

Auto dealers lead the increase in retail sales

Retail sales increased for the third consecutive month in March, rising 0.6% to \$50.2 billion. Higher sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers more than offset lower sales at food and beverage stores and gasoline stations. Sales were up in 6 of 11 subsectors, representing 53% of retail trade.



Source: Retail trade, March 2018

More parents working as children get older

Couple parents, especially those of young children, are less likely to work full time, year-round, than other couples. In 2015, about a quarter of couples with at least one child under the age of 6 both worked full time, full year. When the youngest child was between 6 and 17, the proportion increased to 37%.



Source: Study: Work activity of families with children in Canada, 2005 to 2015

Manufacturing sales rise in March

Manufacturing sales rose 1.4% to \$57.1 billion in March. Higher sales at primary metal; aerospace product and parts; fabricated metal product; and the other transportation equipment industries were mostly responsible for the increase. Overall, sales were up in 13 of 21 industries, representing 72% of the Canadian manufacturing sector.

Source: Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, March 2018

The earnings gender gap is closing

As the participation of women in the labour force has increased over time, so too has their role in their own economic well-being and that of their families. Women's individual income has grown, largely due to their employment earnings, which now constitute a greater share of family income.

Source: Study: The Economic Well-being of Women in Canada, 2015

