

Consumer Price Index, May 2015

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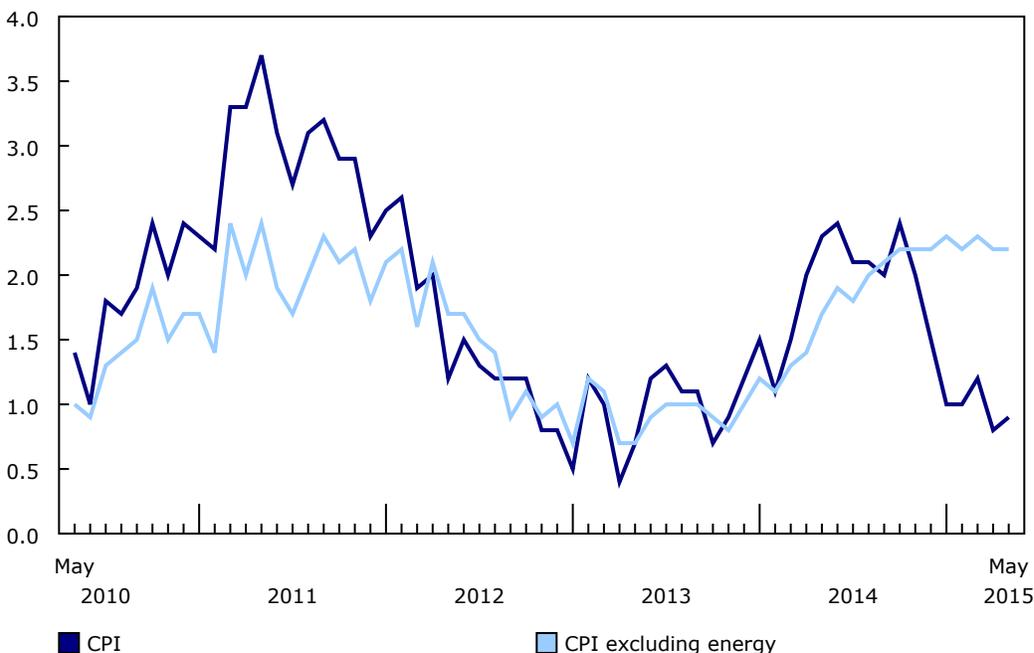
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.9% in the 12 months to May, after increasing 0.8% in April.

Lower energy prices continued to moderate the year-over-year rise in the CPI. Excluding energy, the CPI increased 2.2% in the 12 months to May, matching the rise in April.

Chart 1

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

12-month % change



Source(s): CANSIM table [326-0020](#).

The energy index decreased 11.8% in the 12 months to May, following a 13.5% decline in April. The fall in the energy index was led by gasoline prices, which were down 17.4% in May compared with the same month a year earlier. This decrease followed a 21.0% year-over-year decline in April.

The natural gas index was down 14.4% in the 12 months to May. Additionally, fuel oil prices decreased 18.6% year over year in May, following a 20.0% decline the previous month.

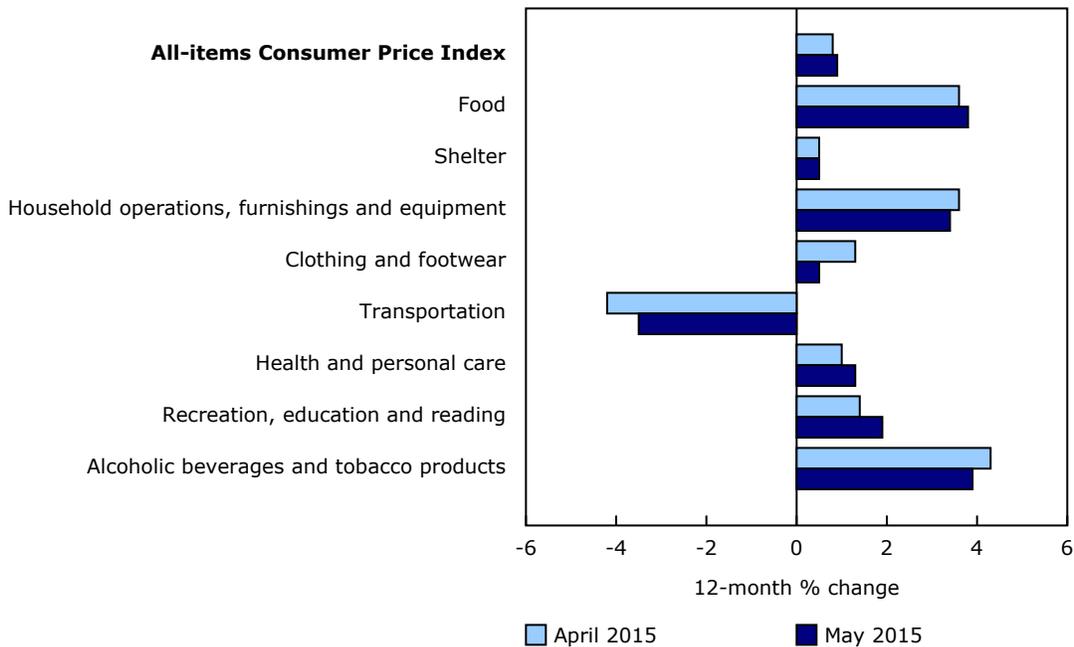
The electricity index (+1.0%) was the lone energy component to increase on a year-over-year basis in May.

