

ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE INDEX

Canadians Satisfied with Economy, But Three-in-Ten Expect Decline

More than half of respondents are worried about their balance between savings and debt

[VANCOUVER - Feb. 19, 2008] - Canadian adults provide a positive assessment of the country's economic situation, but some are expressing concerns about a possible slowdown, an Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative provincial sample, 76 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in Canada today as "Very Good" or "Good", while one-in-five (20%) believe they are "Poor" or "Very Poor." In addition, 62 per cent of respondents make a positive assessment of their own personal finances.

Three-in-five Canadians (59%) think right now is a good time to buy everyday items, including 66 per cent of men.

Conversely, 47 per cent believe it is currently a bad time to make a major purchase, with respondents in Quebec (56%) and Atlantic Canada (50%) being particularly wary.

While more than half of Canadians (54%) expect their economy to remain the same over the next three months, three-in-ten (29%) predict a decline, and only 12 per cent forecast an improvement.

As far as their own personal finances, three-in-five (59%) expect no major changes, 11 per cent anticipate a decline, and 28 per cent believe an improvement will occur—including 44 per cent of respondents in British Columbia.

KEY FINDINGS

- » **76% rate the economic conditions in Canada as very good or good**
- » **72% are not concerned about the possibility of losing their job**
- » **62% rate their own personal finances as good or very good**
- » **52% are worried about their balance between savings and debt**
- » **29% think the Canadian economy will decline over the next three months**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From February 8 to February 11, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,077 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.0%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

The survey shows that more than half of Canadians (52%) are either greatly or moderately worried about the balance between the amount of savings and the amount of debt they currently have. In British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec, at least half of respondents are comfortable with their balance.

Finally, three-in-four respondents (76%) are not worried about the possibility of losing their job, but one-in-four Quebecers (26%) express concern.

Economic Index									
How would you rate the economic conditions in Canada today?									
	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Very good	12%	16%	14%	8%	6%	17%	10%	15%	8%
Good	64%	69%	64%	76%	67%	50%	76%	63%	64%
Poor	17%	11%	10%	13%	23%	18%	12%	18%	17%
Very poor	3%	2%	5%	3%	1%	6%	0%	1%	5%
Not sure	5%	2%	7%	0%	3%	9%	2%	3%	6%

Economic Index									
How would you rate your own personal finances today?									
	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Very good	8%	10%	15%	3%	8%	6%	6%	11%	4%
Good	54%	55%	51%	65%	51%	55%	58%	56%	54%
Poor	27%	24%	25%	28%	32%	26%	23%	24%	31%
Very poor	9%	10%	10%	3%	6%	11%	10%	7%	10%
Not sure	2%	1%	0%	0%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%

Economic Index									
Would you say that right now is a good time or a bad time to buy everyday items?									
	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Good time	59%	61%	63%	66%	61%	51%	54%	66%	52%
Bad time	24%	24%	26%	15%	19%	32%	21%	19%	28%
Not sure	18%	15%	10%	19%	20%	17%	25%	15%	21%

Economic Index									
Would you say that right now is a good time or a bad time to make a major purchase?									
	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Good time	35%	34%	52%	32%	39%	25%	29%	39%	31%
Bad time	47%	45%	34%	39%	46%	56%	50%	42%	51%
Not sure	18%	22%	14%	29%	15%	19%	21%	19%	18%

Economic Index									
Over the next three months, do you think the Canadian economy will improve, remain the same, or decline?									
	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Improve	12%	15%	18%	18%	10%	12%	10%	14%	11%
Remain the same	54%	53%	48%	52%	52%	58%	63%	50%	58%
Decline	29%	28%	31%	30%	31%	26%	24%	33%	24%
Not sure	5%	4%	3%	0%	7%	5%	3%	3%	7%

Economic Index									
Over the next three months, do you think your personal finances will improve, remain the same, or decline?									
	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Improve	28%	44%	30%	37%	24%	27%	13%	29%	26%
Remain the same	59%	48%	58%	56%	57%	65%	67%	59%	59%
Decline	11%	6%	11%	7%	14%	8%	18%	11%	11%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	0%	4%	0%	1%	1%	3%

Economic Index									
Thinking about the amount of savings and the amount of debt you currently have, would you say the balance between them is something you...?									
		Region						Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Feel really good about	14%	20%	17%	11%	14%	13%	11%	21%	7%
Are comfortable with	33%	35%	41%	30%	29%	37%	26%	32%	34%
Moderately worry about	37%	27%	25%	46%	37%	40%	46%	35%	39%
Worry a great deal about	15%	17%	16%	13%	20%	8%	16%	12%	18%
Not sure	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%

Economic Index									
How concerned are you about the possibility of losing your job?									
		Region						Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Very concerned	6%	1%	9%	2%	7%	6%	9%	4%	8%
Moderately concerned	12%	11%	9%	4%	12%	20%	4%	13%	12%
Not too concerned	30%	27%	40%	26%	34%	23%	32%	34%	27%
Not concerned at all	46%	57%	40%	59%	42%	45%	47%	47%	45%
Not sure	6%	4%	2%	8%	6%	6%	8%	3%	8%

Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of the 2007 provincial elections in:

Quebec: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>

Manitoba: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=56>

Ontario: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=129>

Saskatchewan: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=138>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**