

Some Canadians face long drives to work

In 2016, 12.6 million Canadians reported that they commuted to work by car. For some car commuters, however, the duration of the trip can be particularly long. In 2016, approximately 854,000 car commuters spent at least 60 minutes travelling to work.

Source: [Study: Long commutes to work by car](#)



Lower gas prices temper a rise in the Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index rose 1.4% on a year-over-year basis in January, down from a 2.0% increase in December. Energy costs declined 6.9%, while the growth in the price of services slowed to 2.7%.



Source: [Consumer Price Index, January 2019](#)

After-tax income increases for the first time in three years

Median after-tax income of Canadian families and unattached individuals rose 3.3% to \$59,800 in 2017, following two years without growth. This gain was the result of a combination of factors, including higher wages and salaries among non-senior families (where the highest income earner was under 65 years of age), and an increase in child benefits.



Source: [Canadian Income Survey, 2017](#)

Gross domestic product growth slows in the fourth quarter of 2018

Growth in real gross domestic product slowed to 0.1% in the fourth quarter of 2018, the slowest pace since the second quarter of 2016. Annual growth was 1.8% for 2018, following a 3.0% increase in 2017.

Source: [Gross domestic product, income and expenditure, fourth quarter 2018](#)