

Ready for Winter?

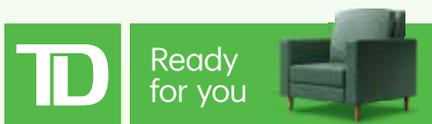
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The TD Mobile Mortgage Specialists Report

Inspecting your home on a regular basis and following good maintenance practices is the best way to protect your investment in your home. Whether you take care of a few tasks at a time or several all at once, it is important to get into the habit of doing them. Establish a routine for yourself and you will find the work is easy to accomplish and not very time consuming.

Winter Maintenance Tips:

- Check and clean or replace furnace air filters each month during the heating season. Ventilation system, such as heat recovery ventilator, filters should be checked every two months.
- After consulting your hot water tank owner's manual, drain off a dishpan full of water from the clean-out valve at the bottom of your hot water tank to control sediment and maintain efficiency.
- Clean humidifier two or three times during the winter season.
- Vacuum bathroom fan grille.
- Vacuum fire and smoke detectors, as dust or spider webs can prevent them from functioning.
- Vacuum radiator grilles on back of refrigerators and freezers, and empty and clean drip trays.
- Check gauge on all fire extinguishers; recharge or replace if necessary.
- Check fire escape routes, door and window locks and hardware, and lighting around outside of house; ensure family has good security habits.
- Check the basement floor drain to ensure the trap contains water. Refill with water if necessary.
- Monitor your home for excessive moisture levels – for example, condensation on your windows, which can cause significant damage over time and pose serious health problems.
- Check all faucets for signs of dripping and change washers as needed. Faucets requiring frequent replacement of washers may be in need of repair.
- Clean drains in dishwasher, sinks, bathtubs and shower stalls.
- Examine windows and doors for cold air leaks. If found, make a note to repair or replace in the spring.
- Check electrical cords, plugs and outlets for all indoor and outdoor seasonal lights to ensure fire safety: if worn, or if plugs or cords feel warm to the touch, replace immediately.



Source: *Comforts of Home* eNewsletter Archive



TD Economics

Peak Global Growth in the Rear View Mirror

Canadian Outlook – Hitting the High Notes

The Canadian economy shifted into a higher gear in the second quarter (+2.9% annualized), in part reflecting resolution of production disruptions that constrained activity at the open of the year. Early indicators suggest solid momentum will carry into the second half of the year, albeit at a more sustainable pace. GDP growth should sit around the 2.2% mark both this year and next. Despite increased volatility in the most recent labour market data, the trend remains our friend with income gains sufficient to absorb the impact of rising borrowing costs. This is reinforced in the housing data that depict a market well on the healing path in the wake of macroprudential policy changes.

As always, headline growth masks many moving parts. Complicating matters this time around will be the upcoming legalization of cannabis, which will artificially boost growth at the end of the year. Canadians should look through this one-time boost, as the Bank of Canada certainly will. Instead, there are plenty of domestic demand drivers to keep the central bank's bias towards raising interest rates, as evidenced by measures of inflation that are already at or above their target.

Perhaps the most closely watched component of the Canadian economy, international trade, has so far managed to hold up well despite the storm clouds that formed south of the border. Export of goods surged in the second quarter after shipments at the start of the year were held back by temporary disruptions in the auto and energy sectors. Encouragingly, trade activity appears resilient despite evidence that tariffs have scarred some sectors, like steel and aluminum. As evidence of business investment confidence holding firm amidst an uncertain climate, imports of machinery and electronic/electrical equipment continued to trend higher.

Recent developments on NAFTA negotiations offer some optimism that a deal is within reach for Canada. The U.S. and Mexico have worked out their major disagreements, particularly for the automotive sector that was a major stumbling block in moving the negotiations forward. Canada is unlikely to have any issue with those terms, although other sticking points remain to be sorted out. Even in the absence of fully fleshed out trade and technical details, a 'handshake' agreement would suffice in lifting the cloud of uncertainty that hangs over Canadian businesses. In addition, strong underlying U.S. economic growth offers fertile ground for Canadian exporters. This combination leaves us wedded to the view that net trade will continue to contribute modestly to economic growth through 2019.

Source: Canadian Quarterly Economic Forecast
Peak Global Growth in the Rear View Mirror
TD Economics, September 2018

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Did you know?

It is important to do a roof check before winter starts as loose shingles can be a way for the heat to escape your home.

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