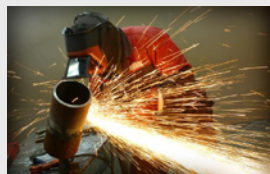


Manufacturing sales fall to their lowest level since 2015



Total manufacturing sales decreased 11.4% to \$610.6 billion in 2020, their lowest level since 2015. The decline was largely due to lower sales of transportation equipment (-23.5%) and petroleum and coal products (-37.4%). In fact, these two industries alone accounted for three quarters of the total decline in manufacturing sales in 2020.

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

Men doing more laundry during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the organization of social and family life in Canada, including the division of household tasks between spouses. Women continue to do most of the household tasks during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially when it comes to laundry and meal preparation. However, compared with



2017, the proportion of Canadians who reported that laundry was mostly done by the man doubled from 8% in 2017 to 16% during the pandemic.

Source: [Study: Sharing household tasks: Teaming up during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Record foreign investment in Canadian debt securities in 2020

Foreign investors acquired a record \$141.1 billion of Canadian debt securities in 2020. In comparison, during the global financial crisis in 2009, this activity totalled \$86.5 billion. Federal government debt securities accounted for more than half of the foreign investment in 2020, as non-resident investors purchased \$38.3 billion of federal government bonds and \$37.3 billion of federal government money market instruments in the year.



Source: [Canada's international transactions in securities, December 2020](#)

Consumers pay more for phones and phone plans

Prices for telephone services, which include landline and cellular services, rose 4.2% month over month in January, the first monthly increase since July 2020 while prices for cellular services increased 5.5%. Despite the monthly increases, prices for multipurpose digital devices (-19.9%) and cellular services (-9.4%) were lower year over year in January.

Source: [Consumer Price Index, January 2021](#)