

Manufacturing posts strong increase in January

Manufacturing sales rose 3.1% to \$56.2 billion in January, exceeding the level observed before the COVID-19 pandemic (February 2020) for the first time. Higher sales of wood products, computer and electronic products, and primary metals contributed the most to the gains.



Source: [Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, January 2021](#)

The Canadian population grows at its slowest pace since 1916

Canada's population growth in 2020 was vastly reduced because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, deaths in Canada surpassed 300,000 (309,893) for the first time in Canadian history. In addition, population increase through international migration was more than 80% lower in 2020 than in 2019.

Source: [Canada's population estimates, fourth quarter 2020](#)

The price of new houses rises sharply in February

New home prices in February rose at their fastest pace in more than three decades (since February 1989). New house prices were up in 22 of the 27 census metropolitan areas surveyed, pushing the national index up 1.9% in February. Builders in most cities linked the spike to higher construction costs as well as to an active housing market.



Source: [New Housing Price Index, February 2021](#)

One in five Canadians has symptoms of depression, anxiety or posttraumatic stress disorder during the pandemic

One in five Canadians screened positive for symptoms of depression, anxiety or posttraumatic stress disorder from September to December 2020. The prevalence of positive screens for these mental health disorders were



over three times higher among young adults (those aged 18 to 24) than among older adults.

Source: [Survey on COVID-19 and Mental Health, September to December 2020](#)