

POLICE-REPORTED CRIME IN CANADA, 2019



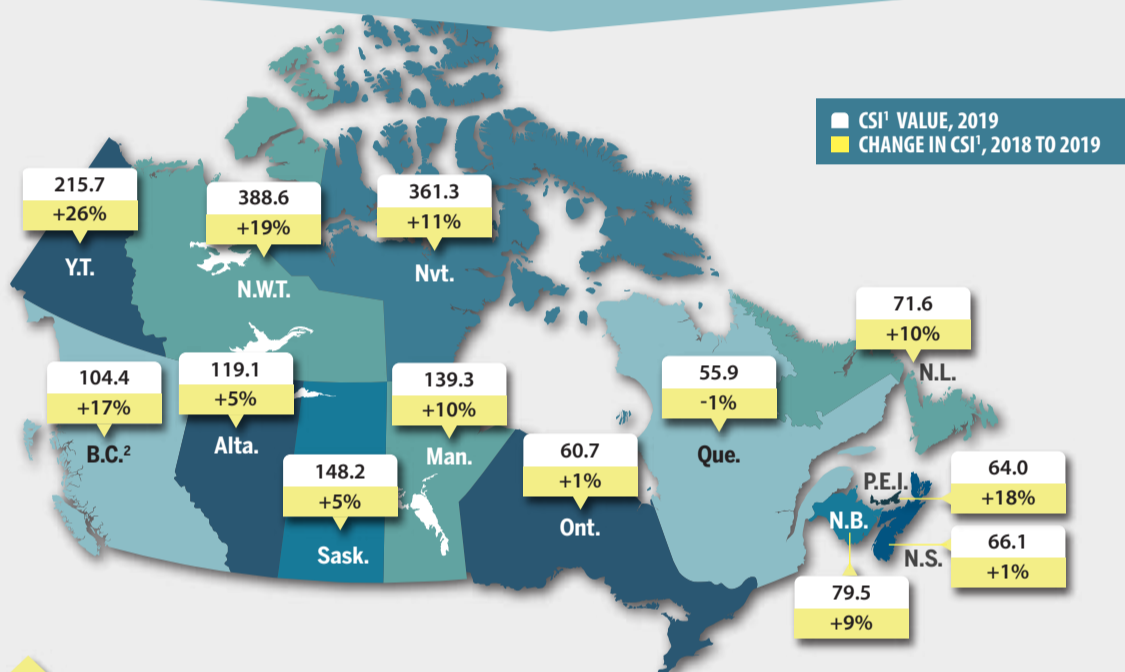
CRIMES AFFECTING THE CHANGE IN CSI BECAUSE OF THEIR VOLUME AND SEVERITY INCLUDE

INCREASES	
FRAUD	RATE +8%
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY	RATE +46%
UTTERING THREATS	RATE +20%
MISCHIEF	RATE +8%
SEXUAL ASSAULT (LEVEL 1)	RATE +7%
SHOPLIFTING OF \$5,000 OR UNDER	RATE +11%
DECREASES	
BREAKING AND ENTERING	RATE -1%

THE CRIME SEVERITY INDEX (CSI)¹ was 5% higher than in 2018, marking the 5th consecutive increase after 11 years of declines. The rise in Canada's CSI in 2019 was the result of increases in numerous offences, most notably fraud, child pornography, uttering threats, mischief, sexual assault (level 1) and shoplifting of \$5,000 or under.



IN 2019, 12 PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES REPORTED AN INCREASE IN THEIR CSI.



+7% sexual assault

With continued discussion about sexual misconduct and unfounded sexual assaults, the **police-reported rate of sexual assault continued to increase.**

IN 2019, **10%** OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS WERE CLASSIFIED AS UNFOUNDED,³ COMPARED WITH **14%** IN 2017.

Following the legalization of cannabis in October 2018, **importation and exportation** were the most common cannabis offences under the new law (**64%**).



The rate of drug offences (excluding cannabis) grew by

9%



Police reported

3,766

opioid offences (excluding heroin), 1,261 more than in 2018.



After changes to Canada's impaired driving laws in 2018, 2019 saw the **largest increase in the rate of police-reported impaired driving in over three decades (+19%).**



5 LARGEST INCREASES AND DECREASES IN CSI AMONG CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS

Top 5 increases in CSI

Kelowna ²	+20%
Victoria ²	+16%
Belleville	+13%
Vancouver ²	+11%
Peterborough	+10%

Top 5 decreases in CSI

Brantford	-10%
Sherbrooke	-10%
Halifax	-10%
Guelph	-9%
Windsor	-8%

1. While the crime rate measures the volume of criminal violations, the Crime Severity Index (CSI) is a measure of both the volume and severity of police-reported crime. To determine the severity of a crime, all crimes are assigned a weight based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, while less serious crimes are assigned lower weights. As a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the index.

2. Part of the increase in police-reported crime in British Columbia in 2019 may be attributable to the implementation of new reporting standards for classifying incidents as founded or unfounded. For more information, see the detailed *Juristat* article "Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2019."

3. An incident is "unfounded" if it has been determined through police investigation that the offence reported did not occur and was not attempted. If there is no credible evidence to confirm a reported incident did not occur, then the incident is coded as "unfounded."

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

"Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2019." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.