

## Real gross domestic product edges up for the second straight quarter

Real gross domestic product edged up 0.1% for the second consecutive quarter. Increased household spending (+0.9%) and business investment in machinery and equipment (+8.7%) were mostly offset by lower exports, higher imports and the continued decline in investment in housing (-1.6%) in the first quarter.



Source: [Gross domestic product, income and expenditure, first quarter 2019](#)

## Those commuting from one suburb to another are more likely to drive than take public transit

More Canadians are commuting within the city core or from a suburb to the city core, using either public transit or active modes of transportation to get to work (such as biking or walking). However, the car still predominates among those who commute from their home in a suburb to their job in another suburb, little changed from 1996.



Source: [Study: Commuting within Canada's largest cities](#)

## Consumer demand for healthier food increasing

The food available for consumption in Canada reflects increasing consumer demand for healthier food options, leading to the greater availability of fresh fruit and poultry, and the lower availability of sugar and processed foods in 2018.



Source: [Food availability, 2018](#)

## One-third of self-employed workers in Canada do so for the freedom and independence it provides

About 1 in 7 Canadian workers were self-employed in 2018, accounting for 15% of total employment, up from 12% in 1976. One-third of the self-employed cite independence and freedom as their main reason for choosing this form of employment, while 15% said they had to be self-employed because of the nature of their work.

Source: [Study: Self-employed Canadians: Who and Why?](#)