

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, April 20, 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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## Releases

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**Consumer Price Index, March 2012** 2  
Consumer prices rose 1.9% between March 2011 and March 2012, following a 2.6% increase in February. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices increased 0.2% from February to March.

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## Releases

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### Consumer Price Index, March 2012

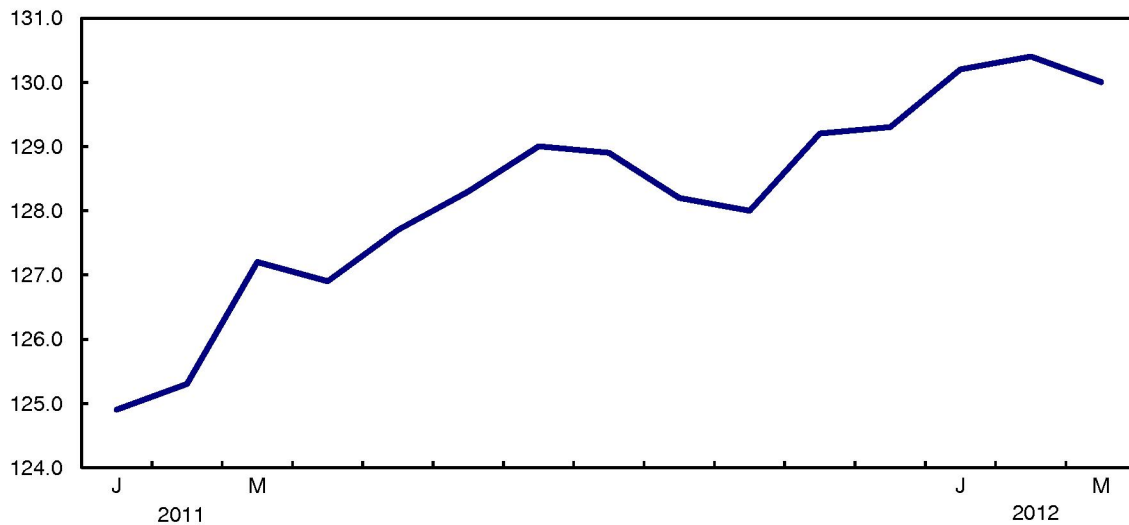
Consumer prices rose 1.9% between March 2011 and March 2012, following a 2.6% increase in February. This 0.7 percentage point difference was largely the result of slower year-over-year increases in prices for food and energy.

Food prices rose 2.2% in the 12 months to March, following a 4.1% increase in February. This slower increase was the result of a month-over-month decline in food prices in March 2012, while a year earlier food prices had been on the rise.

#### Chart 1 The food index

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index (2002=100)

