

Consumer Price Index, February 2019

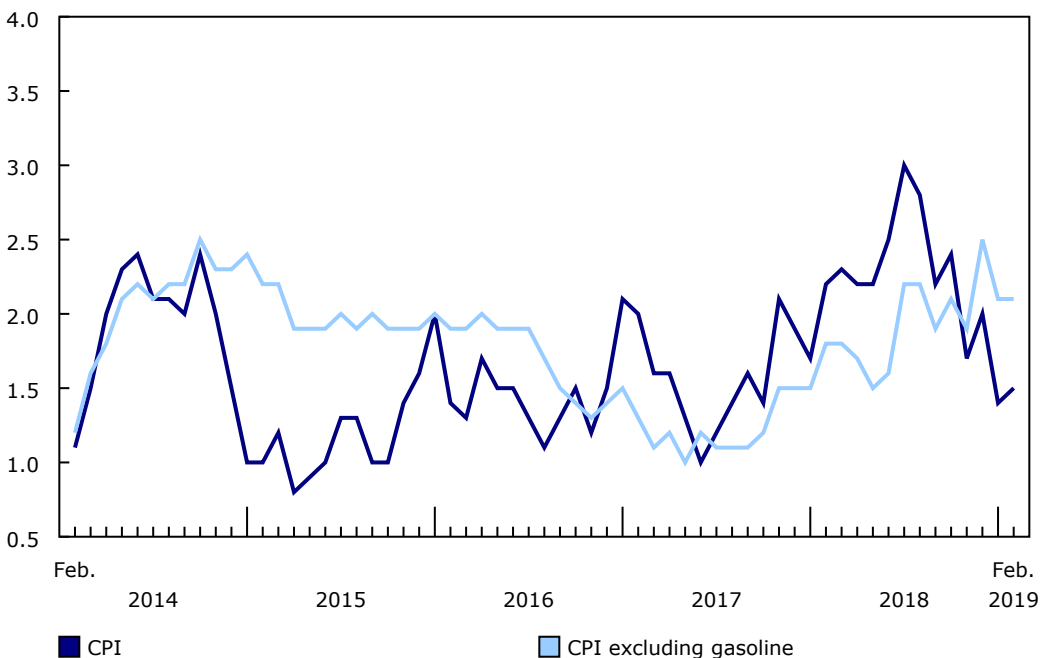
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, March 22, 2019

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.5% on a year-over-year basis in February, up from a 1.4% increase in January. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 2.1%, matching the gain in January.

Today, Statistics Canada is launching a new interactive [Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#) that allows users to quickly identify changes and contributions to changes of the Consumer Price Index on a monthly and annual basis.

Chart 1 The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the CPI excluding gasoline

12-month % change



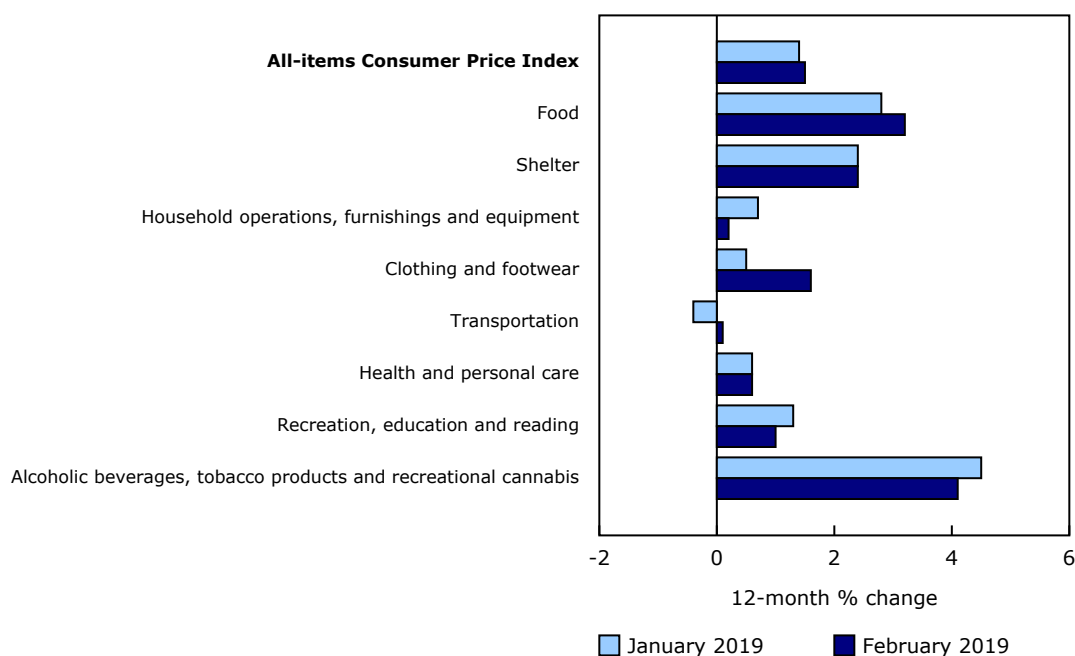
Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

