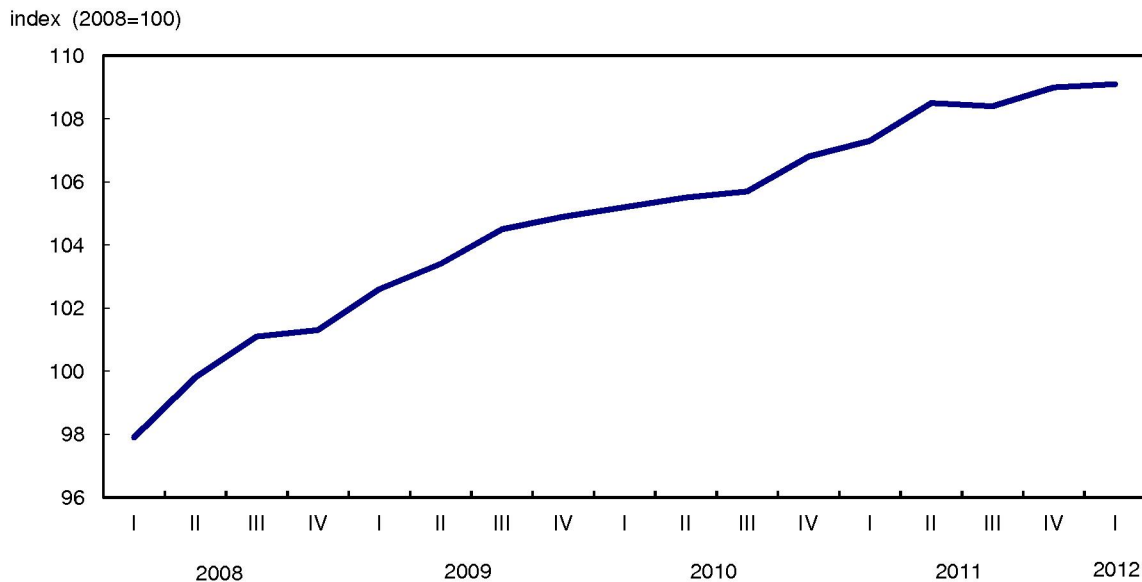


Retail Services Price Index, first quarter 2012

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The Retail Services Price Index (RSPI) edged up 0.1% in the first quarter.

Chart 1
Retail Services Price Index



The largest margin increases in the first quarter were posted by general merchandise stores (+2.0%), miscellaneous stores (+1.9%) and building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (+1.4%).

Electronics and appliance stores (-4.5%) posted the largest margin decline in the first quarter. Margins for gasoline stations (-3.0%), health and personal care stores (-1.4%) and sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores (-1.4%) also fell during the quarter.

Margins for food and beverage stores rose 1.3% in the first quarter from the previous quarter. Compared with the same quarter in 2011, food and beverage store margins advanced 4.7%. Margins for food and beverage stores have been increasing since the second quarter of 2010.

The RSPI was up 1.7% from the first quarter of 2011. General merchandise stores (+5.3%) recorded the largest year-over-year margin increase in the first quarter. Margin advances were also posted by building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (+4.9%) and miscellaneous store retailers (+2.4%).

Year-over-year declines in retail margins were recorded by electronics and appliance stores (-3.8%), sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores (-3.5%), gasoline stations (-2.9%) and health and personal care stores (-2.8%). The first quarter of 2012 marks the sixth consecutive year-over-year margin decrease by electronics and appliance stores.



Note to readers

Data for the most recent quarter are subject to revision. The series are also subject to an annual revision with the release of second quarter data of the following reference year. The indexes are not seasonally adjusted.

The Retail Services Price Index (RSPI) is part of the Services Producer Price Index program at Statistics Canada. The RSPI is not a retail selling price index. The index represents the change in the price of the retail service. The price of the retail service is defined as the margin price, which is the difference between the average purchase price and the average selling price of the retail product being priced.

With this release, an additional CANSIM table is available that presents the RSPI as a quarterly index. The table that presents monthly data will continue to be updated with each release.

Table 1
Retail Services Price Index – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ¹	First quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2011 ^r	First quarter 2012 ^p	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012	First quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	%	(2008=100)			% change	
Retail Services Price Index	100.00	107.3	109.0	109.1	0.1	1.7
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	1.53	. ²	. ²	. ²	. ²	. ²
Furniture and home furnishings stores	3.33	105.1	103.7	103.2	-0.5	-1.8
Electronics and appliance stores	3.42	86.0	86.6	82.7	-4.5	-3.8
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	5.97	111.0	114.8	116.4	1.4	4.9
Food and beverage stores	21.81	110.6	114.3	115.8	1.3	4.7
Health and personal care stores	6.68	111.8	110.2	108.7	-1.4	-2.8
Gasoline stations	11.52	103.4	103.5	100.4	-3.0	-2.9
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	5.24	101.4	100.9	100.7	-0.2	-0.7
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	2.48	103.9	101.7	100.3	-1.4	-3.5
General merchandise stores	11.47	110.2	113.7	116.0	2.0	5.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	2.56	108.6	109.1	111.2	1.9	2.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

. not available for any reference period

1. The relative importance is based on the weight that each three-digit code of the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) contributes to the overall Retail Services Price Index. The total does not equal 100 as automobile dealers (NAICS 4411), other motor vehicle dealers (NAICS 4412) and non-store retailers (NAICS 454) were not surveyed.

2. Automobile dealers (NAICS 4411) and other motor vehicle dealers (NAICS 4412) have not been surveyed and therefore data are not available at this time.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 332-0003 and 332-0007.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5135.

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) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).