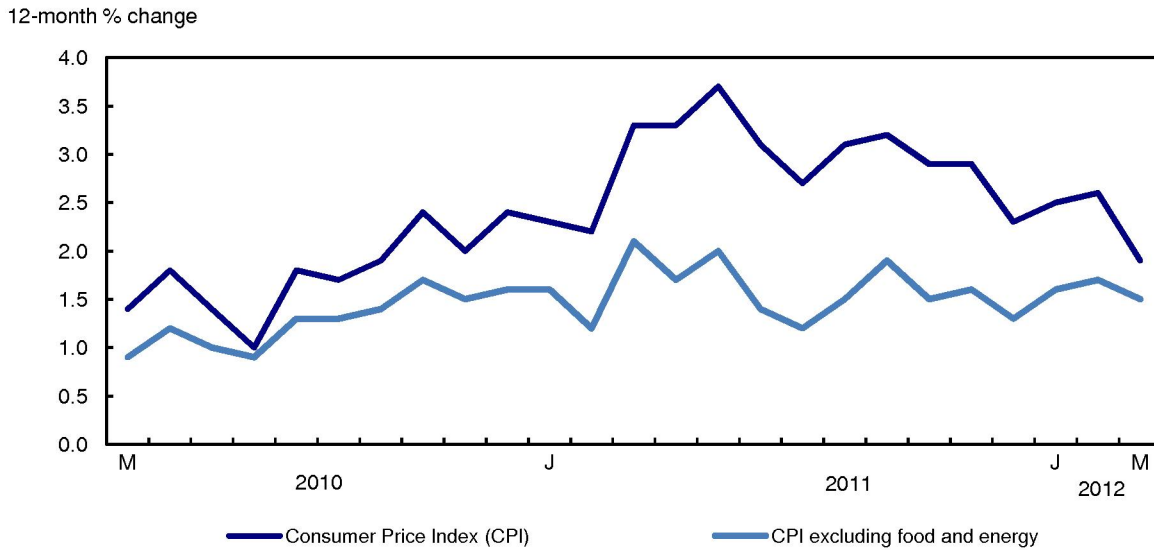


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The cost of energy advanced 5.1% in the 12 months to March, after rising 7.2% in February. The year-over-year increase in gasoline prices eased to 6.6% in March, following an 8.9% rise in February. Electricity costs increased 5.3%, after rising 8.7% the previous month.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), excluding food and energy, increased 1.5% in the 12 months to March. This increase followed a 1.7% gain in February.

**Chart 2**  
**The 12-month change in the CPI and the CPI excluding food and energy**

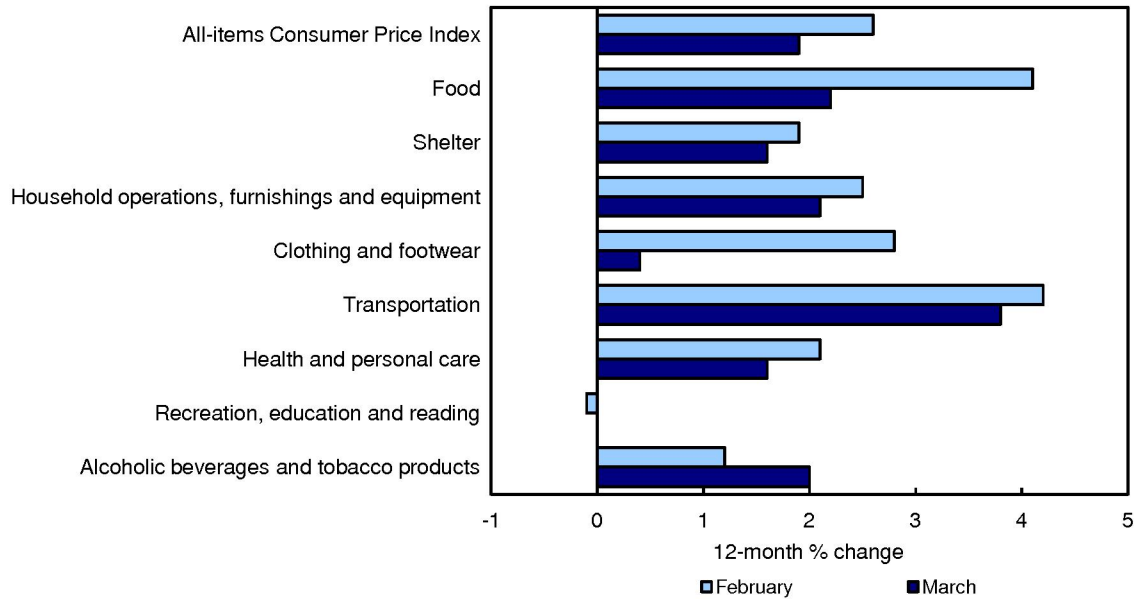


### 12-month change

Of the eight major components, six posted slower year-over-year increases in March compared with February. The two exceptions were recreation, education and reading; and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

The main factors in the 1.9% increase in the All-items CPI in March were higher prices in transportation and shelter.

