

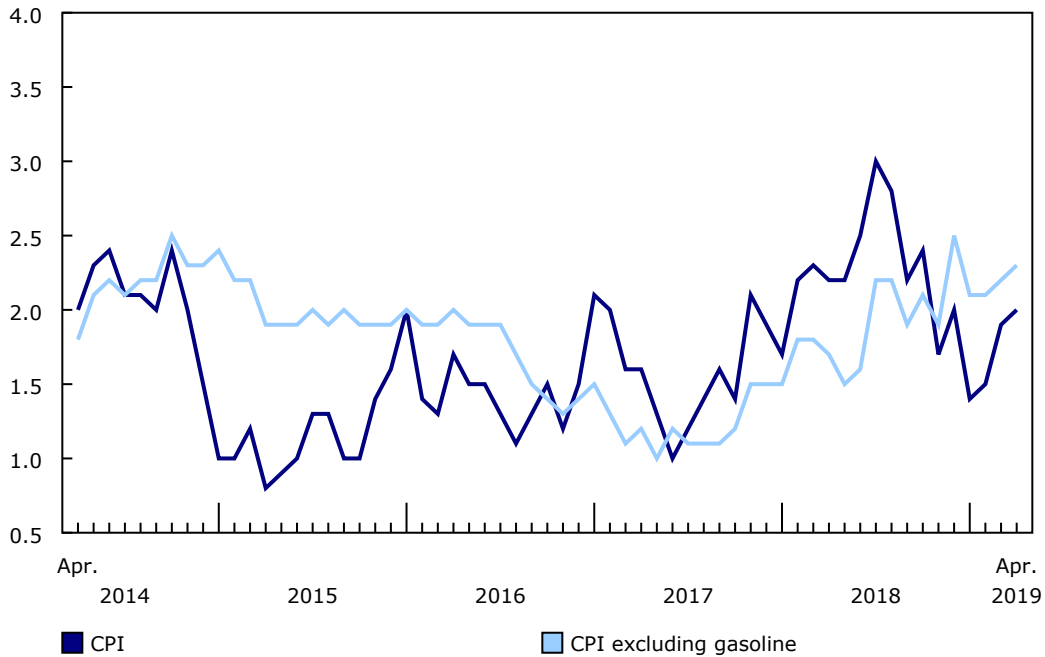
Consumer Price Index, April 2019

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, May 15, 2019

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.0% on a year-over-year basis in April, following a 1.9% increase in March. The gasoline index decreased 1.6% year over year, following a 4.4% decline in March, while prices increased 10.0% month over month. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 2.3% year over year.

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

12-month % change



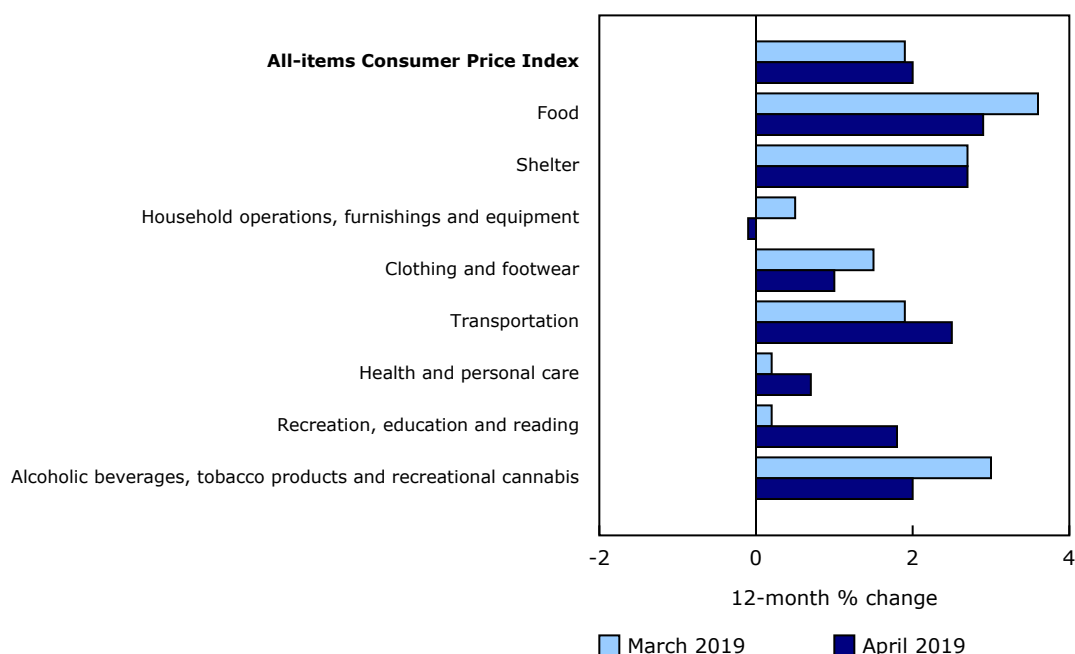
Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

