

# Consumer Price Index, February 2018

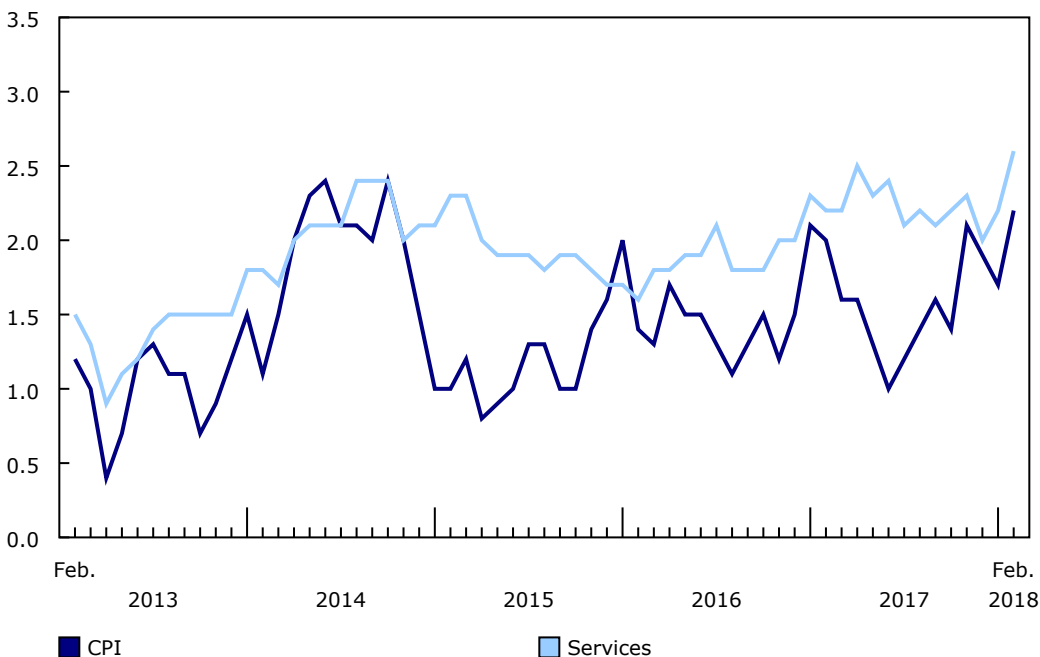
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, March 23, 2018

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.2% on a year-over-year basis in February, following a 1.7% increase in January.

## Chart 1

### The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the services index

12-month % change



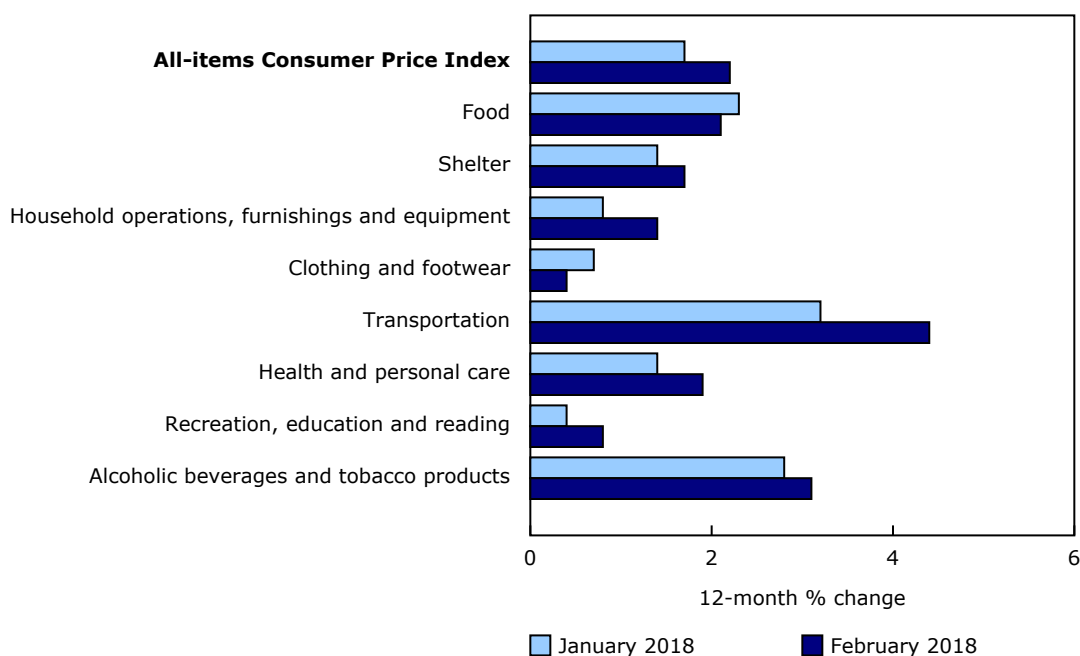
Source(s): CANSIM table [326-0020](#).

