

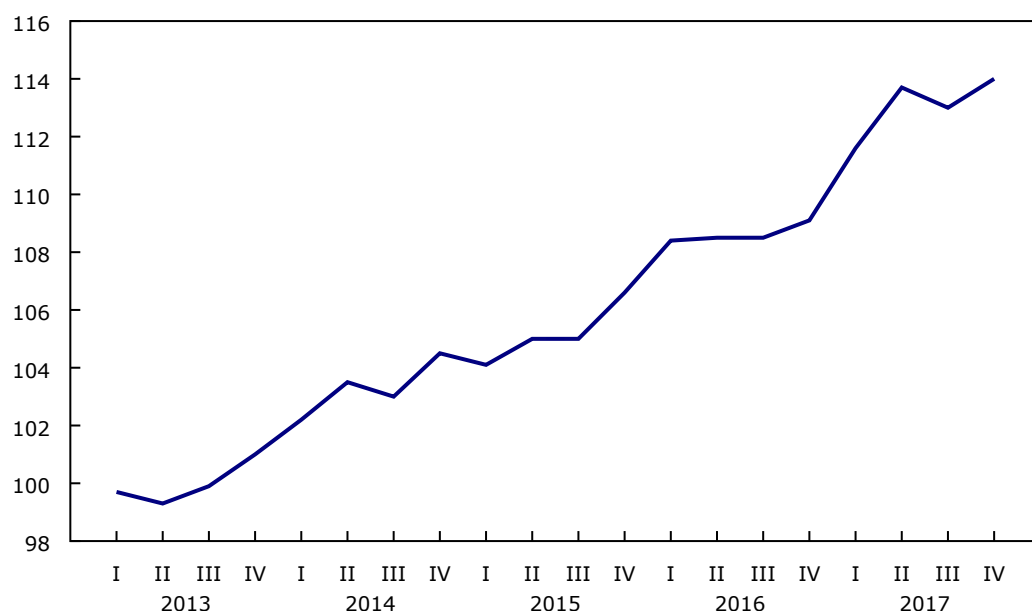
# Wholesale Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2017

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The Wholesale Services Price Index (WSPI) was up 0.9% in the fourth quarter, following a 0.6% decline in the third quarter. Of the eight subsectors, five posted margin gains and three were down.

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

index (2013=100)



Source(s): CANSIM table [332-0030](#).

The increase in the WSPI in the fourth quarter was led by petroleum and petroleum product merchant wholesalers (+5.6%), as margins for this subsector were up following a 13.8% decline in the third quarter. This margin gain occurred in the context of reduced global crude oil output following the November 2017 decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to extend production limits to the end of 2018.

Higher margins for machinery, equipment and supplies merchant wholesalers (+1.1%), primarily due to computer, computer peripheral and pre-packaged software merchant wholesalers, also contributed to the increase in the WSPI in the fourth quarter.

To a lesser extent, margins were also up for food, beverage and tobacco (+1.1%), miscellaneous (+1.0%) and personal and household goods (+0.5%) merchant wholesalers.

Moderating the quarterly increase in the WSPI was motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories (-0.9%), as a result of lower margins on truck, truck tractor and bus merchant wholesalers.

Lower margins were also reported by farm product merchant wholesalers (-2.3%), with widespread declines across all industries in the subsector.

Margins for building material and supplies merchant wholesalers (-0.2%) also fell.



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## Year-over-year change

The WSPI rose 4.5% in the fourth quarter compared with the same quarter in 2016, as margins were up for six of the eight subsectors. This was the 17th consecutive year-over-year increase.

Petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesalers (+38.7%) posted the largest year-over-year margin gain. Year-over-year margin increases were recorded in every quarter of 2017 for the petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesalers subsector.

Margins were also up for building material and supplies (+4.5%), personal and household goods (+3.4%), machinery, equipment and supplies (+3.1%), miscellaneous (+3.0%) and food, beverage and tobacco (+1.5%) merchant wholesalers.

Farm products merchant wholesalers (-9.7%) posted the largest year-over-year margin decline in the fourth quarter. Motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories merchant wholesalers (-0.8%) were also down.

### 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.

### A Historical Timeline of Canadian Producer Price Statistics

A [Historical Timeline of Canadian Producer Price Statistics](#), which is part of the Prices Analytical Series ([62F0014M](#)), was created to showcase the key milestones in the history of Canadian producer price statistics. This historical timeline contains answers to questions such as: Who collected Canada's first statistics? What do Canadian producer price indexes measure?

### Infographic: Producer Price Indexes at a Glance

The infographic, "[Producer Price Indexes at a Glance](#)," which is part of Statistics Canada — Infographics ([11-627-M](#)), demonstrates how producer price indexes for goods and services are calculated and why they are important for the Canadian economy.

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

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	Fourth quarter 2016	Third quarter 2017 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 2017 <sup>p</sup>	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2017	Fourth quarter 2016 to fourth quarter 2017
	%	(2013=100)			% change	
<b>Wholesale Services Price Index</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>109.1</b>	<b>113.0</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Farm products	2.28	118.0	109.0	106.5	-2.3	-9.7
Petroleum products	6.96	108.8	142.9	150.9	5.6	38.7
Food, beverage and tobacco	13.83	122.6	123.1	124.4	1.1	1.5
Personal and household goods	16.17	100.0	102.9	103.4	0.5	3.4
Motor vehicles and parts and accessories	9.74	108.5	108.6	107.6	-0.9	-0.8
Building material and supplies	12.87	107.6	112.6	112.4	-0.2	4.5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	23.31	106.8	108.9	110.1	1.1	3.1
Miscellaneous	11.33	109.0	111.2	112.3	1.0	3.0

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. The relative importance is calculated by dividing the weight of each component by the total weight. This weight corresponds to the aggregate revenue of establishments at the time of sample selection, derived from the Annual Wholesale Trade Survey (2445). The total does not equal 100 as the business-to-business electronic markets, and agents and brokers subsector (North American Industry Classification System code 419) was not surveyed.

Source(s): CANSIM table 332-0030.

**Available in CANSIM: tables 332-0029 and 332-0030.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5106.**

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)).