Component highlights

All eight major components were up year over year in February, with the shelter index (+2.4%) contributing most to the increase.



Chart 2
Consumer prices increase in all major components



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

Energy prices were 5.7% lower compared with February 2018, following a larger decline the previous month. Year-over-year price declines for gasoline (-11.9%) and fuel oil and other fuels (-1.5%) were smaller in February than in January. Tighter oil supplies and the temporary closure of several refineries for seasonal maintenance affected prices at the pump, leading to the first month-over-month increase in the gasoline index since July 2018.

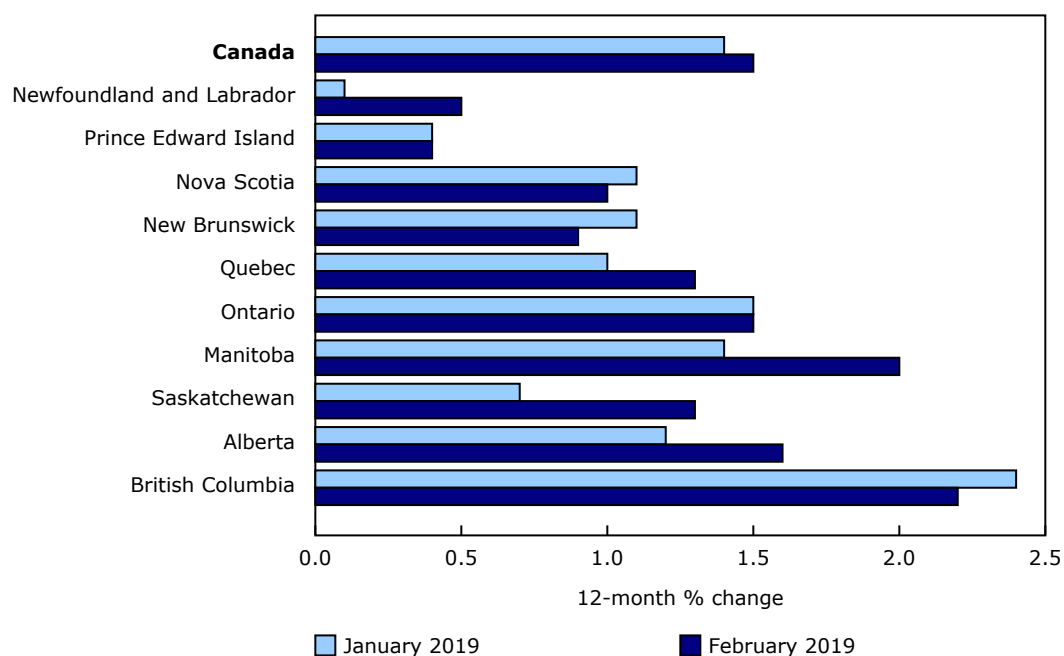
On a year-over-year basis, consumers paid more for fresh vegetables (+14.3%) and fresh fruit (+3.8%) in February compared with January. The purchase of passenger vehicles index rose 1.4% year over year, due, in part, to lower rebates on 2019 model-year vehicles.

