

## Cold snap in Central Canada contributes to uptick in gross domestic product

Real gross domestic product edged up 0.1% in November, regaining most of the decline in October. A major factor in the uptick in gross domestic product in November was a 2.1% increase at utilities—the largest gain in over a year—as a result of unseasonably cold weather in Central Canada.



Source: [Gross domestic product by industry, November 2019](#)

## Less than half of Canadians with a mental health-related disability are employed

The employment rate among Canadians with a mental health-related disability was 46%, compared with approximately 80% for those without a disability.

Over half (52%) of those with a mental health-related disability believed they were disadvantaged in employment because of their condition.



Source: [A profile of Canadians with mental health-related disabilities](#)

## Male life expectancy is unchanged, partly as a result of the opioid crisis

For the third year in a row, male life expectancy at birth in Canada did not increase, and this is likely related to the opioid crisis that is particularly affecting British Columbia and Ontario. From 2017 to 2018, life expectancy for males remained unchanged at 79.9 years, while female life expectancy increased from 84.0 to 84.1 years. For males, the pause in life expectancy in 2016, 2017 and 2018 is the longest on record.

Source: [Life tables, 2016/2018](#)

## Railway shipments down in the wake of a labour disruption

Canadian railways carried 30.0 million tonnes of freight in November, down 11.7% compared with November 2018. This was the largest decline for the month of November in five years and the third consecutive year-over-year monthly decrease in tonnage. The sharp drop coincided with a labour disruption in Canadian rail transportation in November.



Source: [Railway carloadings, November 2019](#)