

Residential construction outside metropolitan areas up by over one-third

Investment in residential construction rose to a record high \$12.3 billion in February. The majority of this growth stemmed from single-family home construction, up 9.4% to \$6.7 billion. While single homes built in census metropolitan areas (CMAs) continued to drive the growth, investment outside of CMAs was up a record 37.6% year over year in February.

Source: [Investment in building construction, February 2021](#)

Approximately two-fifths of parents using child care during the pandemic report difficulties finding child care

Approximately two in five parents using regulated or unregulated child care in late 2020 reported difficulty finding it. Parents of 1- to 3-year-olds were the most likely to report difficulties finding child care (41%), while those with children aged 4 or 5 attending school were the least likely to do so (28%).



Source: [Sound Recording and Music Publishing, 2019](#)

Unemployment rate falls to lowest level since start of the pandemic

The unemployment rate declined for the second consecutive month, falling 0.7 percentage points to 7.5% in March, the lowest level since February 2020.



This reflected strong employment growth, which exceeded the number of people entering the labour market. The number of people unemployed stood at 1.5 million, up by one-third (+371,000) since the onset of the pandemic.

Source: [Labour Force Survey, March 2021](#)

COVID-19 vaccine imports double in February

Imports of "vaccines for human medicine other than for influenza," which include COVID-19 vaccines, rose 89.3% to a record \$106.6 million in February. Large month-over-month movements are common for this category, with significant increases expected at this time of year. Nevertheless, imports were 41.1% higher



compared with the same month last year, reaching approximately \$47 million in February, double the estimated value in January.

Source: [Canadian international merchandise trade, February 2021](#)