

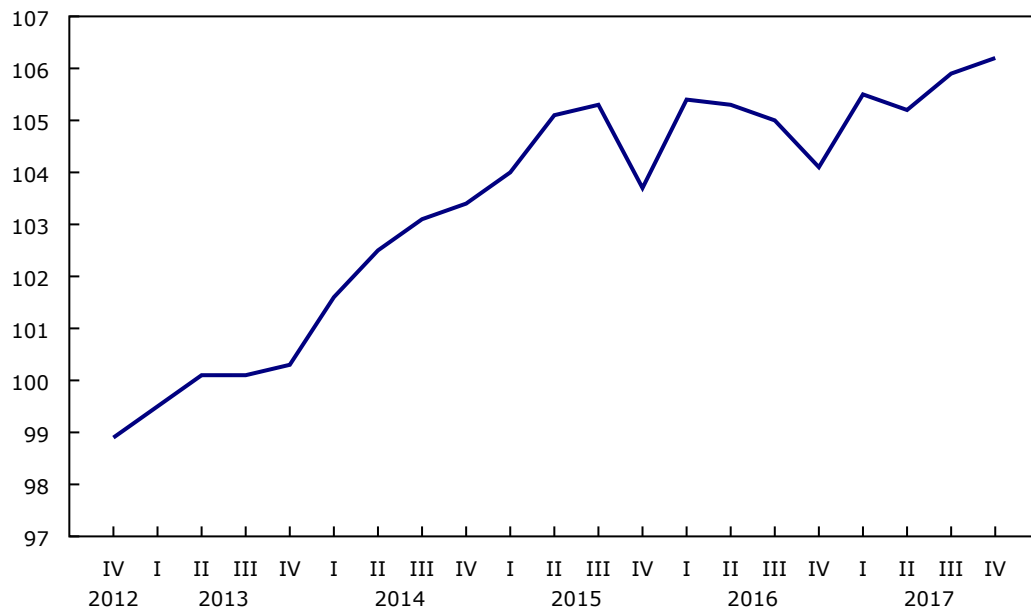
# Retail Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2017

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, May 9, 2018

The Retail Services Price Index (RSPI) increased 0.3% in the fourth quarter. The growth was a result of higher margins at general merchandise stores, gasoline stations and building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers.

**Chart 1**  
**Retail Services Price Index**

index (2013=100)



Source(s): CANSIM table [332-0025](#).

Margins were up in 6 of the 10 major retail subsectors, representing 53% of the retail sector surveyed.

Retailers at general merchandise stores posted a margin increase of 2.4%. The gains were concentrated in department stores (+6.4%), mainly as a result of higher selling prices.

Margins at gasoline stations rose 2.3% as a result of higher prices for fuel products such as gasoline. The increase was partly attributable to higher prices for crude oil. According to the Raw Material Price Index, conventional crude oil prices rose 18.3% on a quarterly basis.

Retailers at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers posted margin gains of 1.7%. The growth was concentrated in home centres. Margins in this industry have increased more than 30% since the first quarter of 2012.

Moderating the growth of the RSPI, margins at food stores declined 0.9%. Retailers in this subsector saw broad margin decreases due to lower selling prices.



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## Year-over-year change

The RSPI increased 2.0% in the fourth quarter compared with the same quarter in 2016, with retailers in 8 of the 10 major retail subsectors posting gains.

Retailers at food stores (+3.3%) contributed the most to the margin increase on a year-over-year basis, as a result of higher selling prices. According to the Consumer Price Index, on a quarterly basis, food purchased from stores was up 1.0% compared with the fourth quarter of 2016.

Health and personal care stores (+3.8%), building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (+3.1%) and gasoline stations (+3.2%) also reported year-over-year margin gains.

Lower margins at furniture and home furnishing stores (-1.2%) and electronics and appliance stores (-1.0%) moderated the year-over-year increase of the RSPI.

### Note to readers

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

### Quality indicators

Statistics Canada has undertaken an important initiative for the RSPI.

With the data release of the fourth quarter of 2017, data-quality indicators have been added for indexes where quality is reduced. Many indexes that were previously suppressed are now available, beginning with third quarter of 2017 data.

Data-quality indicators are based on measures of survey precision (standard errors), estimates of market coverage (based on the RSPI sample), and the number of reported price quotes.

Index series without data-quality indicators are considered to be statistically reliable.

Users are encouraged to take into account [quality indicators](#) when using RSPI data.

### A Historical Timeline of Canadian Producer Price Statistics

The publication "[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**  
**Retail 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>Retail Services Price Index</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>104.1</b>	<b>105.9</b>	<b>106.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores <sup>2</sup>	1.92	103.1	99.0	99.7	0.7	-3.3
Furniture and home furnishings stores	5.02	99.6	98.3	98.4	0.1	-1.2
Electronics and appliance stores	3.80	99.5	98.5	98.5	0.0	-1.0
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	7.71	118.0	119.6	121.6	1.7	3.1
Food and beverage stores	22.97	101.0	105.2	104.3	-0.9	3.3
Health and personal care stores	10.64	100.9	105.9	104.7	-1.1	3.8
Gasoline stations	6.63	109.8	110.8	113.3	2.3	3.2
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	10.54	105.3	105.0	105.6	0.6	0.3
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	3.18	107.3	109.1	108.1	-0.9	0.7
General merchandise stores	10.85	100.2	99.3	101.7	2.4	1.5
Miscellaneous store retailers	4.28	107.0	110.0	110.5	0.5	3.3

<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. The weights correspond to the aggregate gross margins of establishments at the time of sample selection, derived from the 2013 Annual Retail Trade Survey (2447). The total does not equal 100 as automobile dealers (North American Industry Classification System [NAICS] code 4411), other motor vehicle dealers (NAICS code 4412) and non-store retailers (NAICS code 454) were not surveyed.
2. For motor vehicle and parts dealers (NAICS 441), data are only available for automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (NAICS 4413) and the constituent five-digit NAICS series. Automobile dealers (NAICS 4411) and other motor vehicle dealers (NAICS 4412) are not surveyed and, therefore, data are not available at this time.

Source(s): CANSIM table 332-0025.

Available in CANSIM: tables 332-0024 and 332-0025.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5135.

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)).