12-month change in the major components

Prices rose in seven of the eight major components on a year-over-year basis in May, with the rise in the CPI being led by higher prices for food. An increase in the recreation, education and reading index also contributed to higher consumer prices. The transportation index, which includes gasoline, recorded its seventh consecutive year-over-year decline.



Chart 2
Prices increase in seven of eight major components



Source(s): CANSIM table [326-0020](#).

Consumers paid 3.8% more for food in May compared with the same month a year earlier. Prices for food purchased from stores were up 4.1% in the 12 months to May. Higher meat prices contributed the most to the increase, despite posting a smaller year-over-year gain in May (+7.9%) than in April (+11.2%). In the 12 months to May, prices also rose for fresh vegetables (+5.8%), bakery products (+3.0%) and fresh fruit (+2.9%). Prices for food purchased from restaurants rose 2.9% year over year, their largest increase since December 2011.

The recreation, education, and reading index rose 1.9% on a year-over-year basis in May, after increasing 1.4% in April. Prices for traveller accommodation were up 7.5% in the 12 months to May, after rising 6.7% the previous month. At the same time, the travel tours index posted a smaller year-over-year decline in May (-0.3%) than in April (-3.9%).

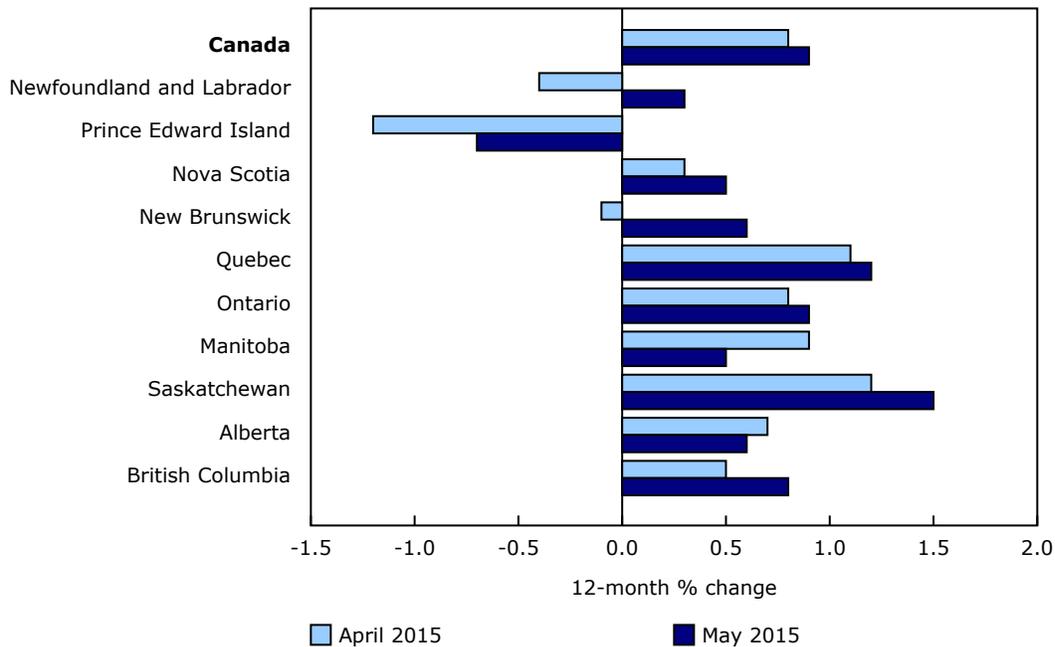
Prices for clothing and footwear were up 0.5% in the 12 months to May, following a 1.3% gain the previous month. The smaller increase in May compared with April was largely attributable to prices for women's clothing, which increased 0.4% on a year-over-year basis in May, following a 2.0% gain in April.