**Chart 3**  
**Slower increases in six of the eight major components**



The cost of transportation increased 3.8% in the 12 months to March. In addition to gasoline, prices rose for passenger vehicle insurance premiums and for the purchase of passenger vehicles.

Shelter costs rose 1.6% compared with March 2011. Alongside higher electricity prices, consumers paid 2.4% more in homeowners' replacement costs. Prices for natural gas continued to decline.

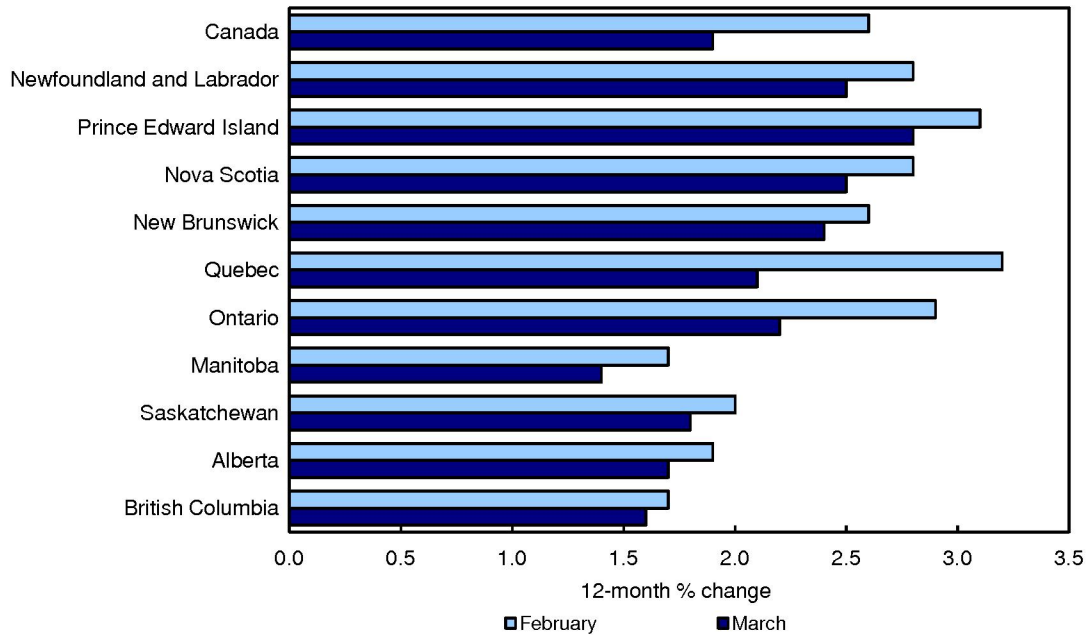
Food prices increased 2.2% in the 12 months to March, led by gains in food purchased from stores. Prices rose 5.8% for meat and 6.1% for bread. In contrast, prices for fresh vegetables declined 15.8%, the largest year-over-year decrease since April 2008.

Prices for clothing and footwear increased 0.4% in the 12 months to March, following a 2.8% rise in February. This 2.4 percentage point difference was mostly attributable to year-over-year declines in prices for women's clothing.

**The provinces**

Year over year, consumer prices increased at a slower pace in March than in February in every province.

**Chart 4**  
**Slower price increases in all provinces**



In Quebec, consumer prices rose 2.1% in the 12 months to March, after rising 3.2% in February. The 1.1 percentage point difference was largely the result of slower price increases in food purchased from stores and gasoline.

Prices in Ontario went up 2.2% year over year in March, following a 2.9% increase in February. This slower rate of increase was largely attributable to smaller price gains in food purchased from stores, clothing and footwear, and gasoline.

In British Columbia, prices rose 1.6% on a year-over-year basis in March after increasing 1.7% the previous month. Prices for gasoline increased 6.0%, after rising 4.2% in February. British Columbia and Manitoba were the only two provinces in which gasoline prices rose at a faster rate in the 12 months to March than in the 12 months to February.

### Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index increases

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices increased 0.2% from February to March after increasing 0.1% from January to February.

The index for recreation, education and reading rose 0.4% in March and the transportation index increased 0.2%. Conversely, the shelter index fell 0.2% and the index for food fell 0.3%.

### Bank of Canada's core index

The [Bank of Canada's core index](#) rose 1.9% in the 12 months to March, after increasing 2.3% in February. Slower price increases for electricity and price declines in women's clothing were recorded on a year-over-year basis in March.

On a monthly basis, the seasonally adjusted core index increased 0.1% in March, after rising 0.2% the previous month.

**Note to readers**

The special aggregate "Energy" includes: electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles.

The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the Consumer Price Index's most volatile components (fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies) as well as the effects of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components.

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

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI)</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>121.2</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Food	15.99	127.2	130.4	130.0	-0.3	2.2
Shelter	27.49	124.6	126.9	126.6	-0.2	1.6
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.55	110.4	112.8	112.7	-0.1	2.1
Clothing and footwear	5.31	94.4	91.9	94.8	3.2	0.4
Transportation	20.60	124.8	127.8	129.5	1.3	3.8
Health and personal care	4.95	116.4	118.4	118.3	-0.1	1.6
Recreation, education and reading	11.20	104.9	103.7	104.9	1.2	0.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	2.91	134.8	136.6	137.5	0.7	2.0
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
Core CPI <sup>3</sup>	82.15	117.0	118.9	119.2	0.3	1.9
All-items CPI excluding energy	89.92	116.8	118.3	118.7	0.3	1.6
Energy <sup>4</sup>	10.08	151.7	156.9	159.5	1.7	5.1
Gasoline	5.80	175.5	179.2	187.0	4.4	6.6
All-items CPI excluding food and energy	73.93	114.4	115.6	116.1	0.4	1.5
Goods	47.80	113.0	114.1	114.8	0.6	1.6
Services	52.20	125.7	128.2	128.6	0.3	2.3

1. 2009 CPI basket weights at April 2011 prices, Canada, effective May 2011. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 ([www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm)).

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

3. The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the Consumer Price Index's most volatile components (fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies) as well as the effects of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components. For additional information on the core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website ([www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi)).

4. The special aggregate "Energy" includes: electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles.

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

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>121.2</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.29	120.9	123.0	123.9	0.7	2.5
Prince Edward Island	0.35	122.2	124.8	125.6	0.6	2.8
Nova Scotia	2.56	122.3	124.3	125.3	0.8	2.5
New Brunswick	2.06	119.4	121.3	122.3	0.8	2.4
Quebec	21.21	118.3	120.4	120.8	0.3	2.1
Ontario	39.85	119.4	121.4	122.0	0.5	2.2
Manitoba	3.16	117.9	119.0	119.5	0.4	1.4
Saskatchewan	2.90	121.4	122.7	123.6	0.7	1.8
Alberta	11.97	124.5	126.6	126.6	0.0	1.7
British Columbia	14.47	116.1	117.2	117.9	0.6	1.6
Whitehorse	0.08	117.0	119.0	120.1	0.9	2.6
Yellowknife	0.07	120.5	123.1	123.6	0.4	2.6
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	112.6	114.4	114.4	0.0	1.6

1. 2009 Consumer Price Index basket weights at April 2011 prices, effective May 2011. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 ([www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm)).

