

Wine growing in popularity

The Canadian love affair with hops and barley continues, but more and more drinkers are opting for the grape. Beer remained the alcoholic drink of choice for Canadians, with \$9.1 billion in sales and accounting for 40.6% of total sales of alcoholic beverages in 2016/2017. However, the market share of other alcoholic beverages, notably wine, continued to grow.

Source: [Control and sale of alcoholic beverages, year ending March 31, 2017](#)



Residential property values climb sharply

The total value of residential properties in Canada was \$4.8 trillion in 2015, up 7.4% from 2014. The total value has risen 80.2% since 2006. In 2015, four provinces accounted for more than 90% of total national residential property values: Ontario (42.7%), British Columbia (20.5%), Quebec (16.0%) and Alberta (12.6%).

Source: [Residential property values, 2015](#)



Little change in Canada's labour market in April

Employment was essentially unchanged in April, and the unemployment rate held steady at 5.8%. On a year-over-year basis, employment grew by 278,000 (+1.5%). The increase was due to gains in full-time employment (+378,000 or +2.6%), while part-time work declined (-100,000 or -2.8%).

Source: [Labour Force Survey, April 2018](#)



Building permits rise in March after a February decline

The value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities increased 3.1% to \$8.4 billion in March, following a 2.8% decline in February. The rise was mainly the result of higher construction intentions for multi-family dwellings, particularly in Quebec and British Columbia, and, to a lesser extent, by the commercial component.

Source: [Building permits, March 2018](#)