The transportation index declined 3.5% in the 12 months to May as gasoline prices remained lower than last year. In contrast, prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles increased 1.8% year over year in May, following a 1.4% gain the previous month.

12-month change in the provinces

Consumer prices rose in nine provinces in the 12 months to May, with Saskatchewan posting the largest increase. Prince Edward Island's CPI registered its sixth consecutive year-over-year decrease. Every province recorded a year-over-year decline in its energy index.

Chart 3
Consumer prices rise in every province except Prince Edward Island



Source(s): CANSIM table [326-0020](#).

Saskatchewan's CPI rose 1.5% in the 12 months to May, after increasing 1.2% the previous month. In Saskatchewan, prices for natural gas remained higher than a year ago, while every other province posted year-over-year declines. In addition, Saskatchewan recorded a 3.4% rise in prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles, the second largest increase after Alberta (+3.5%). Conversely, Saskatchewan's gasoline index decreased more than the national average on a year-over-year basis.

Consumer prices in British Columbia increased 0.8% in the 12 months to May, after rising 0.5% in April. This acceleration in price change was partly attributable to fresh vegetable prices, which were up 11.9% in May on a year-over-year basis, following a 4.8% increase the previous month.

In Manitoba, the CPI rose 0.5% year over year in May, after increasing 0.9% the previous month. This deceleration was partly attributable to clothing prices, which declined 0.2% in the 12 months to May, after increasing 7.6% in April.

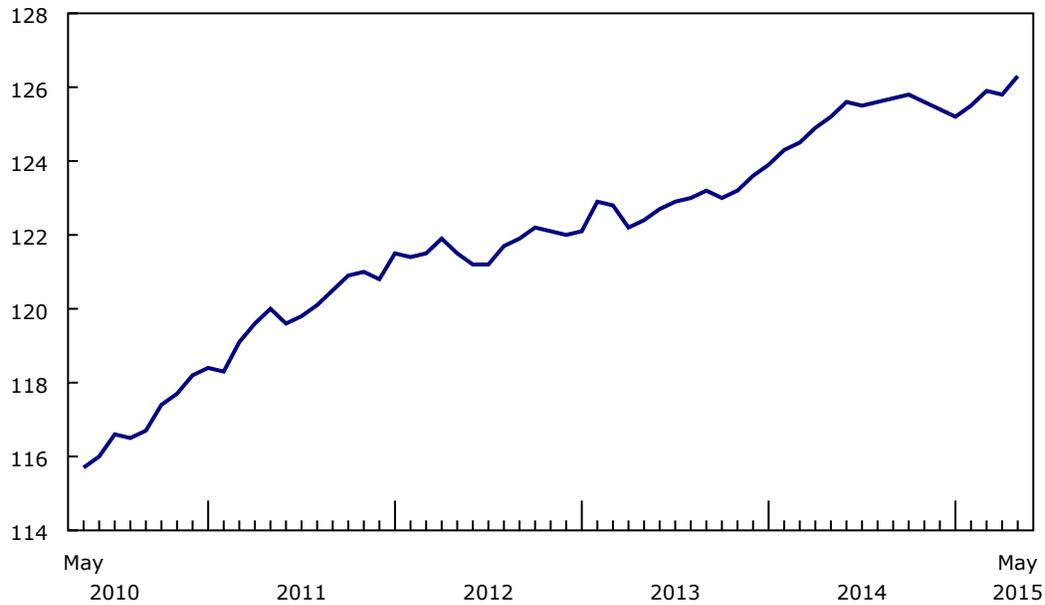
Prince Edward Island's CPI decreased 0.7% on a year-over-year basis in May, after declining 1.2% the previous month. Fuel oil prices fell 24.1% in the 12 months to May in the province, a larger decrease than at the national level. The basket weight of fuel oil is 10 times greater in Prince Edward Island than in Canada as a whole.

Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index increases

On a [seasonally adjusted monthly basis](#), the CPI increased 0.4% in May, following a 0.1% decrease in April.

Chart 4 Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index

index (2002=100)



Source(s): CANSIM table [326-0022](#).

Of the eight major components, seven increased on a seasonally adjusted monthly basis in May. The exception was the index for clothing and footwear, which declined 0.2%.

The largest increase in May was recorded in the seasonally adjusted recreation, education and reading index, which rose 0.8%. The seasonally adjusted index for transportation increased 0.5% in May, while the food index was up 0.4%.

Bank of Canada's core index

The [Bank of Canada's core index](#) increased 2.2% in the 12 months to May, after rising 2.3% in April.