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

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

	Relative importance <sup>2</sup>	January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	January to February 2012	February to March 2012
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI)</b>	<b>100.00<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>121.4</b>	<b>121.5</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Food	15.99	130.1	130.2	129.8	0.1	-0.3
Shelter	27.49	127.1	126.9	126.6	-0.2	-0.2
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.55	112.4	112.6	112.6	0.2	0.0
Clothing and footwear	5.31	92.1	92.8	92.1	0.8	-0.8
Transportation	20.60	128.6	129.3	129.6	0.5	0.2
Health and personal care	4.95	118.4	118.7	118.8	0.3	0.1
Recreation, education and reading	11.20	105.0	105.2	105.6	0.2	0.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	2.91	136.3	136.6	137.5	0.2	0.7
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
Core CPI <sup>4</sup>	82.15	118.8	119.0	119.1	0.2	0.1
All-items CPI excluding food and energy <sup>5</sup>	73.93	115.7	115.9	116.0	0.2	0.1

1. 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 January data release. Since these revisions can lead to changes in both the levels and movements of the indexes, users employing the CPI for indexation purposes are advised to use the unadjusted indexes.

2. 2009 CPI basket weights at April 2011 prices, Canada, effective May 2011. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 ([www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm)).

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

4. The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the Consumer Price Index's most volatile components (fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies) as well as the effects of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components. For additional information on the core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website ([www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi)).

5. The special aggregate "Energy" includes: electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles.

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**Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0015 and 326-0020 to 326-0022.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.**

For a more detailed analysis, consult the publication *The Consumer Price Index*. The March 2012 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 91, no. 3 (62-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

More information about the concepts and use of the Consumer Price Index are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-X, free) from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The Consumer Price Index for April will be released on May 18.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)).



## Leading indicators, March 2012

The composite leading index rose 0.4% in March, following a 0.7% rise in February. This was the index's ninth consecutive monthly increase. Of the 10 components, 8 advanced.

The financial components remained positive in March, with both the Toronto Stock Exchange and the money supply increasing. The average workweek increased for the sixth straight month, while services employment resumed a year-long upward trend after stalling in February. The housing index recovered, as both existing home sales and starts rose. The United States leading indicator increased for the second month in a row, supported by its employment and financial components.

Manufacturing was mixed, with a gain in the ratio of shipments to inventories offset by a decline in new orders. Furniture and appliance sales posted a seventh consecutive monthly decline.

**Table 1**  
**Leading indicators**

	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	Last month of data available
	% change						
<b>Composite leading indicator (1992=100)</b>	<b>256.8</b>	<b>259.0</b>	<b>260.4</b>	<b>262.0</b>	<b>263.8</b>	<b>264.9</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Housing index (1992=100) <sup>1</sup>	132.7	133.0	134.1	135.1	133.6	134.4	0.6
Business and personal services employment ('000)	3,038	3,050	3,061	3,072	3,073	3,078	0.2
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	12,578	12,359	12,161	12,097	12,301	12,329	0.2
Money supply, M1 (millions of dollars, 1992) <sup>2</sup>	232,560	234,314	236,339	238,319	239,335	240,188	0.4
U.S. Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) <sup>3</sup>	140.4	140.3	140.3	140.3	140.6	141.3	0.5
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average workweek (hours)	36.9	37.3	37.5	37.7	37.8	37.9	0.3
New orders, durables (millions of dollars, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	25,574	26,496	26,683	26,639	27,056	26,728	-1.2
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.90	1.92	1.93	1.96	1.99	2.00	0.01 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (millions of dollars, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	3,001	2,980	2,945	2,919	2,914	2,908	-0.2
Other durable goods sales (millions of dollars, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	10,753	10,822	10,903	10,872	10,899	10,973	0.7
<b>Unsmoothed composite leading indicator</b>	<b>260.9</b>	<b>264.0</b>	<b>261.8</b>	<b>266.5</b>	<b>266.0</b>	<b>266.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>

1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.

5. Difference from previous month.

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**Available without charge in CANSIM: table 377-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.**

This release will be reprinted in the May 2012 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 25, no. 5 (11-010-X, free). For more information on the economy, consult the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Cyndi Bloskie (613-951-3634; [ceo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:ceo@statcan.gc.ca)), Current Economic Analysis Group.

