

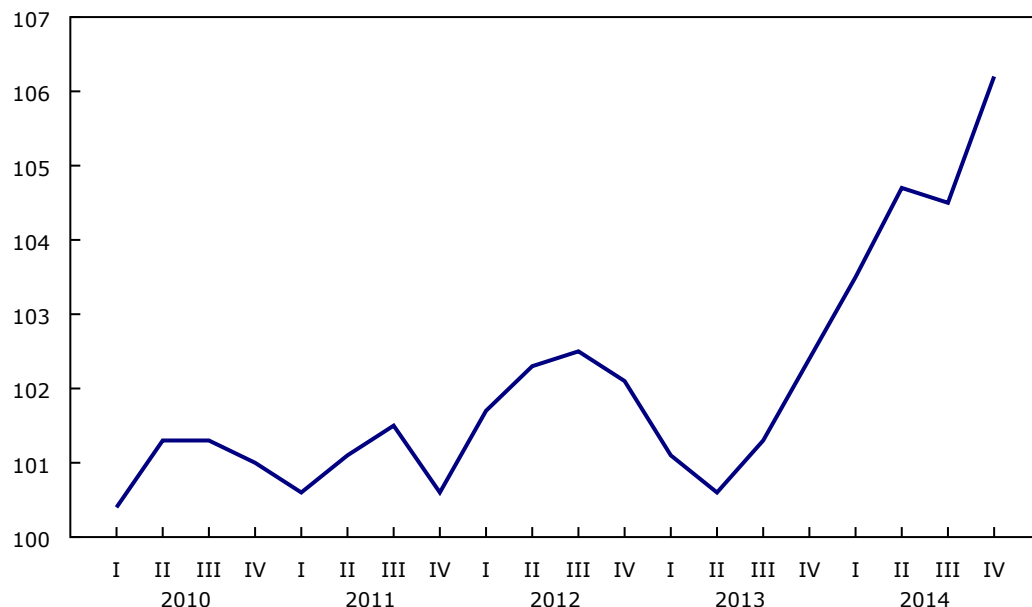
# Wholesale Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2014

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The Wholesale Services Price Index (WSPI) increased 1.6% in the fourth quarter of 2014. Of the eight major wholesale sectors, five recorded higher margins and three recorded lower margins.

**Chart 1**  
**Wholesale Services Price Index**

index (2008=100)



Source(s): CANSIM table [332-0008](#).

The largest increase in the fourth quarter was posted by wholesalers of petroleum and petroleum products (+11.7%). Declines in the selling prices of crude oil, diesel, gasoline and aviation fuel were outpaced by declines in purchase prices over the quarter, resulting in an increase in margins in the petroleum sector.

Wholesalers of food, beverage and tobacco (+5.0%) were the second largest contributor. The increase was mostly driven by margin growth among wholesalers of fish and seafood products (+43.7%), other specialty-line food (+7.0%) and general-line food (+5.8%).

Margin increases for wholesalers of building materials and supplies (+2.0%), farm products (+1.0%) and miscellaneous products (+0.3%) also contributed to the increase.

Moderating the increase in the WSPI were margin decreases recorded by wholesalers of machinery, equipment and supplies (-1.0%), motor vehicles and parts (-0.8%) and personal and household goods (-0.1%).

Year over year, the WSPI advanced 3.7% in the fourth quarter of 2014.



The year-over-year gain in the WSPI was mainly attributable to margin increases among wholesalers of petroleum and petroleum products (+14.9%), farm products (+9.4%) and food, beverage and tobacco products (+8.6%). Higher margins for petroleum products, especially in the fourth quarter of 2014 when declines in purchase prices outpaced those in selling prices, drove the year-over-year increase in that sector.

Wholesalers of farm products posted their sixth consecutive year-over-year margin gain, as live animal merchant wholesalers (+15.6%) and oilseed and grain wholesalers (+10.2%) recorded year-over-year margin increases in the fourth quarter of 2014. Year over year, wholesalers of food, beverage and tobacco products (+8.6%) also posted their sixth consecutive gain, driven mainly by year-over-year margin gains for wholesalers of red meat and meat products (+31.7%), general-line food (+16.8%), and cigarette and tobacco products (+13.7%).

Margin gains posted by wholesalers of building materials and supplies (+5.5%), machinery, equipment and supplies (+2.1%) and motor vehicles and parts (+0.2%) also contributed to the year-over-year advance.

Year over year, the margins for wholesalers of personal and household goods (-1.0%) and miscellaneous products (-0.2%) declined.

### Note to readers

The Wholesale Services Price Index (WSPI) represents the change in the price of the wholesale service. The **price of the wholesale service** is defined as the margin price, which is the difference between the average purchase price and the average selling price of the wholesale product being priced. The WSPI is not a wholesale selling price index.

With each release, data for the previous quarter may have been revised. 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. Data are available at the Canada level only. Beginning with the fourth quarter of 2014, the data collection mode changed as the data were collected through an online electronic questionnaire instead of a paper questionnaire.

**Table 1**  
**Wholesale Services Price Index – Not seasonally adjusted**

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	Fourth quarter 2013	Third quarter 2014 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 2014 <sup>p</sup>	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2013 to fourth quarter 2014
	%	(2008=100)			% change	
<b>Wholesale Services Price Index</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>104.5</b>	<b>106.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Farm products	2.58	100.4	108.7	109.8	1.0	9.4
Petroleum products	4.94	84.1	86.5	96.6	11.7	14.9
Food, beverage and tobacco	14.90	116.6	120.6	126.6	5.0	8.6
Personal and household goods	16.60	101.2	100.3	100.2	-0.1	-1.0
Motor vehicles and parts	9.92	109.6	110.7	109.8	-0.8	0.2
Building material and supplies	13.88	94.0	97.3	99.2	2.0	5.5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	21.67	99.3	102.4	101.4	-1.0	2.1
Miscellaneous	11.02	108.6	108.1	108.4	0.3	-0.2

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. The relative importance is based on the weight that each three-digit code of the North American Industry Classification System contributes to the overall Wholesale Services Price Index. The total does not equal 100 as the wholesale agents and brokers group was not surveyed and data are imputed.

Source(s): CANSIM table [332-0008](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [332-0006](#) and [332-0008](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5106](#).

The Wholesale Services Prices Index for the first quarter will be released in August.

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; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)).