## 12-month change in the components

All eight major components increased year over year in February.



**Chart 2**  
**Consumer prices increase in all major components**



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

Energy costs were 5.3% higher compared with February 2017, after increasing 2.4% year over year in January. Year-over-year gains in gasoline (+12.6%) and natural gas (+0.8%) were larger in February than in January.

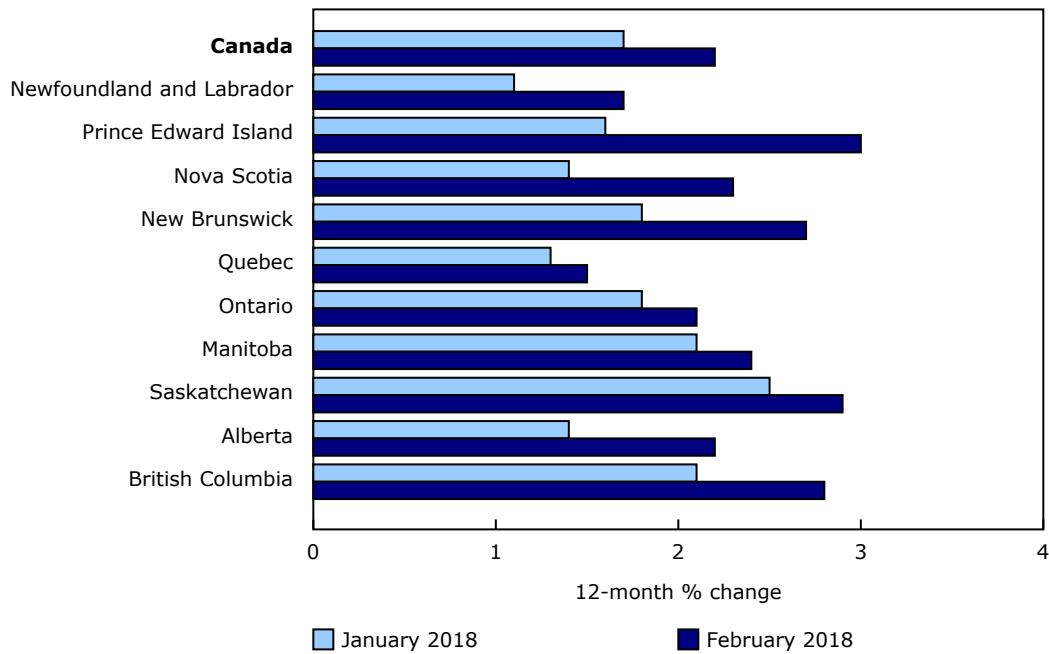
Prices for durable goods were up 0.6%, led by the purchase of passenger vehicles index (+2.5%), mainly due to lower rebates on 2018 model-year vehicles.

Higher prices for services also contributed to the increase in the CPI. In February, consumers paid more on a year-over-year basis for travel tours (+2.2%) and Internet access services (+5.2%). The mortgage interest cost index rose 2.3%, reflecting, in part, recent interest rate increases. These gains in service prices were moderated by lower traveller accommodation (-4.8%) costs.

### 12-month change in the provinces

Prices rose more on a year-over-year basis in every province in February than in the previous month. This growth was strongest in the Atlantic provinces, led by higher prices for food purchased from stores. The largest year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI (+3.0%) was observed in Prince Edward Island.

