

# Consumer Price Index, March 2016

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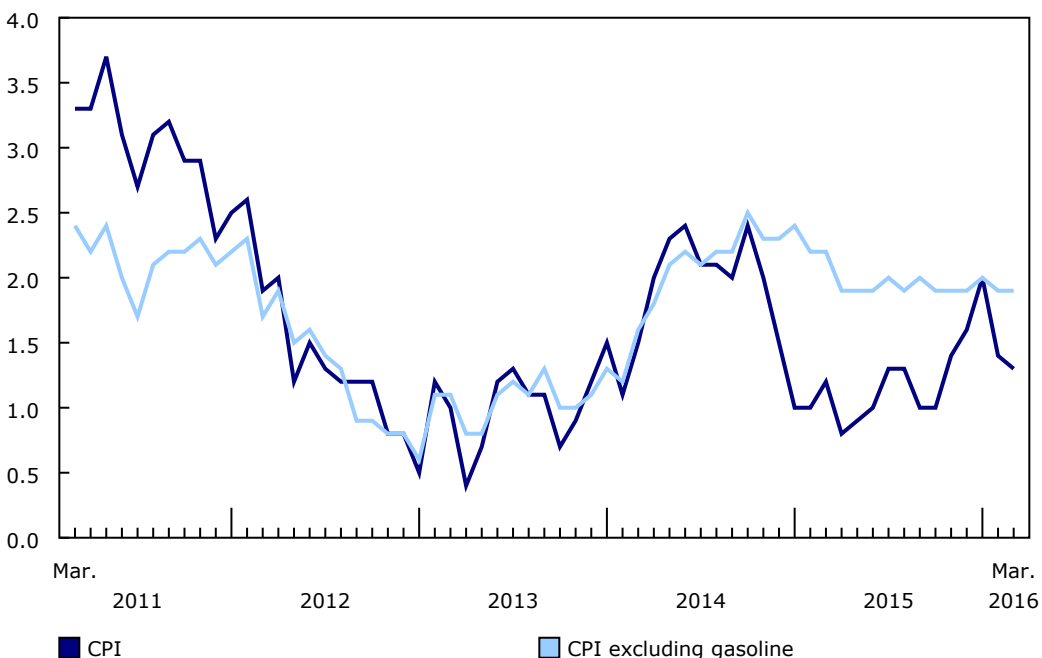
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.3% in the 12 months to March, after increasing 1.4% in February.

Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 1.9% year over year in March, matching the increase in February.

## Chart 1

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

12-month % change



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

Despite a 5.7% monthly increase in gasoline prices in March, the gasoline index was down 13.6% year over year in March, after declining 13.1% in the 12 months to February.