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## Study: Job-related training of older workers, 2008

Older workers in 2008 were significantly less likely to participate in job-related training than their counterparts in the core working-age population.

Overall, younger employees reported receiving more job-related training than their older counterparts. In the year from July 2007 to June 2008, 45% of workers aged 25 to 54 took at least one job-related course or program, compared with 32% of those aged 55 to 64.

This age gap persisted even after certain labour market factors and personal characteristics were taken into account.

Several factors were linked with significantly lower participation in training among older workers. These included lower annual income, low educational attainment, temporary employment and work in blue-collar or service jobs. Workers in the private sector, particularly those in goods-producing industries, were also less likely to take job-related training.

Employer-sponsored training is job-related training paid for or otherwise supported by the employer. Employer-sponsored training data have been consistently collected in surveys dating back to 1991. Over that period, the employer-sponsored training gap between older and core-age workers shrank appreciably.

Between 1991 and 2008, the participation rate in employer-supported training among workers aged 55 to 64 more than doubled from 12% to 28%, while the training rate for workers in the core-age group, those from 25 to 54, increased from 29% to 38%.

In other words, in 1991, core-age workers were about 2.5 times more likely to receive training than older workers. By 2008, this ratio had declined to about 1.4 times more likely.

Almost two-thirds of the increase in the training participation rate of older works was attributable to changes in educational attainment and workplace characteristics. However, this study suggests there was also an increase in training participation among older workers regardless of personal, job or workplace characteristics.

Older employees responding to the 2008 survey were less likely to perceive the presence of barriers to training than their younger counterparts. However, certain barriers related to personal attitudes were more prevalent among older workers than among core-age workers.

For example, among older men, 24% perceived lack of confidence, interest or motivation as important barriers compared with 15% of core-age men.

### **Note to readers**

*This study examined the incidence and intensity of job-related training among workers aged 55 to 64 using the 2008 Access and Support to Education and Training Survey. It also examined employer support and barriers preventing individuals from participating in training they wanted or needed to take between July 2007 and June 2008. The 1992 to 2003 cycles of the Adult Education and Training Survey were used to examine historical trends in employer-sponsored training.*

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**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3879 and 5151.**

The article "[Job-related training of older workers](#)" is now available in the April 2012 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 24, no. 2 (75-001-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jungwee Park (613-951-4598; [jungwee.park@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:jungwee.park@statcan.gc.ca)), Labour Statistics Division.

For more information on *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, contact Ted Wannell (613-951-3546; [ted.wannell@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:ted.wannell@statcan.gc.ca)), Labour Statistics Division.

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## Characteristics of international overnight travellers, third quarter 2011 (final)

Final statistics on characteristics of international overnight travellers are now available for the third quarter. The preliminary statistics for this quarter contained an error.

Tables, various statistical profiles and microdata files of characteristics of international travellers using final third quarter statistics are now available on request.

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3152.**

Statistics on characteristics of international overnight travellers for the fourth quarter will be released on May 28.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)).

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## New products and studies

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### New products

**The Consumer Price Index**, March 2012, Vol. 91, no. 3  
Catalogue number 62-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

**Work Absence Rates**, 2011  
Catalogue number 71-211-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

**Perspectives on Labour and Income**, Summer 2012, Vol. 24, no. 2  
Catalogue number 75-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

### New studies

Job-related training of older workers  
**Perspectives on Labour and Income**

Work absences in 2011  
**Perspectives on Labour and Income**

## Release dates: April 23 to 27, 2012

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
23	<b>Wholesale trade</b>	February 2012
24	<b>Retail trade</b>	February 2012
24	<b>Principal field crops</b>	March 2012 Intentions
25	<b>Survey of Household Spending</b>	2010
26	<b>Payroll employment, earnings and hours</b>	February 2012
27	<b>Gross domestic product by industry: Provinces and territories</b>	2011

See also the release dates for major economic indicators for the rest of the year.



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