The services index rose 2.3% year over year in February, following a 2.7% increase in January. The cost of Internet access services fell 9.2% on a year-over-year basis amid a series of price promotions. Consumers paid less for traveller accommodation (-4.7%) and travel tours (-3.4%) compared with February 2018. These declines were partially offset by an increase in the mortgage interest cost index (+8.1%), which partly reflected higher interest rates offered by commercial banks during the last 12 months. Rent prices increased 0.4% month over month in February.

Regional highlights

Consumer prices rose more in five provinces in February on a year-over-year basis compared with the previous month. This growth was most pronounced in the Prairie provinces, where prices for gasoline rose the most on a month-over-month basis in February.

Chart 3
Consumer prices rise at a faster rate in five provinces



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

In Ontario, consumer prices for various services increased less on a year-over-year basis in February compared with January. Prices for food purchased from restaurants (+2.2%), personal care services (+1.6%), child care and housekeeping services (+1.3%) and alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments (+2.3%) rose at a slower pace in February than in January. Price increases in these indexes in February 2018, which followed a legislated minimum wage increase the previous month, no longer affected the 12-month movement in February 2019.

Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index

On a [seasonally adjusted monthly basis](#), the CPI rose 0.3% in February, following a 0.1% decline in January. The transportation index (+0.9%) reported the largest increase, while the household operations, furnishings and equipment index (-0.3%) decreased.

Note to readers

Rent index

Users are reminded that the methodology for the rent index was updated with the January 2019 Consumer Price Index (CPI) as part of the regular review of CPI methodology. Interpretation of the 12-month price change indicator should be made with caution, particularly in the year following the implementation of the new methodology.

Check out the new Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool!

This dashboard provides access to current and historical CPI data in a dynamic and customizable format. Check out the latest CPI snapshot to find out what's currently driving price changes in the CPI. Explore key CPI indicators and compare price changes of all the goods and services in the CPI basket over time and by geography.

This web-based application is updated monthly with the release of the CPI.

Visit our new interactive [Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#).

Real-time data tables

Real-time data table 18-10-0259-01 will be updated on April 8.

Next release

The CPI for March will be released on April 17.

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

	Relative importance ^{1,2}	February 2018	January 2019	February 2019	January to February 2019	February 2018 to February 2019
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	100.00	132.5	133.6	134.5	0.7	1.5
Food	16.48	144.7	148.7	149.3	0.4	3.2
Shelter	27.36	140.0	143.0	143.4	0.3	2.4
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	12.80	123.4	123.3	123.6	0.2	0.2
Clothing and footwear	5.17	93.3	92.2	94.8	2.8	1.6
Transportation	19.95	137.7	136.6	137.9	1.0	0.1
Gasoline	3.13	173.0	149.6	152.4	1.9	-11.9
Health and personal care	4.79	125.6	125.9	126.4	0.4	0.6
Recreation, education and reading	10.24	114.1	113.3	115.2	1.7	1.0
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.21	164.1	170.6	170.9	0.2	4.1
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	83.52	130.1	130.7	131.7	0.8	1.2
All-items excluding food and energy	77.01	127.1	128.6	129.6	0.8	2.0
All-items excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smokers' supplies and recreational cannabis	96.79	131.4	132.4	133.4	0.8	1.5
All-items excluding energy	93.50	130.3	132.2	133.0	0.6	2.1
All-items excluding gasoline	96.87	130.9	132.8	133.6	0.6	2.1
Energy ³	6.50	159.1	148.5	150.1	1.1	-5.7
Goods	44.29	120.7	120.0	121.4	1.2	0.6
Durable goods	12.94	91.4	90.5	91.8	1.4	0.4
Semi-durable goods	6.63	95.9	95.2	97.3	2.2	1.5
Non-durable goods	24.72	144.6	144.1	145.1	0.7	0.3
Services	55.71	144.3	147.1	147.6	0.3	2.3

1. 2017 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at December 2018 prices, Canada, effective with the January 2019 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): Tables [18-10-0004-01](#) and [18-10-0007-01](#).