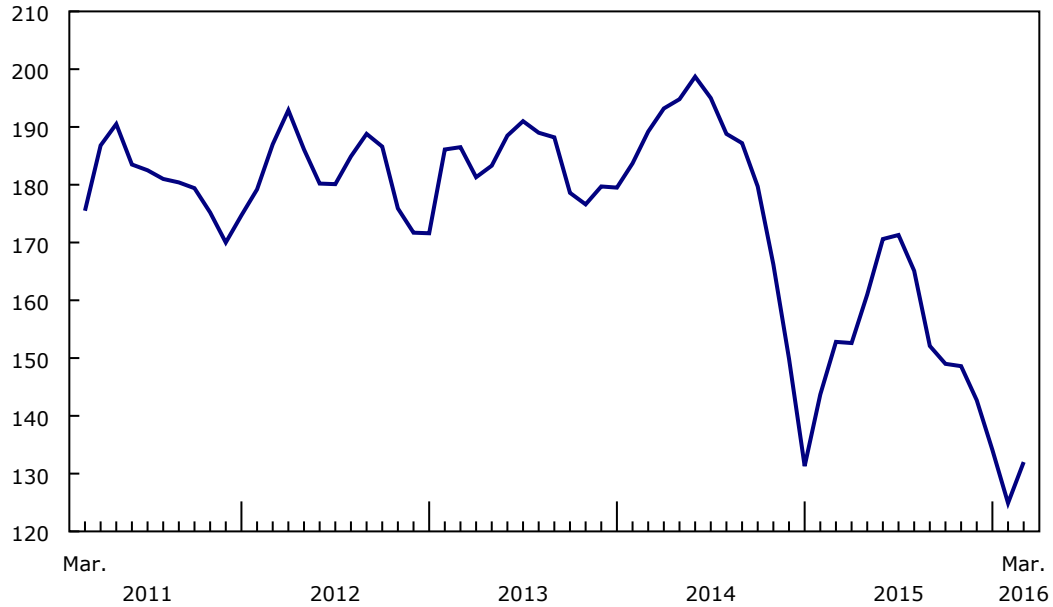


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**Chart 2**  
**Gasoline price index**

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index (2002=100)



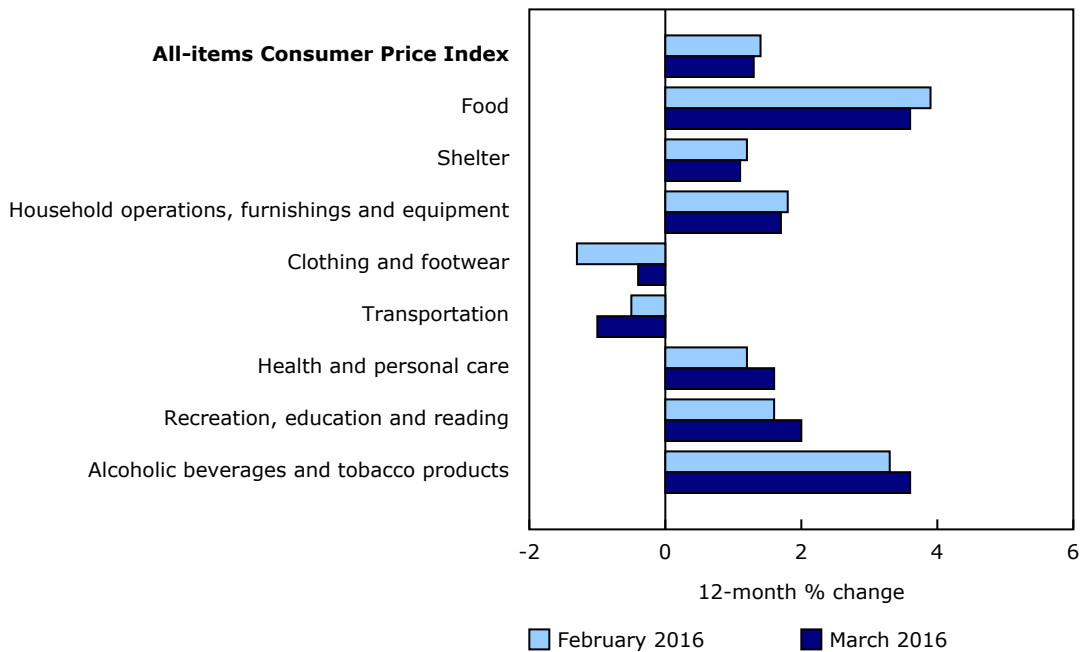
Source(s): CANSIM table [326-0020](#).

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**12-month change in the major components**

Prices rose in six of the eight major components on a year-over-year basis in March, with the food and shelter indexes contributing the most to the increase in the CPI. The transportation index, which includes gasoline, and the clothing and footwear index declined on a year-over-year basis in March.