**Chart 3**  
**Consumer prices rise at a faster rate in all provinces**



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

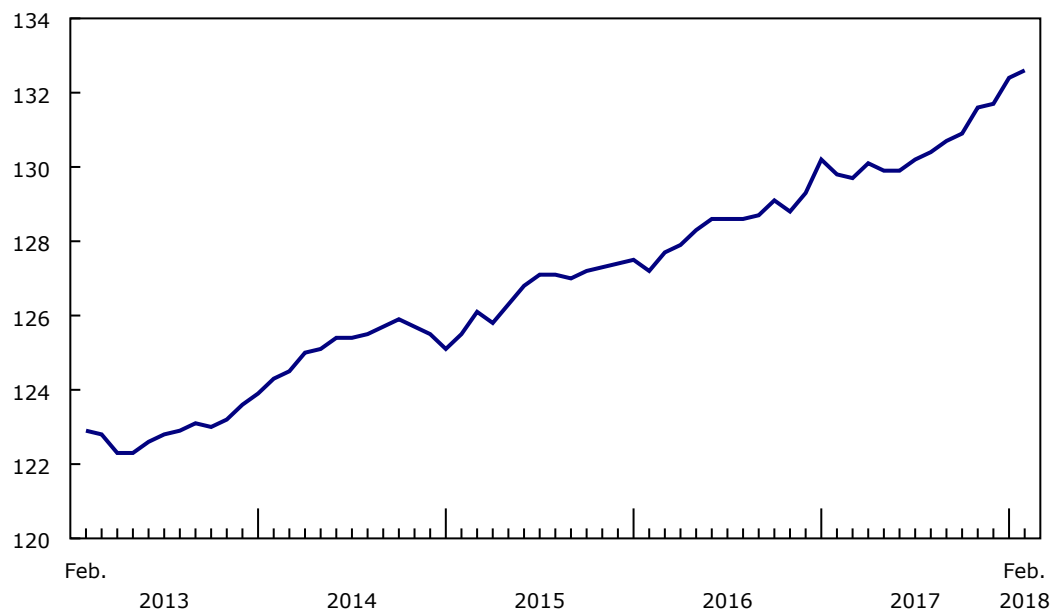
In Ontario, prices were 2.1% higher in February than they were in the same month one year earlier, after rising 1.8% in January. Consumers paid higher prices for food purchased from restaurants (+6.6%), child care and housekeeping services (+10.6%) and personal care services (+5.5%) on a year-over-year basis, after a legislated minimum wage increase in January.

### Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index

On a [seasonally adjusted monthly basis](#), the CPI rose 0.2% in February, following a 0.5% increase in January. Six of eight major components increased, while the clothing and footwear index (-0.2%) declined and the food index was unchanged.

## Chart 4 Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index

index (2002=100)



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

### Main contributors to the 12-month change in the CPI

The main upward contributors to the 12-month change in February included gasoline (+12.6%), food purchased from restaurants (+4.0%), purchase of passenger vehicles (+2.5%), homeowners' replacement cost (+3.6%) and mortgage interest cost (+2.3%).

Conversely, the main downward contributors were electricity (-4.7%), traveller accommodation (-4.8%), digital computing equipment and devices (-5.9%), video equipment (-10.1%) and furniture (-1.8%).

### Main contributors to the monthly change in the CPI, not seasonally adjusted

A number of upward contributors affected the monthly change in the CPI, including travel tours (+18.1%), purchase of passenger vehicles (+1.2%), Internet access services (+6.0%), women's clothing (+3.0%) and food purchased from restaurants (+0.6%).

The largest downward contributors included fresh fruit (-3.5%), gasoline (-0.7%), telephone services (-0.8%), digital equipment computing and devices (-1.5%) and non-alcoholic beverages (-2.1%).

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**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](#).

**Upcoming publication of additional sub-indexes**

On April 20, 2018, with the release of the March CPI, Statistics Canada will publish additional CPI sub-indexes providing an increased level of detail at lower levels of aggregation which will be available in CANSIM tables 326-0020 and 326-0021.

**Upcoming methodology change**

The CPI measures the change in prices of consumer goods and services over time. To accurately reflect trends in the market and in consumer behaviour, Statistics Canada periodically reviews and updates the methods applied to various components of the CPI.

The release of the March CPI (to be published on April 20, 2018) will mark the introduction of new travel destinations and a change in the data sources used to compile the air transportation index.

The air transportation index represents 1.24% of the 2015 CPI basket at link month (December 2016) prices and is part of Transportation, one of the major CPI components.

**Real-time CANSIM tables**

Real-time CANSIM table 326-8023 will be updated on April 9. For more information, consult the document [Real-time CANSIM tables](#).

**Next release**

The CPI for March will be released on April 20.

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

	Relative importance <sup>1,2</sup>	February 2017	January 2018	February 2018	January to February 2018	February 2017 to February 2018
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>129.7</b>	<b>131.7</b>	<b>132.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Food	16.23	141.7	144.7	144.7	0.0	2.1
Shelter	27.15	137.6	139.7	140.0	0.2	1.7
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	12.97	121.7	122.4	123.4	0.8	1.4
Clothing and footwear	5.44	92.9	91.7	93.3	1.7	0.4
Transportation	19.70	131.9	137.2	137.7	0.4	4.4
Gasoline	3.37	153.7	174.3	173.0	-0.7	12.6
Health and personal care	5.00	123.3	125.1	125.6	0.4	1.9
Recreation, education and reading	10.89	113.2	111.8	114.1	2.1	0.8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	2.63	159.2	163.2	164.1	0.6	3.1
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
All-items (1992=100)	.	154.4	156.8	157.7	0.6	2.1
All-items excluding food	83.77	127.3	129.2	130.1	0.7	2.2
All-items excluding food and energy	76.71	124.8	126.2	127.1	0.7	1.8
All-items excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smokers' supplies	97.37	128.7	130.7	131.4	0.5	2.1
All-items excluding energy	92.94	127.8	129.5	130.3	0.6	2.0
All-items excluding gasoline	96.63	128.6	130.1	130.9	0.6	1.8
All-items excluding shelter, insurance and financial services	68.92	125.0	127.0	128.0	0.8	2.4
Energy <sup>3</sup>	7.06	151.1	159.5	159.1	-0.3	5.3
Goods	45.32	118.7	120.2	120.7	0.4	1.7
Durable goods	13.41	90.9	90.6	91.4	0.9	0.6
Semi-durable goods	6.86	95.3	94.5	95.9	1.5	0.6
Non-durable goods	25.06	141.0	144.6	144.6	0.0	2.6
Services	54.68	140.7	143.3	144.3	0.7	2.6

