

## The value of building permits increases in 2019

Municipalities issued \$102.4 billion worth of permits in 2019, up 2.6% compared with 2018. Building intentions in the non-residential sector increased 9.4% to \$40.4 billion, led by commercial permits (+7.5% to \$23.2 billion). Conversely, the value of permits for single-family dwellings fell 4.9% to \$26.5 billion, its lowest level since 2009.



Source: [Building permits, December 2019](#)

## Canada's population growth concentrated in urban regions

Canada continues to be more urbanized, as the population growth of Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs) outpaced growth in the rest of the country (1.7% versus 0.6%). Permanent and temporary immigration continues to drive population growth in Canada's CMAs, accounting for almost all of their growth in 2018/2019. In contrast, international migration accounted for just over half of the population growth in non-CMAs of the country.



Source: [Canada's population estimates: Subprovincial areas, July 1, 2019](#)

## Fruit production hampered by difficult growing conditions

The production of apples, strawberries, sweet cherries, nectarines, peaches, raspberries, and Saskatoon berries were all down in 2019 from a year earlier. Weather conditions were a challenge for fruit producers across the country, notably as a result of shorter spring and fall seasons, an extremely cold winter in Western Canada and the impact of Hurricane Dorian in Nova Scotia.



Source: [Fruit and vegetable production, 2019](#)

## Sales up for specialized design services

Operating revenue for the specialized design services industry group, which includes interior, industrial, graphic and other specialized design services, rose 3.6% to \$3.1 billion in 2018. Over half of total sales were to businesses (54.9%), followed by sales to individuals and households (27.3%).

Source: [Specialized design services, 2018](#)