**Chart 3**  
**Consumer prices increase in six of eight major components**



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

Food prices were up 3.6% year over year in March, after rising 3.9% in February. Prices for food purchased from stores increased 4.0% year over year, following a 4.4% gain the previous month. The 12-month growth rate in the fresh vegetables index (+14.9%) and the fresh fruit index (+11.3%) slowed in March compared with February. The meat index rose 3.2% year over year in March, its largest increase since November 2015. Prices for food purchased from restaurants were up 2.6% year over year in March, following a 2.7% increase the previous month.

The transportation index decreased 1.0% in the 12 months to March, following a 0.5% decline in February. Lower year-over-year gasoline prices partly contributed to the decrease. The index for purchase of passenger vehicles was up 3.2% year over year in March, after increasing 5.0% the previous month.

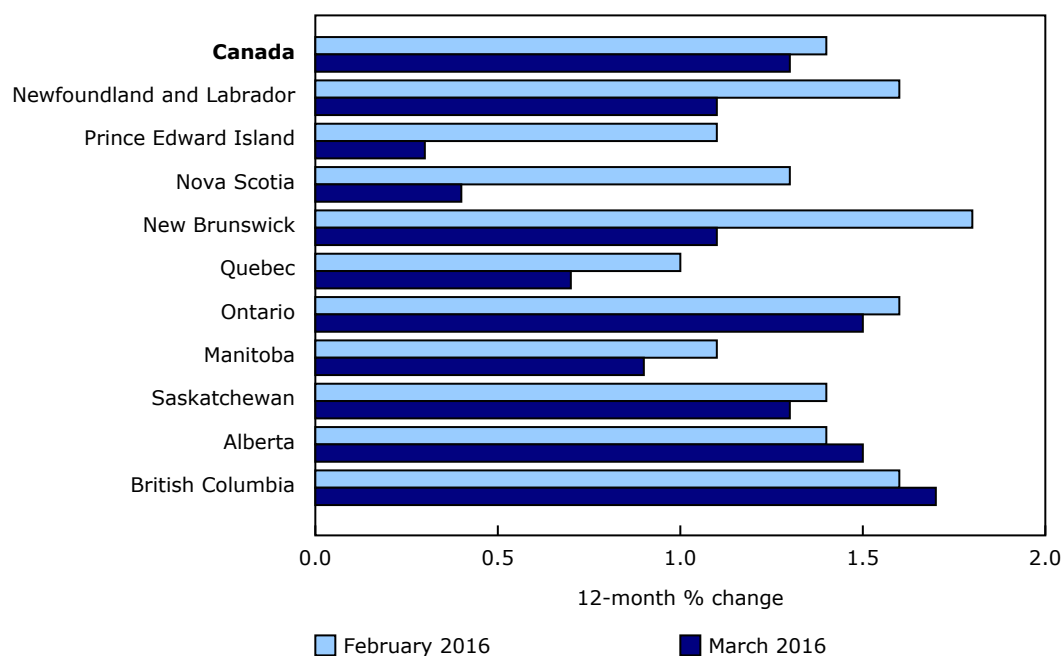
The clothing and footwear index was down 0.4% year over year in March, after decreasing 1.3% in February. Shoppers paid 1.8% less for women's clothing in March compared with the same month a year earlier. Prices for children's clothing increased more on a year-over-year basis in March (+2.6%) than in February (+0.9%).

### 12-month change in the provinces

On a year-over-year basis, consumer prices in eight provinces rose less on a year-over-year basis in March than in February. Conversely, in Alberta and British Columbia, consumer prices rose more on a year-over-year basis in March than the previous month.

In the Prairie provinces, gasoline prices posted smaller declines year over year in March than in the previous month. In the other provinces, gasoline prices were down more on a year-over-year basis in March than in February.

**Chart 4**  
**Consumer prices rise in all provinces**



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

In Nova Scotia, the CPI rose 0.4% in the 12 months to March, after posting a 1.3% gain in February. Gasoline prices were down more in Nova Scotia than at the national level, declining 18.7% year over year in March. The fuel oil index (-28.7%) recorded its largest year-over-year decline since September 2009. The relative weights for gasoline and fuel oil are larger in Nova Scotia than at the national level, which contributed to a greater deceleration of the all-items CPI in Nova Scotia than at the national level.

