

## Household spending declines amid widespread shutdowns

Real gross domestic product fell 2.1% in the first quarter on reduced household spending and widespread shutdowns of non-essential businesses in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compensation of employees (-0.9%) decreased for the first time since the first quarter of 2009.



Source: [Gross domestic product, income and expenditure, first quarter 2020](#)

## Crop insurance payments rise following a cool, wet summer on the Prairies

Farm cash receipts for Canadian farmers totalled \$16.9 billion in the first quarter, up 5.5% from the same quarter in 2019. Crops (+3.8%), livestock (+3.9%) and program payment (+42.4%) receipts were all up from a year earlier. Three-quarters of crop insurance



payments went to the Prairie provinces following a cool, wet growing season in 2019.

Source: [Farm cash receipts, first quarter 2020](#)

## Sales at limited-service eating places buoyed by take-out and delivery

Sales at drinking places (-55.8%) and full service restaurants (-48.6%) were down sharply in the wake of COVID-19 closures mid-month. Limited-service eating places saw the smallest percentage drop (-23.8%), with sales buoyed by take-out and delivery.

Source: [Food services and drinking places, March 2020](#)

## Some Canadians are struggling to meet their financial obligations amid the pandemic

Almost one-fifth (17%) of Canadians aged 25 to 64 report that the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected their ability to meet their financial obligations or essential needs such as buying medicine, according to a new online panel survey.



Source: [Study: Impact of economic consequences of COVID-19 on Canadians' social concerns](#)