

# Economic Update July 2019



The **New Housing Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 97.8 in April 2019 down -1.2%\*

The **Consumer Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 139.3 in May 2019 up 1.5%\*

**Retail trade** for Newfoundland and Labrador was \$738 million in April 2019 down -3.6%\*

\* same month in the previous year. Source: Statistics Canada



... as of May 2019

Labour Force	126,200 (up 4.8%)
Unemployment Rate	8.0% (down 0.8 ppts)
Employment	116,200 (up 5.8%)
Participation Rate	67.8% (up 2.9 ppts)

*St. John's CMA, seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average. Percentage change reflects the same month previous year. Source: Statistics Canada*

## Business Briefs



### Kraken Robotics receives federal funding for Ocean Vision™ technology

Local business Kraken Robotics is the first company to receive conditional approval for a R&D project from Canada's Ocean Supercluster. The project, titled Ocean Vision™, will focus on creating a modern ocean economy using Artificial Intelligence technology to create high resolution images of the seafloor for a variety of ocean industries. The technology will be used in industries like oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, science and defense. The Canadian government is contributing \$5.9-million to the \$20 million project and Kraken has partnered with other Ocean Supercluster members. The contracting process with all project participants should be finalized by the end of the third quarter of 2019. <https://krakenrobotics.com>

### Propel ICT looking for promising tech startups

Propel ICT, the Atlantic Canadian tech support organization, has opened applications for Phase Two of their Incite accelerator program that starts September 16, 2019. For early-stage technology companies to qualify for Incite they must have: an ICT component to their business model; have sales or are close to having sales; and have full-time founders. With a completely VIRTUAL program delivery, Incite gives entrepreneurs the freedom to focus on high payoff activities and eliminates geographic boundaries. The program includes online peer-to-peer meetups, one-on-ones with an entrepreneur-in-residence, video content and more. Deadline to apply is July 31. Visit [www.propelict.com](http://www.propelict.com) for further details.

### Futurpreneur Canada Expands their loan offering

Futurpreneur Canada, in partnership with the Business Development Bank of Canada, is increasing its loan offering from a maximum of \$45,000 to a maximum of \$60,000, starting on June 18, 2019. This increase means

young entrepreneurs (those between 18-39 years old) will have even more financial support to launch their business, alongside the mentorship and resources Futurpreneur continues to provide. These businesses help grow the Canadian economy, create jobs and shape our local communities. Visit [futurpreneur.ca](http://futurpreneur.ca) or contact the Business Development Manager (NL) at [sandrews@futurpreneur.ca](mailto:sandrews@futurpreneur.ca)  
Here is a short video regarding the new loan offering: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)



## City Building Permits (year to date)

As of June 25, 2019 the value of:

- **Commercial** permits were down -34% from \$104,726,178 in 2018 to \$69,265,169 in 2019
- **Industrial** permits were valued at \$5,000 for 2018 and \$3,000 for 2019
- **Government/Institutional** permits were down from \$2,423,682 in 2018 to \$1,503,350 in 2019\*
- **Residential** permits were down -56% to \$16,680,265 for 2019 over \$38,080,177 for 2018
- **Repair** permits were down -28%, from \$1,221,995 in 2018 to \$945,117 in 2019
- **Total** value of all permits was down -40% to \$88,396,901 for 2019 over \$146,457,032 for 2018

\* Note that this data does not include the full range of permit activity undertaken by the provincial government and Memorial University.



## Business Approvals

## City Initiatives



Cork'd Lounge, 345-353 Duckworth St.  
Electrical Allstars cheerleading, 681 Topsail Rd.  
Place of Amusement-Lounge, 655 Topsail Rd.  
Newfoundland Chocolate Company, 141 Torbay Rd.  
Tattoo shop, 335 Duckworth St.

### Home-based Businesses

Essential Oils preparation, 122 Prowse Ave.

### 2019 Total 72

- Regular 47
- Home-based 25

### Economic Outlook 2019

The economy in the St. John's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is expected to improve in 2019 as the economic gains from rising oil production and increased capital investment in major projects more than offset losses due to declining investment activity in Muskrat Falls. Real gross domestic product (GDP) in the St. John's CMA is forecast to grow by 7.1% in 2019 to \$18.7 billion, the fastest growth of any major Canadian metropolitan area. Private sector industries such as construction and professional, scientific and technical services are expected to show strong growth in 2019, in addition to the increased growth in the oil and gas sector.

Read the full report here

[stjohns.ca/publications/economic-outlook-2019](http://stjohns.ca/publications/economic-outlook-2019)

### Upcoming Events

Jul 11 [Business Solutions Pop-Up](#)  
Jul 11 [Making Entrepreneurship Accessible](#)  
Jul 25-27 [Canadian Society of Professional Event Planners](#)  
Jul 25 [Business Solutions Pop-Up](#)  
Jul 31 [Connector NL Information Session](#)  
Aug 4-7 [Int. Association of Firefighters Canadian Policy Conference](#)



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