

Federal debt securities reach their highest level since financial crisis

The federal government issued a net \$27.7 billion of debt securities in the first quarter, the highest level since the fourth quarter of 2008 at the height of the financial crisis.

Source: [Securities statistics, first quarter 2020](#)

Perception of crime in the wake of COVID-19

Half of the participants to a recent crowdsourcing survey said that crime in their neighbourhood had remained about the same since the start of the pandemic, 15% felt that crime had decreased and 11% felt that it had increased. One-quarter did not know.



Source: [Canadians' perceptions of personal safety since COVID-19](#)

Canadians stock up on housewares in March

Sales of housewares were up by one-fifth year over year in March, primarily from higher sales of miscellaneous household supplies not elsewhere classified (+41.8%), which include batteries, facial tissue, paper towels and toilet paper.



Source: [Retail Commodity Survey, March 2020](#)

Milk and cream prices vary by province

A litre of milk cost over 80% more on average in Ontario than in Manitoba in April. Prices for cream in Newfoundland and Labrador were almost 50% higher on average compared with British Columbia.



Source: [Provincial monthly average retail prices for selected products, April 2020](#)