

Canada

RBC/Holiday Spending

Survey found 31% spent more than intended during the holidays and women are more likely to go over budget than men. For those who overspent exceeded their budget by an average of \$467.

Food Services

Sales for the food services and drinking places industry were up 0.6% from October to \$4.3 billion in November, seven provinces posted higher sales, two declined and one was stable.

Corporate

General Motors

A snapshot of 2010, as reported by Fortune:

Category	Stats
Revenue	\$135.6 billion
Profit	\$6.2 billion
Employees	202,000

Retail

Retail Sales

Retail sales in Canada increased 0.3% in November to \$38.7 billion. That is the fourth consecutive month of increase. On an annual basis, sales rose 3.1% over the same period last year.

Movies

Paramount

Paramount is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a modification to its logo (a more distant view of the company's mountain with a sunrise or sunset behind it) with the words "100 Years" superimposed on the mountain. Note: the first film produced by the studio was The Squaw Man by founders Cecil B. DeMille, Samuel Goldwyn and Jesse Lasky out of the ashes of The Famous Players/Lasky Corporation.

Global

White Gold

The U.S. was the largest Lithium producer until South American firms tapped vast reserves from subsurface Brine:

Country	Reserves	Production	
		2010	2009
Chile	7,500,000	8,800	5,620
China	3,500,000	4,500	3,760
Argentina	850,000	2,900	2,220
Australia	580,000	8,500	6,280
Brazil	64,000	180	160
U.S.	38,000	NA	NA
Zimbabwe	23,000	470	400
World Total	13,000,000	25,300	18,800

MBA School Ranking/Financial Times Newspaper

Five Canadian Universities in global top 100 Business Schools ranking:

School	Rank 2012	Salary Today (\$)	Country
Stanford School of Business	1	191,657	US
Harvard Business School	2	177,876	US
Univ. of Pennsylvania: Wharton	3	176,299	US
London Business School	4	154,783	UK
Columbia Business School	5	171,647	US
Insead	6	144,422	France/Singapore
MIT: Sloan	7	158,083	US
IE Business School	8	152,127	Spain
Iese Business School	9	135,302	Spain
Hong Kong UST Business School	10	127,600	China
Univ. of Toronto: Rotman	44	96,679	Canada
York University: Schulich	59	86,587	Canada
McGill University: Desautels	61	89,623	Canada
Univ. of Western Ontario: Ivey	68	99,830	Canada
Univ. Of British Columbia: Sauder	82	81,028	Canada

Online

Pandora

Online personalized radio service Pandora claims more than 125 million registered users, a huge jump from 75 million at the same time last year. Monthly listening on average per user, is now at 18 hours.

Zynga

Online video gamer Zynga claims that it has 227 million active monthly users who buy virtual items, such as houses and tractors while they play free games on the internet. However, only a small portion – roughly 7.7 million are considered unique paying players.

Reuters/YouTube

News service Reuters is launching Reuters TV, a new YouTube channel featuring ten new commentary and analysis shows from the news and media division of Thomson Reuters.

Mobile

RIM/Goldman Sachs

Rumors are circulating that Blackberry maker RIM has hired Goldman Sachs to help suss out its options (sale or merger) Note: RIMs stock has declined in value by some 75% in the last year.

Smartphones/Digital Camera

The percentage of photos taken with a smartphone rose to 27% from 17% last year, while the share of photos taken on any camera dropped from 52% to 44%. According to NPD Retail Tracking Services, the point-n-shoot camera market was down 17% in units and 18% in dollars for the first 11 months in 2011.

Litigation

Yahoo/Spammer Scheme

In the U.S., Yahoo has been awarded \$610 million in a judgment against spammers responsible for a fake Yahoo lottery email scheme, which was a hoax designed to trick unsuspecting email users to reveal valuable personal data (passwords, credit card info, social security number). The suit was filed in 2008.

Gaming

Sony/Vita

Last week, Sony started selling its latest hand held video game system in Japan called Vita, which includes a 5 inch, touchscreen next generation display, front and rear cameras and motion sensors. The Nintendo DS has been the dominant dedicated handheld game system, selling more than 149 million worldwide since 2004, vs. 73 million for PlayStation Portable.

