

## Employment increases in January

Employment increased by 35,000 (+0.2%) in January, all in full-time work. The unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points to 5.5%. While employment in Newfoundland and Labrador was little changed, a large number of employees (50,000 or 25.5% of all employees in the province) lost work hours because of a severe winter storm.



Source: [Labour Force Survey, January 2020](#)

## Canada posts smallest trade deficit in five years

Canada's merchandise trade deficit with the world narrowed from \$1.2 billion in November to \$370 million in December, led by a rebound in energy exports to the United States.

Overall, the trade deficit totalled \$18.3 billion in 2019, the smallest deficit since 2014, when the last annual surplus occurred.



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

## Some crops remain unharvested

As of December 31, 2019, total stocks of wheat (-0.5%), canola (-2.4%), corn for grain (-8.1%), lentils (-14.9%) and soybeans (-9.4%) were down year over year. Because of poor weather conditions during harvest, a substantial amount of crops likely remained unharvested at the time of the survey.

Source: [Stocks of principal field crops, December 31, 2019](#)

## Parents play an important role as primary caregivers

Mental illness was the most common reason for receiving care (18%) in 2018, especially among young care receivers aged 15 to 34 (56%). Just over three-quarters (76%) of young care receivers stated that, were it not for their primary caregiver, typically their parent(s), they would have had difficulty finding help from someone else.



Source: [Receiving care for a mental illness, 2018](#)