

# Consumer Price Index, December 2019

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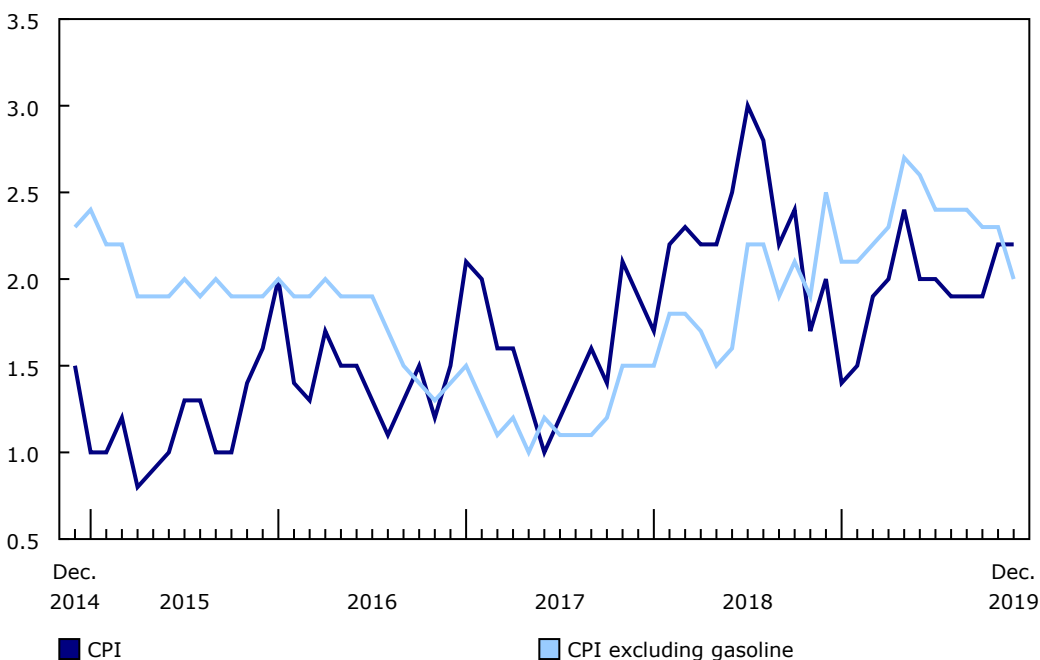
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.2% on a year-over-year basis in December, matching the increase in November. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 2.0%, the smallest gain since November 2018.

On a [seasonally adjusted monthly basis](#), the CPI rose 0.4% in December, following a 0.1% increase in November.

## Chart 1

### The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and CPI excluding gasoline

12-month % change



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

## Check out the 2019 annual review infographic

Today, Statistics Canada released the infographic [Consumer Price Index: 2019 in Review](#), highlighting the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI). This infographic looks at the annual average consumer inflation in Canada and the regions in 2019, while also highlighting the noteworthy average price movements of the year.

## Two ways of exploring the CPI

Visit the [CPI Portal](#) to find all CPI data, publications, interactive tools, and announcements highlighting new products and upcoming changes to the CPI in one convenient location.

Check out the [CPI Data Visualization Tool](#) to access current and historical CPI data in a customizable, visual format.



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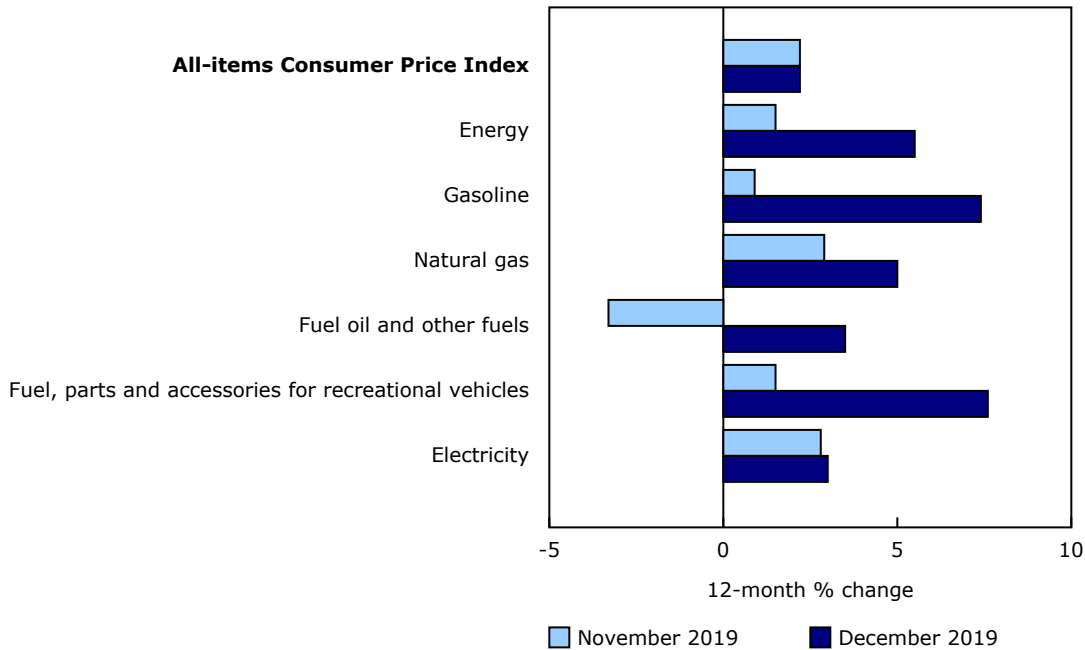
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## Highlights