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

	Relative importance ^{1,2}	February 2018	January 2019	February 2019	January to February 2019	February 2018 to February 2019
	%	(2002=100)		% change		
Canada	100.00	132.5	133.6	134.5	0.7	1.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.31	137.3	137.0	138.0	0.7	0.5
Prince Edward Island	0.33	135.4	135.0	135.9	0.7	0.4
Nova Scotia	2.31	134.4	135.0	135.7	0.5	1.0
New Brunswick	1.76	133.5	134.0	134.7	0.5	0.9
Quebec	20.72	128.5	129.1	130.2	0.9	1.3
Ontario	39.83	134.0	135.2	136.0	0.6	1.5
Manitoba	3.16	132.6	134.1	135.2	0.8	2.0
Saskatchewan	2.98	136.7	137.4	138.5	0.8	1.3
Alberta	12.15	139.7	140.5	142.0	1.1	1.6
British Columbia	15.27	127.0	129.1	129.8	0.5	2.2
Whitehorse	0.08	129.5	130.9	131.1	0.2	1.2
Yellowknife	0.07	136.1	136.8	138.0	0.9	1.4
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	126.9	129.3	129.9	0.5	2.4

1. 2017 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at December 2018 prices, effective with the January 2019 CPI.

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

Source(s): Tables [18-10-0004-01](#) and [18-10-0007-01](#).

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

	December 2018	January 2019	February 2019	December 2018 to January 2019	January to February 2019
	(2002=100)		% change		
All-items	134.3	134.2	134.6	-0.1	0.3
Food	147.8	148.1	148.5	0.2	0.3
Shelter	142.3	143.0	143.4	0.5	0.3
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	124.0	123.8	123.4	-0.2	-0.3
Clothing and footwear	94.7	95.1	95.6	0.4	0.5
Transportation	138.3	137.6	138.8	-0.5	0.9
Health and personal care	126.0	125.9	126.4	-0.1	0.4
Recreation, education and reading	116.0	116.0	116.0	0.0	0.0
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	170.3	171.1	171.3	0.5	0.1
Special aggregates					
All-items excluding food	131.7	131.5	131.8	-0.2	0.2
All-items excluding food and energy ²	129.2	129.1	129.4	-0.1	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 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): Table [18-10-0006-01](#).

Table 4
Consumer Price Index statistics, preferred measures of core inflation – Bank of Canada definitions, year-over-year percent change, Canada^{1,2}

	November 2018	December 2018	January 2019	February 2019
	% change			
CPI-common ^{3,5}	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8
CPI-median ^{4,6}	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8
CPI-trim ^{4,7}	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9

- 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 table 18-10-0259-01 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): Table [18-10-0256-01](#).

Table 5
Main contributors to the 12-month and 1-month change in the Consumer Price Index

	February 2018 to February 2019
	% change
Main contributors to the 12-month change	
Main upward contributors	
Mortgage interest cost	8.1
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	6.3
Fresh vegetables	14.3
Rent	2.5
Food purchased from restaurants	2.7
Main downward contributors	
Gasoline	-11.9
Internet access services	-9.2
Traveller accommodation	-4.7
Travel tours	-3.4
Digital computing equipment and devices	-4.7
	January to February 2019
	% change
Main contributors to the 1-month change, not seasonally adjusted	
Main upward contributors	
Travel tours	12.6
Purchase of passenger vehicles	1.3
Gasoline	1.9
Women's clothing	3.1
Footwear	3.6
Main downward contributors	
Internet access services	-7.4
Food purchased from restaurants	-0.3
Air transportation	-0.6
Preserved fruit and fruit preparations	-2.1
Sugar and confectionary	-1.2

Source(s): Table [18-10-0004-01](#).

Available tables: [18-10-0001-01](#), [18-10-0002-01](#), [18-10-0004-01](#), [18-10-0006-01](#) and [18-10-0256-01](#).

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

The interactive [Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#) is available on the Statistics Canada website.

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) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).