Ontario's CPI posted a 1.5% gain in the 12 months to March, following a 1.6% increase the previous month. The fresh fruit index was up less in the 12 months to March (+14.7%) than in February (+19.7%). Cigarette prices were up 7.0% year over year in March, partly because of an increase in the province's tobacco tax that took effect on February 26, 2016.

In Alberta, consumer prices rose 1.5% year over year in March, following a 1.4% increase in February. Gasoline prices were down 9.9% in the 12 months to March, a smaller decline than at the national level; on a monthly basis, gasoline prices increased 20.5%. On a year-over-year basis, the rent index (-0.4%) posted its second consecutive decline, while on a monthly basis, rent decreased for the seventh time in eight months.

The CPI in British Columbia was up 1.7% year over year in March, after increasing 1.6% in February. The furniture index was up 5.7% in the 12 months to March, its largest year-over-year increase since November 2013. In contrast, the indexes for men's and children's clothing posted smaller year-over-year increases in March than in the previous month.

**Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index increases**

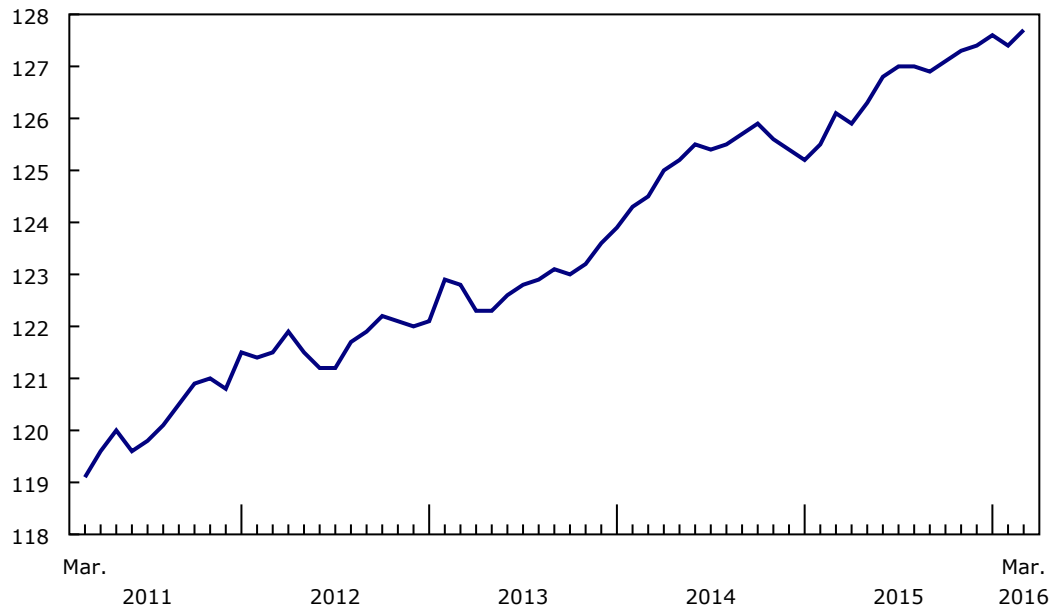
On a [seasonally adjusted monthly basis](#), the CPI increased 0.2% in March, following a 0.2% decrease in February.

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## Chart 5 Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index

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index (2002=100)



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

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In March, all major components increased on a seasonally adjusted monthly basis.

The clothing and footwear index was up 0.5% on a seasonally adjusted monthly basis in March, after it posted a 0.5% decrease the previous month.

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the food index rose 0.1% in March, matching the gain in February. Before seasonal adjustment, the food index decreased 0.3% in March.

### Bank of Canada's core index

The [Bank of Canada's core index](#) increased 2.1% in the 12 months to March, after rising 1.9% in February.