Energy prices were 5.5% higher in December on a year-over-year basis, following a 1.5% increase in November. Despite declining 0.5% on a monthly basis, gasoline prices were 7.4% higher year over year in December after a 0.9% increase in November. This growth was due to lower prices in December 2018, when crude oil prices fell amid a global oversupply, leading to lower prices at the pump. Similarly, after falling 3.3% in November, the index for fuel oil and other fuels, which is affected by the same global oil dynamics, was up 3.5% year over year in December.

**Chart 2**  
Energy prices continue to increase year over year



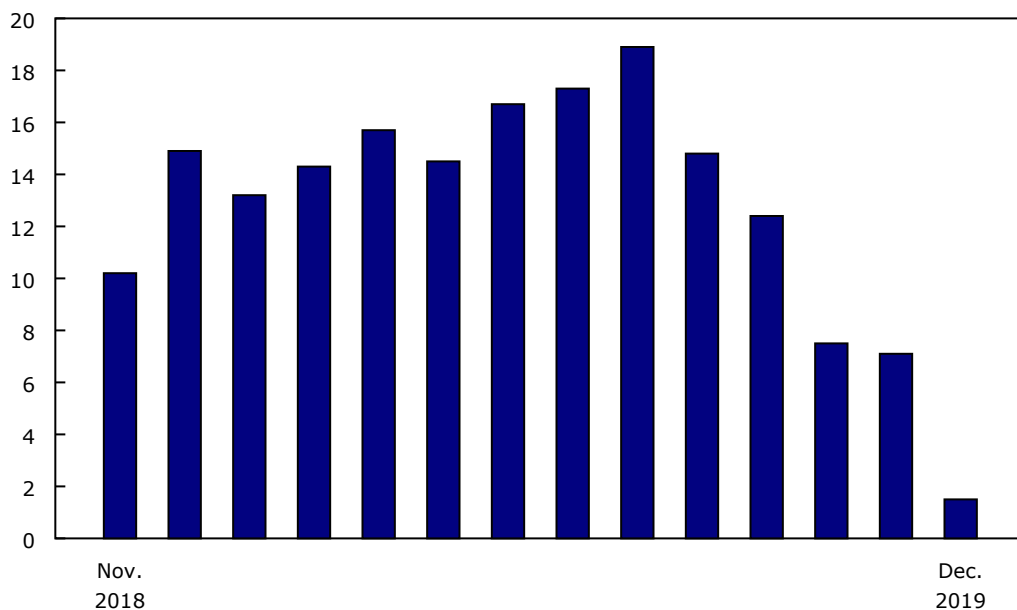
Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

## Fresh vegetable prices increase at a slower rate

Year-over-year growth in fresh vegetable prices (+1.5%) continued to slow in December, driven in part by lower year-over-year prices for lettuce. Lettuce prices were down 5.0% compared with December 2018, when prices rose following an E. coli outbreak. The source of the outbreak was initially unknown, which required all stock of romaine lettuce in the United States to be disposed of, limiting supply and driving up prices for other types of lettuce.

### Chart 3 Fresh vegetable prices continue to grow at a slower pace

12-month % change



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

### Prices for passenger vehicles and mortgage interest costs grow at a slower pace

The purchase of passenger vehicles index rose 1.4% year over year in December after a 2.9% increase in the previous month. Price growth slowed as consumers were offered larger rebates compared with November.

