

Employment holds steady in February

Employment was little changed in February (+15,000). The unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage points to 5.8%. On a year-over-year basis, employment grew by 283,000 or 1.5%.

Source: [Statistics Canada, February 2018](#)

Trade deficit narrows in January 2018

Canada's merchandise trade deficit totalled \$1.9 billion in January, narrowing from a \$3.1 billion deficit in December. Imports decreased 4.3%, mainly due to lower imports of industrial machinery, equipment and parts. Exports fell 2.1%, primarily on fewer exports of passenger cars and light trucks.



Source: [Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2018](#)

Cattle, hog and sheep numbers climb in 2017

Canadian farmers had 11.6 million cattle on their farms on January 1, up 0.9% from January 1, 2017. Hog producers reported 14.3 million hogs on January 1, up 2.7% from January 1, 2017, marking a fifth consecutive year-over-year increase. Canadian farmers held 836,900 sheep and lambs on January 1, up 2.8% over the same date in 2017.



Source: [Livestock estimates, January 1, 2018](#)

Performing art companies see profits rise in 2016

In 2016, performing arts companies generated \$2.2 billion in operating revenue, up 5.8% from 2014. Operating expenses in this industry group increased by 5.4% during this two-year period to \$1.9 billion, resulting in an operating profit margin of 12.0%.

Source: [Performing arts, 2016](#)

