

Employment declines halt in May

In May, employment rose by 290,000 (+1.8%) while the number of people who worked less than half of their usual hours declined by 292,000 (-8.6%). Combined, these changes in the labour market represented a recovery of 10.6% of the COVID-related employment losses and absences of the previous two months.



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

Canada's trade deficit with the world more than doubles

Exports (-29.7%) fell to their lowest level in over a decade in April. Imports were down by one-quarter to their lowest level in nine years. The trade deficit over doubled in April to \$3.3 billion, the highest level in just over one year.



Source: [Canadian international merchandise trade](#)

Canadians remain vigilant about physical distancing and hand washing

Canadians participating in an online survey in early May were more likely to practice physical distancing while out in public (92%) than those who participated in a similar survey one month earlier (87%). The proportion of participants who reported washing their hands more regularly rose from 92% to 95%.

Source: [Canadian Perspectives Survey Series 2: Monitoring the effects of COVID-19, May 2020](#)

A larger share of young Canadians going to university

The participation rate of Canadians aged 18 to 24 in university or college was up by 29% from the 2000/2001 to the 2018/2019 academic years. This increase was attributable to a larger share of young Canadians going to university (+56%). The participation rate at the college level was relatively stable.



Source: [Education indicators in Canada](#)