The mortgage interest cost index (+6.0%), which has consistently been among the top upward contributors to the 12-month increase in the all-items CPI in 2019, grew at the slowest year-over-year pace since August 2018 as major commercial lenders continued to lower their interest rates.

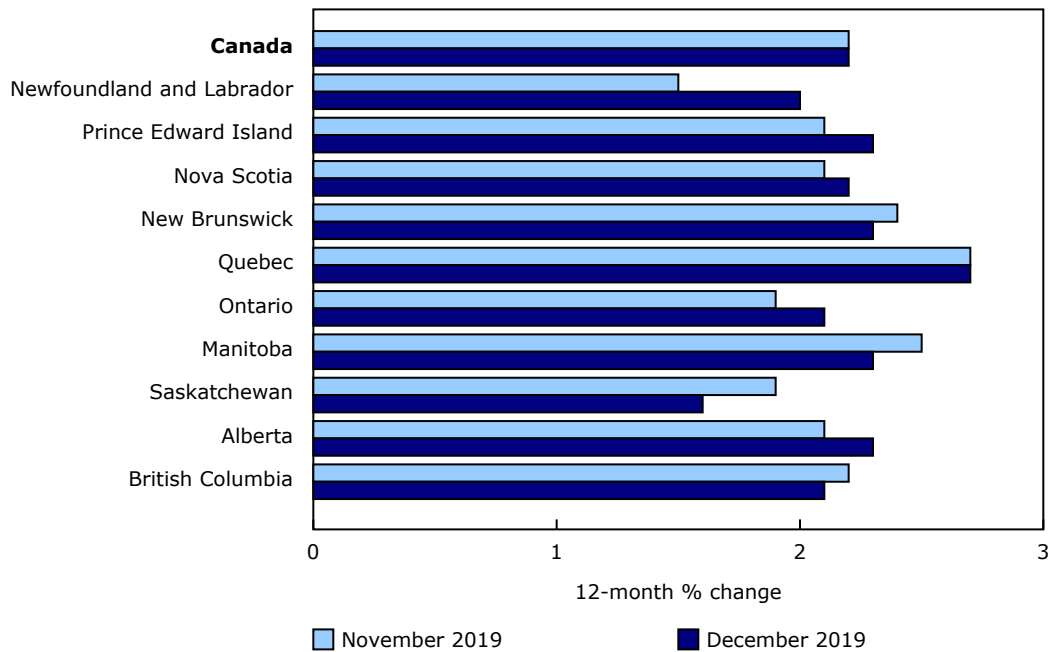
### Recreational cannabis prices fall in December

Prices for recreational cannabis fell 7.0% on a month-over-month basis in December, largely due to holiday sale pricing as cannabis inventories rose.

### Regional highlights

On a year-over-year basis, prices rose more in December than in November in five provinces.

**Chart 4**  
**The Consumer Price Index rises at a faster pace in five provinces**



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

**Higher prices for fuel oil and other fuels in the Atlantic provinces**

Consumer prices for fuel oil rose at a faster pace year over year in all provinces compared with November. This increase influenced the CPI the most in the Atlantic provinces, where fuel oil is more commonly used for home heating.

**Energy prices rise year over year in Alberta**

Consumers in Alberta paid more, on a year-over-year basis, for electricity in December (+8.8%) compared with November (+7.0%), following the removal of the province's price cap on the residential regulated energy rate.

Prices for natural gas rose 8.4% year over year in December after decreasing 2.3% in November. A 4.0% monthly price decline from November to December 2018, when utility providers revised commodity prices to reflect low forecasted natural gas prices, no longer influences the 12-month index movement. On a month-over-month basis, consumers paid 6.5% more for natural gas in December 2019 due to higher commodity rates related to lower inventories and increased demand from colder weather.

## Note to readers

### Air transportation index

After better aligning the air transportation index with consumer spending patterns in March 2018 by converting to Internet price collection, increasing the number of origin-destination city pairs and introducing advance pricing, further enhancements to the air transportation index have been implemented with the November 2019 Consumer Price Index (CPI):

- Introduction of automatic daily price collection using application programming interfaces;
- Additional origin/destination city pairs;
- Extension of the airline sample to include all airlines serving the Canadian market.

These changes constitute important enhancements in maintaining the quality and relevance of the air transportation index, which represents 1.49% of the 2017 CPI basket and is part of the transportation major component.

A document outlining the details of these changes is available in the [Prices Analytical Series](#).

