

Building permits increase in August

Canadian municipalities issued \$8.1 billion worth of building permits in August, up 0.4% from July. Strength in the non-residential sector drove the increase, while the residential sector declined for the third consecutive month.



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

Shedding some light on the underground economy

Underground economic activity in Canada totalled \$51.6 billion in 2016, or 2.5% of gross domestic product (GDP). Since 1992, the starting point for this study, the underground economy as a proportion of GDP has been relatively stable, reaching a high of 2.7% in 1994 and a low of 2.2% in 2000.

Source: [The underground economy in Canada, 2016](#)

Counting the places where we play

Canada had 5,400 ice arenas, and over 4,700 pools and splash pads in 2016. There were also nearly 4,400 arts and culture facilities and about 30,000 other facilities, consisting of sports fields, community centres, tennis courts, skate parks, curling rinks and stadiums.



Source: [Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey: Culture, recreation and sports facilities, and public social and affordable housing, 2016](#)

Job vacancy rate up in the second quarter

There were 547,300 job vacancies in Canada in the second quarter of 2018, up 87,100 (+18.9%) from the second quarter of 2017. Most of the increase was for full-time job vacancies (+74,800 or +23.2%). At the same time, the job vacancy rate rose 0.5 percentage points to 3.4%, the highest national job vacancy rate since the beginning of the series in 2015.



Source: [Job vacancies, second quarter 2018](#)