

## Downtown: The heart of Canadian cities

Downtown neighbourhoods are key employment centres across the country. In 2016, downtown Toronto accounted for 0.3% of the total area of the city but 18.1% of all its jobs. Downtown Vancouver was the most densely populated downtown neighbourhood, with a population density of 18,262 people per square kilometre.



Source: [Demographic Documents: Defining Canada's Downtown Neighbourhoods: 2016 Boundaries](#)

## Residential investment drives first quarter of the year

The total value of investment in building construction rose 9.3% to \$53.1 billion in the first quarter, stemming from continued strength in the residential sector (+12.4%). Investment



for residential buildings reached \$39.5 billion, largely because of higher spending on single units in Ontario (+21.8%) and Quebec (+24.9%).

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

## More Canadians returning by car

In April, there were 184,700 Canadian residents who returned from the United States in Canadian-licensed automobiles. While this is more than the 105,000 recorded in April 2020, it is still down 91.4% from the 2.2 million who drove back across the border during the same month in 2019.

Source: [Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, April 2021](#)

## Ready for summer barbeque season

Stocks of frozen beef were up 27.2% year over year as of April 1. Higher inventories, in preparation for the summer barbeque season, are often observed at this period. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown measures in place limiting restaurants to take-out services in many regions, demand for beef may have been lower than usual.



Source: [Stocks of frozen and chilled meats, April 1, 2021](#)