The seasonally adjusted core index rose 0.2% on a monthly basis in May, following a 0.1% increase in April.

Note to readers

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

A seasonally adjusted series is one from which seasonal movements have been eliminated. Users employing Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for indexation purposes are advised to use the unadjusted indexes. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the CPI'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 a more detailed report of the CPI, consult the publication [The Consumer Price Index](#).

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

	Relative importance ¹	May 2014	April 2015	May 2015	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	100.00²	125.8	126.2	126.9	0.6	0.9
Food	16.41	135.7	139.4	140.8	1.0	3.8
Shelter	26.80	132.6	133.1	133.2	0.1	0.5
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	13.14	115.8	119.7	119.7	0.0	3.4
Clothing and footwear	6.08	94.5	96.2	95.0	-1.2	0.5
Transportation	19.10	132.7	126.6	128.0	1.1	-3.5
Health and personal care	4.73	119.2	120.1	120.7	0.5	1.3
Recreation, education and reading	10.89	107.8	107.7	109.9	2.0	1.9
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	2.86	146.2	151.4	151.9	0.3	3.9
Special aggregates						
Bank of Canada's core index ³	85.39	123.3	125.5	126.0	0.4	2.2
All-items excluding energy	92.21	122.1	124.3	124.8	0.4	2.2
Energy ⁴	7.79	172.7	148.1	152.4	2.9	-11.8
Gasoline	3.84	194.8	152.6	161.0	5.5	-17.4
All-items excluding food and energy	75.80	119.1	121.0	121.3	0.2	1.8
Goods	46.68	117.9	116.7	117.6	0.8	-0.3
Services	53.32	133.6	135.6	136.2	0.4	1.9

1. 2013 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at December 2014 prices, Canada, effective with the January 2015 CPI.

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

3. The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the CPI'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 index, consult the [Bank of Canada's website](#).

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

Source(s): CANSIM tables [326-0020](#) and [326-0031](#).

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

	Relative importance ¹	May 2014	April 2015	May 2015	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
Canada	100.00²	125.8	126.2	126.9	0.6	0.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.38	129.2	128.3	129.6	1.0	0.3
Prince Edward Island	0.34	130.6	128.9	129.7	0.6	-0.7
Nova Scotia	2.47	129.5	129.5	130.2	0.5	0.5
New Brunswick	1.87	125.3	124.9	126.1	1.0	0.6
Quebec	21.60	123.8	124.7	125.3	0.5	1.2
Ontario	38.94	126.5	126.9	127.7	0.6	0.9
Manitoba	3.15	126.2	126.5	126.8	0.2	0.5
Saskatchewan	3.01	129.2	130.5	131.1	0.5	1.5
Alberta	13.20	132.8	133.1	133.6	0.4	0.6
British Columbia	13.85	119.7	119.6	120.6	0.8	0.8
Whitehorse	0.08	125.1	123.5	124.4	0.7	-0.6
Yellowknife	0.08	128.7	129.8	130.6	0.6	1.5
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	118.1	120.0	120.4	0.3	1.9

1. 2013 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at December 2014 prices, effective with the January 2015 CPI.

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

Source(s): CANSIM tables [326-0020](#) and [326-0031](#).

Table 3
Consumer Price Index, major components and special aggregates – Seasonally adjusted¹

	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	March to April 2015	April to May 2015
	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	125.9	125.8	126.3	-0.1	0.4
Food	139.1	139.6	140.2	0.4	0.4
Shelter	133.3	133.1	133.2	-0.2	0.1
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	119.0	119.5	119.7	0.4	0.2
Clothing and footwear	94.2	93.9	93.7	-0.3	-0.2
Transportation	125.6	125.7	126.3	0.1	0.5
Health and personal care	119.8	120.0	120.4	0.2	0.3
Recreation, education and reading	109.3	108.4	109.3	-0.8	0.8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	150.7	151.4	151.9	0.5	0.3
Special aggregates					
Bank of Canada's core index ²	125.2	125.3	125.5	0.1	0.2
All-items excluding food and energy ³	120.7	120.8	120.9	0.1	0.1

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 January data release. 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 Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the CPI'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 index, please consult the [Bank of Canada's website](#).

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): CANSIM table [326-0022](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [326-0009](#), [326-0012](#), [326-0020](#) and [326-0022](#).

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

For a more detailed report, consult the publication *The Consumer Price Index*. The May 2015 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 94, no. 5 ([62-001-X](#)), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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](#)).

A [video](#) providing an overview of the CPI is available on Statistics Canada's YouTube channel.

The CPI for June will be released on July 17.

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