

## Inflation slows in 2019

The annual average increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) slowed from 2.3% in 2018 to 1.9% in 2019. Excluding gasoline, the annual average CPI rose 2.3% in 2019—the largest increase since 2003. This increase coincided with favourable labour market conditions, including a low unemployment rate throughout 2019 and strong wage growth over the last seven months of the year.



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

## New housing prices down in Vancouver and Toronto in 2019

Nationally, new house prices rose 0.2% in December, the largest monthly increase for the month of December since 2009. For 2019 as a whole, new house prices increased the most in Ottawa (+5.4%) and Montréal (+3.9%), but were down in Vancouver (-1.4%) and Toronto (-0.9%) in the wake of policy measures put in place to cool the real estate markets in both cities.



Source: [New Housing Price Index, December 2019](#)

## Mental health is the most common reason for receiving care

In 2018, 18% of care recipients reported mental illness as the main health condition or problem for which they received help. Other common reasons for care included problems related to aging (9%) and cardiovascular disease (7%).



Source: [Care receivers in Canada, 2018](#)

## Price gap between legal and illegal cannabis increasing

The price gap between legal and illegal cannabis widened year over year in the fourth quarter of 2019, as the average price of legal cannabis rose from \$9.69 per gram to \$10.30 per gram over the period, and that of illegal cannabis fell from \$6.44 per gram to \$5.73 per gram.

Source: [StatsCannabis data availability: Crowdsourced cannabis prices, fourth quarter 2019](#)