. not available for any reference period

1. 2015 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at December 2016 prices, Canada, effective with the January 2017 CPI.

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

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 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>1,2</sup>	February 2017	January 2018	February 2018	January to February 2018	February 2017 to February 2018
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>129.7</b>	<b>131.7</b>	<b>132.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.39	135.0	136.8	137.3	0.4	1.7
Prince Edward Island	0.33	131.5	134.4	135.4	0.7	3.0
Nova Scotia	2.38	131.4	133.5	134.4	0.7	2.3
New Brunswick	1.85	130.0	132.5	133.5	0.8	2.7
Quebec	20.93	126.6	127.8	128.5	0.5	1.5
Ontario	39.34	131.2	133.2	134.0	0.6	2.1
Manitoba	3.04	129.5	132.3	132.6	0.2	2.4
Saskatchewan	3.08	132.9	136.4	136.7	0.2	2.9
Alberta	13.07	136.7	138.9	139.7	0.6	2.2
British Columbia	14.40	123.6	126.1	127.0	0.7	2.8
Whitehorse	0.08	127.0	128.9	129.5	0.5	2.0
Yellowknife	0.07	133.7	135.4	136.1	0.5	1.8
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	124.4	127.1	126.9	-0.2	2.0

1. 2015 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at December 2016 prices, effective with the January 2017 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>**

	December 2017	January 2018	February 2018	December 2017 to January 2018	January to February 2018
	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>131.7</b>	<b>132.4</b>	<b>132.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Food	143.9	144.0	144.0	0.1	0.0
Shelter	139.2	139.7	140.0	0.4	0.2
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	121.6	123.0	123.4	1.2	0.3
Clothing and footwear	94.5	94.6	94.4	0.1	-0.2
Transportation	137.1	138.1	138.2	0.7	0.1
Health and personal care	124.8	125.1	125.5	0.2	0.3
Recreation, education and reading	114.0	114.3	114.7	0.3	0.3
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	162.9	163.5	164.2	0.4	0.4
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
All-items excluding food and energy <sup>2</sup>	126.5	126.8	127.2	0.2	0.3

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 release of January data. 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 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](#).

**Table 4**  
**Consumer Price Index statistics, preferred measures of core inflation – Bank of Canada definitions, year-over-year percent change, Canada<sup>1,2</sup>**

	November 2017	December 2017	January 2018	February 2018
	%			
CPI-common <sup>3,5</sup>	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.9
CPI-median <sup>4,6</sup>	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1
CPI-trim <sup>4,7</sup>	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.1

- For more information on these measures of core inflation, please consult the [methodology](#) and [general information](#) documents found in our Definitions, data sources and methods - record number [2301](#).
- The Bank of Canada's preferred measures of core inflation, CPI-common, CPI-median and CPI-trim, are subject to revision. In the case of CPI-median and CPI-trim, this results from the fact that these measures are based on seasonally adjusted price index series. In the case of CPI-common, revisions are due to the statistical technique used, as the factor model is estimated over all available historical data. The CANSIM table 326-8023 contains the historical release data for these three measures and will be updated every month.
- This measure is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series adjusted to remove the effect of changes in indirect taxes.
- This measure is based on CPI series that have been treated to remove the effect of changes in indirect taxes, and that have been seasonally adjusted.
- CPI-common is a measure of core inflation that tracks common price changes across categories in the CPI basket.
- CPI-median is a measure of core inflation corresponding to the price change located at the 50th percentile (in terms of CPI basket weights) of the distribution of price changes in a given month.
- CPI-trim is a measure of core inflation that excludes CPI components whose rates of change in a given month are located in the tails of the distribution of price changes.

**Source(s):** CANSIM table [326-0023](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [326-0009](#), [326-0012](#), [326-0020](#), [326-0022](#) and [326-0023](#).

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

The February 2018 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 97, no. 2 ([62-001-X](#)) is now available.

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)).