

Labour market sees employment growth in 2017

Consistent signals across key labour market indicators pointed to a strengthening of the labour market, including the fastest total employment growth in a decade and a downward trend in the national unemployment rate. At the same time, average weekly earnings increased notably, the number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries declined, and the job vacancy rate increased.

Source: [Annual review of the labour market, 2017](#)



Canadian direct investment abroad grew last year

The stock of Canadian direct investment abroad rose 3.4% to \$1,121.1 billion in 2017, as increased investment activity in Europe and North America was partially offset by the downward revaluation effect of a stronger Canadian dollar against the US dollar.

Source: [Foreign direct investment, 2017](#)

Some buying strength gains for the Canadian dollar

In 2016, the purchasing power of a Canadian dollar was US\$0.84, up 0.4% from 2015. This means that the amount of goods and services that CAN\$100 buys in Canada, would require US\$84 to purchase in the United States.



Source: [Purchasing power parities, 2016](#)

Soybean and canola acres expected to fall

Canadian farmers expect to plant fewer acres of soybeans and canola in 2018, crops that were both at record high levels in 2017. Seeding intentions of dry peas and lentils are also expected to decline, potentially due to weaker prices and to exports falling sharply.



Source: [Principal field crop areas, March 2018](#)

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