### Cellular services index

The cellular services price index is now available upon request. For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)).

### Real-time data tables

Real-time data table 18-10-0259-01 will be updated on February 3.

### Next release

The Consumer Price Index for January will be released on February 19.

**Table 1**  
**Consumer Price Index, major components and special aggregates, Canada – Not seasonally adjusted**

	Relative importance <sup>1,2</sup>	December 2018	November 2019	December 2019	November to December 2019	December 2018 to December 2019
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>133.4</b>	<b>136.4</b>	<b>136.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Food	16.48	147.5	151.1	151.9	0.5	3.0
Shelter	27.36	142.3	145.9	146.3	0.3	2.8
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	12.80	123.4	123.6	122.9	-0.6	-0.4
Clothing and footwear	5.17	92.6	98.5	95.3	-3.2	2.9
Transportation	19.95	138.0	141.5	143.1	1.1	3.7
Gasoline	3.13	154.4	166.7	165.8	-0.5	7.4
Health and personal care	4.79	125.6	128.0	127.9	-0.1	1.8
Recreation, education and reading	10.24	112.9	114.5	113.2	-1.1	0.3
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.21	169.3	172.0	170.0	-1.2	0.4
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
All-items excluding food	83.52	130.7	133.6	133.4	-0.1	2.1
All-items excluding food and energy	77.01	128.5	131.0	130.8	-0.2	1.8
All-items excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smokers' supplies and recreational cannabis	96.79	132.3	135.3	135.3	0.0	2.3
All-items excluding energy	93.50	131.9	134.6	134.5	-0.1	2.0
All-items excluding gasoline	96.87	132.5	135.2	135.2	0.0	2.0
Energy <sup>3</sup>	6.50	150.1	158.1	158.3	0.1	5.5
Goods	44.29	119.6	123.3	122.6	-0.6	2.5
Durable goods	12.94	90.0	91.9	90.9	-1.1	1.0
Semi-durable goods	6.63	95.4	100.2	97.7	-2.5	2.4
Non-durable goods	24.72	143.6	148.1	148.3	0.1	3.3
Services	55.71	147.3	149.4	150.1	0.5	1.9

1. 2017 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at December 2018 prices, Canada, effective with the January 2019 CPI.

2. Figures may not add up to 100% as a result of rounding.

3. The special aggregate "energy" comprises electricity, natural gas, fuel oil and other fuels, gasoline, and fuel, parts and accessories for recreational vehicles.

Source(s): Tables [18-10-0004-01](#) and [18-10-0007-01](#).

**Table 2**  
**Consumer Price Index for the provinces and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit – Not seasonally adjusted**

	Relative importance <sup>1,2</sup>	December 2018	November 2019	December 2019	November to December 2019	December 2018 to December 2019
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>133.4</b>	<b>136.4</b>	<b>136.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.31	136.9	139.9	139.6	-0.2	2.0
Prince Edward Island	0.33	135.3	139.0	138.4	-0.4	2.3
Nova Scotia	2.31	134.9	138.4	137.9	-0.4	2.2
New Brunswick	1.76	133.3	137.3	136.4	-0.7	2.3
Quebec	20.72	128.9	132.4	132.4	0.0	2.7
Ontario	39.83	135.0	137.7	137.8	0.1	2.1
Manitoba	3.16	134.3	137.6	137.4	-0.1	2.3
Saskatchewan	2.98	137.4	140.5	139.6	-0.6	1.6
Alberta	12.15	140.5	143.6	143.7	0.1	2.3
British Columbia	15.27	129.0	131.8	131.7	-0.1	2.1
Whitehorse	0.08	131.4	133.9	134.8	0.7	2.6
Yellowknife	0.07	137.8	139.5	140.0	0.4	1.6
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	130.4	130.9	132.2	1.0	1.4

1. 2017 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at December 2018 prices, effective with the January 2019 CPI.

2. Figures may not add up to 100% as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Tables [18-10-0004-01](#) and [18-10-0007-01](#).

