?

Buy Index:

- Taking into consideration the cost of things today and the financial situation in general, to what extent would you say that now is a good or bad time to buy products such as: a house or apartment, a car, household appliances such as a washing machine, a refrigerator, a TV set etc.?



About Dr. Richard Jenkins:

An accomplished researcher, Dr. Jenkins is responsible for TNS Canadian Facts' public sector research. This includes traditional public opinion and market research as well as all research conducted by the Social and Policy Research Group at TNS. He is also the primary spokesperson for TNS Canadian Facts for news interviews and analysis of recent trends in public opinion and market behaviour.

Dr. Jenkins has more than nine years of experience, derived from both academic and private sector experience, as a researcher of public opinion and public policy. He has published articles in a number of respected peer-reviewed journals, including the Canadian Journal of Political Science, and chapters in a number of edited books, including the State of the Federation (2001) and the Review of Economic Performance and Social Progress (2002) and continues to contribute to our collective understanding of politics through his recent publications on turnout and attitudes about democracy.

Dr. Jenkins holds an Honours and Masters degree in Political Studies from Queen's University and a Doctoral Degree in Political Science from the University of British Columbia. His academic training focused on public opinion (including both methodological and substantive issues), public policy and Canadian politics. Before joining TNS Canadian Facts, Dr. Jenkins spent two years at EKOS Research Associates and two years as an Assistant Professor in Political Studies at Queen's University, where he taught Canadian politics, democracy and election, and statistics. He is a member of MRIA and a number of professional associations devoted to the study of public opinion and politics.

For more information please contact:

Richard W. Jenkins, Ph.D.
Vice President
Corporate Director of Public Opinion Research
(613) 230-4408 ext 101
richard.jenkins@tns-global.com