

About one-quarter of Canadians provide care to a family member or friend

In 2018, about one in four Canadians aged 15 and older (or 7.8 million people) provided care to a family member or friend with a long-term health condition, a physical or mental disability, or problems related to aging. While most caregivers (64%) spent less than 10 hours a week on caregiving responsibilities, 15% spent 10 to 19 hours, and 21% spent 20 hours or more.

Source: [Caregivers in Canada, 2018](#)

Rail disruptions affect exports and imports

Canada's merchandise exports declined 1.4% in November to \$48.7 billion, while imports were down 2.4% to \$49.8 billion. Widespread declines across export and import products coincided with disruptions in Canadian rail transportation. The value of exports was at its lowest level for the month of November since 2013.



Source: [Canadian international merchandise trade, November 2019](#)

The unemployment rate declines

Employment increased by 35,000 (+0.2%) in December, and the unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 5.6%.

In the 12 months to December, employment increased by 320,000 (+1.7%), the result of gains in full-time work (+283,000 or +1.9%).



Source: [Labour Force Survey, December 2019](#)

Tourism employment grows

Employment attributable to tourism grew 0.4% in the third quarter. Growth was largely due to more tourism jobs in the air transportation (+2.9%) and accommodation (+1.0%) industries. Tourism



represented 2.0% of gross domestic product and 3.9% of the Canadian workforce in the third quarter.

Source: [National tourism indicators, third quarter 2019](#)