

Widespread declines in core retail sales amid third wave restrictions

Core retail sales fell 7.6% in April, the largest decline in a year and second largest decline on record. The decline was concentrated in those retailers deemed "non-essential," with all store types except food and beverage (+0.6%) and miscellaneous (+0.9%) store retailers posting declines.



Source: [Retail trade, April 2021](#)

Two in five Canadians check their phone at least every 30 minutes

In a typical day, 43% of Canadians said they checked their smartphone at least every 30 minutes. As for younger Canadians, 71% of those 15 to 24 years of age checked their smartphone at least every 30 minutes, with 17% checking their phone every 5 minutes.



Source: [Canadian Internet Use Survey, 2020](#)

Job vacancies in construction reach all-time high

Vacancies in the construction sector rose by 11,500 (+33.1%) to 46,400 in the first quarter of 2021, the highest number of vacancies for this sector since comparable data became available in 2015. Just over one-third (33.8%) of businesses in construction reported recruiting and retaining skilled employees as an obstacle to their business, the highest proportion of all sectors.

Source: [Job vacancies, first quarter 2021](#)

Many more men accused in incidents of purchasing sexual services

The number of men accused of obtaining sexual services from an adult or from a minor increased from 132 in the five years prior to the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* in 2014 to 2,489 in the five years after. Most men (92%) accused of these offences were criminally charged.



Source: [Crimes related to the sex trade: Before and after legislative changes in Canada](#)