The seasonally adjusted core index was up 0.3% on a monthly basis in March, after posting a 0.2% increase in February.

### Note to readers

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.

### Next release

The CPI for April will be released on May 20.

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

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	March 2015	February 2016	March 2016	February to March 2016	March 2015 to March 2016
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>126.3</b>	<b>127.1</b>	<b>127.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Food	16.41	139.5	145.0	144.5	-0.3	3.6
Shelter	26.80	133.3	134.7	134.8	0.1	1.1
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	13.14	119.4	121.0	121.4	0.3	1.7
Clothing and footwear	6.08	96.4	92.1	96.0	4.2	-0.4
Transportation	19.10	126.6	123.7	125.3	1.3	-1.0
Health and personal care	4.73	119.5	121.5	121.4	-0.1	1.6
Recreation, education and reading	10.89	108.7	109.6	110.9	1.2	2.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	2.86	150.7	155.2	156.2	0.6	3.6
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
Bank of Canada's core index <sup>3</sup>	85.39	125.4	127.1	128.0	0.7	2.1
All-items excluding energy	92.21	124.3	126.2	126.9	0.6	2.1
Energy <sup>4</sup>	7.79	149.8	134.6	138.1	2.6	-7.8
Gasoline	3.84	152.8	124.9	132.0	5.7	-13.6
All-items excluding food and energy	75.80	121.0	122.3	123.1	0.7	1.7
Goods	46.68	117.0	116.5	117.8	1.1	0.7
Services	53.32	135.6	137.7	138.0	0.2	1.8

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 <sup>1</sup>	March 2015	February 2016	March 2016	February to March 2016	March 2015 to March 2016
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>126.3</b>	<b>127.1</b>	<b>127.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.38	128.9	129.6	130.3	0.5	1.1
Prince Edward Island	0.34	129.8	129.6	130.2	0.5	0.3
Nova Scotia	2.47	129.6	129.6	130.1	0.4	0.4
New Brunswick	1.87	125.5	126.4	126.9	0.4	1.1
Quebec	21.60	124.7	125.1	125.6	0.4	0.7
Ontario	38.94	127.1	128.2	129.0	0.6	1.5
Manitoba	3.15	126.6	126.6	127.8	0.9	0.9
Saskatchewan	3.01	130.5	131.1	132.2	0.8	1.3
Alberta	13.20	133.0	133.8	135.0	0.9	1.5
British Columbia	13.85	119.8	120.8	121.8	0.8	1.7
Whitehorse	0.08	123.0	123.7	124.2	0.4	1.0
Yellowknife	0.08	129.4	131.0	131.6	0.5	1.7
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	119.1	121.7	122.1	0.3	2.5

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 adjusted<sup>1</sup>**

	January 2016	February 2016	March 2016	January to February 2016	February to March 2016
	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>127.6</b>	<b>127.4</b>	<b>127.7</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Food	144.0	144.2	144.4	0.1	0.1
Shelter	134.6	134.7	134.8	0.1	0.1
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	120.5	120.9	121.0	0.3	0.1
Clothing and footwear	94.1	93.6	94.1	-0.5	0.5
Transportation	126.3	124.8	125.0	-1.2	0.2
Health and personal care	121.4	121.4	121.8	0.0	0.3
Recreation, education and reading	110.4	110.7	111.2	0.3	0.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	154.5	155.2	156.2	0.5	0.6
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
Bank of Canada's core index <sup>2</sup>	127.1	127.3	127.7	0.2	0.3
All-items excluding food and energy <sup>3</sup>	122.2	122.4	122.7	0.2	0.2

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](#).

The March 2016 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 95, no. 3 ([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](#)).

Two videos, "[An Overview of Canada's Consumer Price Index \(CPI\)](#)" and "[The Consumer Price Index and Your Experience of Price Change](#)," are available on Statistics Canada's YouTube channel.

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; [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)).