

Grocery store sales surge in March

Whether Canadians were simply re-stocking depleted pantries, shopping less frequently to reduce their exposure to COVID-19 or panic buying, grocery store sales were 40% higher during the week ending March 21 compared with the same week a year earlier.



Source: [Study: Canadian consumers adapts to COVID-19: A look at Canadian grocery sales up to April 11](#)

Border restrictions flatten automobile crossings

The number of US travellers entering Canada by automobile through Integrated Primary Inspection Line land ports fell by nearly 97% from April 2019, while the number of Canadians returning from the United States by automobile was down 95%.



Source: [Leading indicator of cross border traveller volume, April 2020](#)

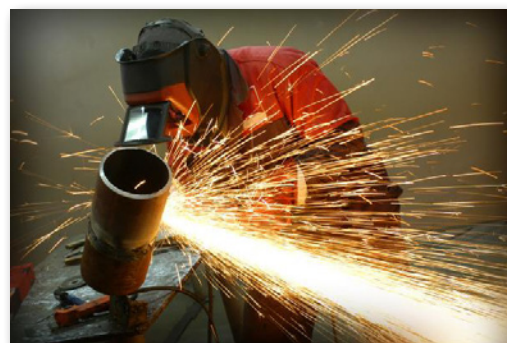
Wine sales sour while sales of beer hop up

Total wine sales by liquor stores, agencies and other retail outlets edged up 0.2% to \$7.5 billion during the fiscal year 2018/2019—the slowest pace since Statistics Canada began tracking alcohol sales in 1950. In contrast, beer sales grew at their fastest pace since 2014/2015, rising 2.0% to \$9.4 billion.

Source: [Control and sale of alcoholic beverages, year ending March 31, 2019](#)

Manufacturing sales fall at their fastest pace since the last recession

Manufacturing sales fell 9.2% to \$50.8 billion in March, the lowest level since June 2016 and the largest percentage decline since December 2008. Month over month, sales were down by one-quarter in the transportation equipment industry and by one-third in the petroleum and coal product industry. Conversely, sales were up in the food (+8.2%), paper (+8.4%) and beverage and tobacco (+6.7%) industries.



Source: [Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, March 2020](#)