

Toronto and Montréal both post record-high population losses to surrounding areas

Despite overall positive population growth, mostly due to international migration, the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) of Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver continued to see more people moving out to other regions of their province rather than moving in. From July 1, 2019, to July 1, 2020, the CMAs of Toronto (-50,375) and Montréal (-24,880) each posted a record loss of people as a result of these population exchanges.

Source: [Canada's population estimates: Subprovincial areas, July 1, 2020](#)

Employment in the natural resources sector partly recovers

Real gross domestic product of the natural resources sector edged up 0.3% in the third quarter, following a record 10.7% decline in the second quarter. Employment in the natural resources sector rose 2.5%. Job recovery was highest in the forestry subsector (+5,760 jobs) due to increased demand stemming from the housing subsector.



Source: [Natural resource indicators, third quarter 2020](#)

Non-residential investment unchanged

Non-residential investment was mostly unchanged in November, remaining at \$4.4 billion. As lockdowns and working from home continued across many parts of the country, reduced investment in office buildings, hotels and restaurants led to an overall reduction in commercial building investment (-0.5%).



Source: [Investment in building construction, November 2020](#)

Food sales remain strong

With COVID-19 restrictions related to the second wave implemented across several provinces, fewer options for dining out further bolstered food sales, which were up 11.4% from the same month a year earlier. The product category cookies, confectionery and snack food (-1.0%) saw the largest decline, as COVID-19



restrictions related to Halloween resulted in lower demand for candy and other Halloween-related treats.

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