

STATISTICS CANADA REPORTS THAT TOURISM SPENDING IS GROWING IN CANADA

Statistics Canada releases national tourism indicators for third quarter 2018. Canada's tourism sector is a driver of the Canadian economy: it contributes to economic growth and creates opportunities and jobs for the middle class across Canada. The tourism sector is an important source of employment for Canadians, supporting 1.8 million jobs across the country. Yesterday, Statistics Canada released a report that highlights the latest numbers for Canada's tourism sector. From January to September of 2018, tourism spending in Canada was \$80.8 billion, an increase of 5.9% compared to the same period in 2017. Domestic revenues edged up 6.9% to almost \$63.3 billion, and tourism revenues from international travellers increased 2.3% to \$17.5 billion. In the first nine months of 2018, tourism activities directly accounted for \$33.9 billion of Canada's GDP, an increase of 5.9% over the same period in

2017. Tourism directly accounted for over 750,000 jobs from January to September 2018, an increase of 1.3% compared to the same period in 2017. Tourism is a vital and growing part of the Canadian economy. From 2014 to 2017, Canada's tourism sector gained ground by almost every measure. International arrivals in Canada grew by an average of 8% per year and the tourism sector's contribution to GDP grew by an average of 4.6% per year. From 2014 to 2017, the number of jobs in Canada's tourism sector grew by an average of 1.7% per year. "These numbers prove that the tourism sector deserves to be recognized for its high growth potential. It's a driving force in job creation for the middle class. This is why I'm crossing the country to hear from leaders in the industry on new ways to grow Canadian tourism opportunities and increase competitiveness globally. And it's why our gov-

ernment created the Advisory Council on Jobs and the Visitor Economy. People worldwide have never travelled so much, and we are working on a national tourism strategy to help communities across the country, large and small, draw more visitors to their regions. The future is bright for Canadian tourism." – The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Tourism, Official Languages and La Francophonie Quick facts Canada's tourism industry is thriving, supporting over 1.8 million jobs across the country. From January to October 2018, Canada welcomed a record 18.6 million international tourists, an increase of 1.2% over the same period in 2017. The Advisory Council on Jobs and the Visitor Economy is made up of business owners, entrepreneurs, and tourism operators and professionals who recognize the economic importance of the tourism sector.

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11,600 FULL-TIME JOBS LOST IN DECEMBER, SLIDE TOWARDS PART-TIME JOB ECONOMY CONTINUES

According to December's Labour Force Survey, Ontario shed 11,600 full-time jobs in December. Since Doug Ford took office, 94.7 per cent of all net new jobs created in Ontario have been part-time. All job gains made in December were part-time. NDP Employment, Jobs, Research and Innovation critic Catherine Fife said the numbers suggest a worrying decline into a part-time job economy, one where

Ontarians must increasingly take on jobs with less stability, and without benefits or pensions. "The December numbers show that Ford's schemes — eliminating green energy jobs, making cuts to public services, and walking away from the auto industry — are putting more Ontarians into that kind of lower-wage, unstable work with no benefits, instead of good jobs with benefits," said Fife.

Fife said that it's time to invest in innovation, the knowledge economy, green energy jobs and 21st-century manufacturing to create more full-time jobs and good careers in Ontario. "What this province needs is more good full-time jobs — ones that pay well and provide workers with the stability and benefits they deserve," said Fife.

CANADA'S CONSERVATIVES CALL FOR EMERGENCY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING ON CHINESE - CANADIAN RELATIONS

The Hon. Erin O'Toole, Conservative Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, issued the following statement after requesting an emergency meeting of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development to discuss the state of Chinese-Canadian relations: "Since the December 1st arrest of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou, Canadians have been subject to retaliatory detentions by the Chinese government, while dozens of others have been detained on administrative grounds or had their visas questioned. "Prime Minister Trudeau confirmed that he believes that

these detentions are 'completely politically motivated' but he has still not called the Chinese President about these actions. Clearly, Justin Trudeau's naïve approach to diplomacy is not working. "That is why Conservatives on the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs are calling for an emergency committee meeting. The Liberals need to outline what steps they are taking to ensure the immediate release of detained Canadians and be clear whether or not it is safe for Canadians to travel to China. The Canadian Ambassador to China, the Hon. John McCallum is in Canada to brief the liberal government

on the situation and the committee should have the opportunity to hear from him as well. Canadians are rightly concerned about family members in China and are question whether it is safe to travel there amid the present dispute. "Canada's Conservatives will continue to urge Justin Trudeau to intervene on behalf of Canadians detained in China and to provide certainty to the hundreds of Canadians with family members working in China or those considering travel to the country."

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