**Table 3**  
**Consumer Price Index, major components and special aggregates – Seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>**

	October 2019	November 2019	December 2019	October to November 2019	November to December 2019
	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>136.7</b>	<b>136.8</b>	<b>137.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Food	151.6	151.9	152.2	0.2	0.2
Shelter	145.7	145.9	146.3	0.1	0.3
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	123.8	123.7	123.5	-0.1	-0.2
Clothing and footwear	96.8	97.1	97.3	0.3	0.2
Transportation	142.3	142.6	143.3	0.2	0.5
Health and personal care	127.9	128.0	128.3	0.1	0.2
Recreation, education and reading	117.2	116.3	116.4	-0.8	0.1
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	171.5	172.3	170.9	0.5	-0.8
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
All-items excluding food	133.9	134.1	134.5	0.1	0.3
All-items excluding food and energy <sup>2</sup>	131.4	131.3	131.5	-0.1	0.2

1. A seasonally adjusted series is one from which seasonal movements have been eliminated. Each month, the previous month's seasonally adjusted index is subject to revision. On an annual basis, the seasonally adjusted values for the last three years are revised with the release of January data. Users employing Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for indexation purposes are advised to use the unadjusted indexes. For more information on the availability and uses of seasonally adjusted CPI data, please see the "Definitions, data sources and methods" section of survey [2301](#).

2. The special aggregate "energy" comprises electricity, natural gas, fuel oil and other fuels, gasoline, and fuel, parts and accessories for recreational vehicles.

Source(s): Table [18-10-0006-01](#).

**Table 4**  
**Consumer Price Index statistics, preferred measures of core inflation – Bank of Canada definitions, year-over-year percent change, Canada<sup>1,2</sup>**

	September 2019	October 2019	November 2019	December 2019
	% change			
CPI-common <sup>3,5</sup>	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
CPI-median <sup>4,6</sup>	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2
CPI-trim <sup>4,7</sup>	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1

1. For more information on these measures of core inflation, please consult the [methodology](#) and [general information](#) documents found in our Definitions, data sources and methods - record number [2301](#).

2. The Bank of Canada's preferred measures of core inflation, CPI-common, CPI-median and CPI-trim, are subject to revision. In the case of CPI-median and CPI-trim, this results from the fact that these measures are based on seasonally adjusted price index series. In the case of CPI-common, revisions are due to the statistical technique used, as the factor model is estimated over all available historical data. The table [18-10-0259-01](#) contains the historical release data for these three measures and will be updated every month.

3. This measure is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series adjusted to remove the effect of changes in indirect taxes.

4. This measure is based on CPI series that have been treated to remove the effect of changes in indirect taxes, and that have been seasonally adjusted.

5. CPI-common is a measure of core inflation that tracks common price changes across categories in the CPI basket.

6. CPI-median is a measure of core inflation corresponding to the price change located at the 50th percentile (in terms of CPI basket weights) of the distribution of price changes in a given month.

7. CPI-trim is a measure of core inflation that excludes CPI components whose rates of change in a given month are located in the tails of the distribution of price changes.

Source(s): Table [18-10-0256-01](#).

**Table 5**  
**Main contributors to the 12-month and 1-month change in the Consumer Price Index**

December 2018 to December 2019	
	% change
<b>Main contributors to the 12-month change</b>	
<b>Main upward contributors</b>	
Gasoline	7.4
Rent	3.4
Mortgage interest cost	6.0
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	7.6
Food purchased from restaurants	2.6
<b>Main downward contributors</b>	
Telephone services	-6.6
Tuition fees	-3.6
Internet access services	-4.6
Traveller accommodation	-2.8
Video equipment	-8.5
November to December 2019	
	% change
<b>Main contributors to the 1-month change, not seasonally adjusted</b>	
<b>Main upward contributors</b>	
Air transportation	23.4
Fresh fruit	7.6
Fresh vegetables	3.7
Rent	0.4
Electricity	0.7
<b>Main downward contributors</b>	
Purchase of passenger vehicles	-1.0
Women's clothing	-3.9
Men's clothing	-4.4
Traveller accommodation	-5.7
Travel tours	-2.7

Source(s): Table [18-10-0004-01](#).

**Available tables:** [18-10-0001-01](#), [18-10-0002-01](#), [18-10-0004-01](#), [18-10-0006-01](#) and [18-10-0256-01](#).

**Definitions, data sources and methods:** survey number [2301](#).

The [Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#) is available on the Statistics Canada website.

More information about the concepts and use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is available in *The Canadian Consumer Price Index Reference Paper* ([62-553-X](#)).

For information on the history of the CPI in Canada, consult the publication *Exploring the First Century of Canada's Consumer Price Index* ([62-604-X](#)).

Two videos, "[An Overview of Canada's Consumer Price Index \(CPI\)](#)" and "[The Consumer Price Index and Your Experience of Price Change](#)," are available on Statistics Canada's YouTube channel.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)).