Music

Top Tours

Touring trade publication Pollstar estimates that the top 100 tours of North America grossed \$2.3 billion, up 6.3% over 2010's \$2.2 billion but still below 2009's \$2.5 billion. The tours sold 34.7 million tickets, a drop of 2.6% offset by rising ticket prices, which climbed 8.8% to an average \$67.22.

Tours	Gross Revenue (millions)
U2	\$156.0
Taylor Swift	\$97.7
Kenny Chesney	\$84.6
Lady Gaga	\$63.7
Bon Jovi	\$57.1
Elton John	\$51.8
Sade	\$48.6
Kanye West/Jay-Z	\$48.3
Lil Wayne	\$44.4
Celine Dion	\$41.2

Rara.com

Latest cloud based subscription music service to enter the fray is called rara.com, which sports 10 million tracks covering music from all the major music labels as well as independents. Instead of offering free, ad-based options to draw users in and potentially upsell them to paid, ad-free services, rara.com is offering only ad free options letting users store tracks on their devices. Also, artists will get paid per track played rather than a flat license fee.

Technology

Yahoo TV

Yahoo's Connected TV application is available on TVs from Sony, Samsung, Vizio, Toshiba, Haier and HiSense. The company claims over 1 million engage with the application each month such as voting, shopping, trivia pursuit, videos photos and game show play.

Consumer Electronic Show (CES) Products Debuts: A Variety Presentation

Year	Product Debut
1970	Videocassette recorder (VCR)
1974	Laserdisc player
1981	Camcorder
1990	Digital audio technology
1991	Compact disc-interactive
1993	Minidisc
1994	Digital satellite system
1996	Digital versatile disc (DVD)
1998	High definition television (HDTV)
1999	Personal video recorder (PVR)
2000	Digital audio radio (DAR)
2001	Microsoft Xbox
2001	Plasma TV
2002	Home media server
2003	HD radio
2003	Blu-ray DVD
2003	HDTV PVR
2004	HD Radio
2005	IP TV
2008	OLED TV
2009	3D HDTV
2010	Tablets, Netbooks, Android Devices
2011	Connected TV, Smart appliances, Microsoft Kinect

Sports

NHL/Fighting

The National Hockey League has reported that fighting is down 25% this season:

- Last season there were 697 fighting majors in the first half, this season 519
- 21 of the 30 teams have had fewer fighting majors than they had at the midpoint last season. Seven are up.
- Last season 252 players had at least one fight at the halfway point and this season there are 213 players.

NHL/Longest Point Scoring Streaks

Top players with the longest NHL point streaks:

Players (team)	Years	Games
Wayne Gretzky (Edmonton)	'83-84	51
Mario Lemieux (Pittsburgh)	'89-90	46
Wayne Gretzky (Edmonton)	'85-86	39
Wayne Gretzky (Edmonton)	'82-83	30
Mats Sundin (Quebec)	'92-93	30

Baseball's Biggest Contracts

The largest total contracts in baseball history, as presented by USA Today:

Player (team)	Total (mm)	Years
Alex Rodriguez (Rangers)	\$275	2001-10
Albert Pujols (Angels)	\$254	2011-21
Alex Rodriguez (Yankees)	\$252	2008-17
Derek Jeter (Yankees)	\$189	2001-10
Joe Mauer (Twins)	\$184	2011-18
Mark Telxera (Yankees)	\$180	2009-16

Personalities

AFTRA/SAG

The Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) have agreed on a new merged name: SAG-AFTRA United

Muhammad Ali

Former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali celebrated his 70th birthday on January 17.

Deep Ocean Expeditions/The Titanic

Deep Ocean Expeditions is offering a special trip for people wishing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic: a two week cruise, a dive in a Mir submersible for 2 to the Titanic wreck, which lasts 8 to 10 hours, for a cost of \$60,000.

Naming Rights

According to BabyCenter.com, the most popular names for 2011 in Canada were:

Rank	Girls	Boys
1	Emma	Liam
2	Sophia	Ethan
3	Olivia	Jackson
4	Emily	Jacob
5	Hailey	Noah
6	Ella	Lucas
7	Lily	Nathan
8	Zoe	Aiden
9	Ava	Mason
10	Kaitlyn	Logan

Contact Information:

**473 Adelaide St. W, Suite 300
 Toronto, ON M5V 1T1
 416-920-6864**

@MPG_MC_Canada