Component highlights

Seven of the eight major components were up year over year in April, with shelter prices (+2.7%) contributing most to the increase in the CPI. The household operations, furnishings and equipment index fell 0.1% in the 12 months to April.



Chart 2
Consumer prices increase in seven of eight major components



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

Energy prices rose 0.7% year over year in April, the first 12-month gain in the index since October 2018. Gasoline prices increased 10.0% compared with the previous month, as refineries switched to summer-blend fuels, global oil prices continued to rise due to production cuts, and carbon levies were introduced or increased in six provinces.

Natural gas prices increased 10.2% over the 12 months to April, driven in part by higher commodity prices and the introduction of carbon levies in several provinces. Alberta saw the largest year-over-year gain in natural gas prices, due to recent rate increases.

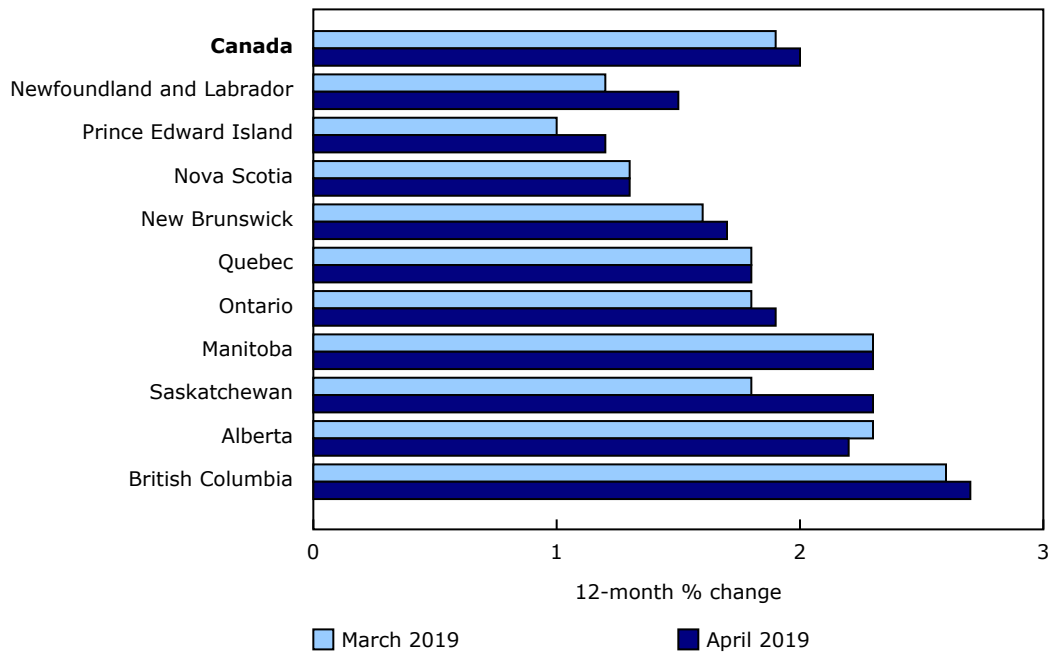
Canadians paid 2.9% more for food in April compared with the same month last year. This was down from a 3.6% year-over-year increase in March. The slowdown in the food index was primarily driven by a decline in the fresh or frozen beef index (-0.8%). The 12-month growth in the price of fresh vegetables slowed from 15.7% in March to 14.5% in April, while the increase in the fresh fruit index slowed to 7.8%.

The services index increased 2.4% on a year-over-year basis in April. The travel tours index rose 8.4% compared with April 2018. The increase was partly attributable to the fact that the first two days of the Easter long weekend, a popular time for travel, took place in April this year. Air transportation prices (+6.6%) continued to rise on a year-over-year basis, amid jet groundings and increased April holiday travel.

Regional highlights

Consumer prices rose more on a year-over-year basis in six provinces in April compared with the previous month. For the seventh consecutive month, British Columbia (+2.7%) posted the largest increase in the CPI.

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

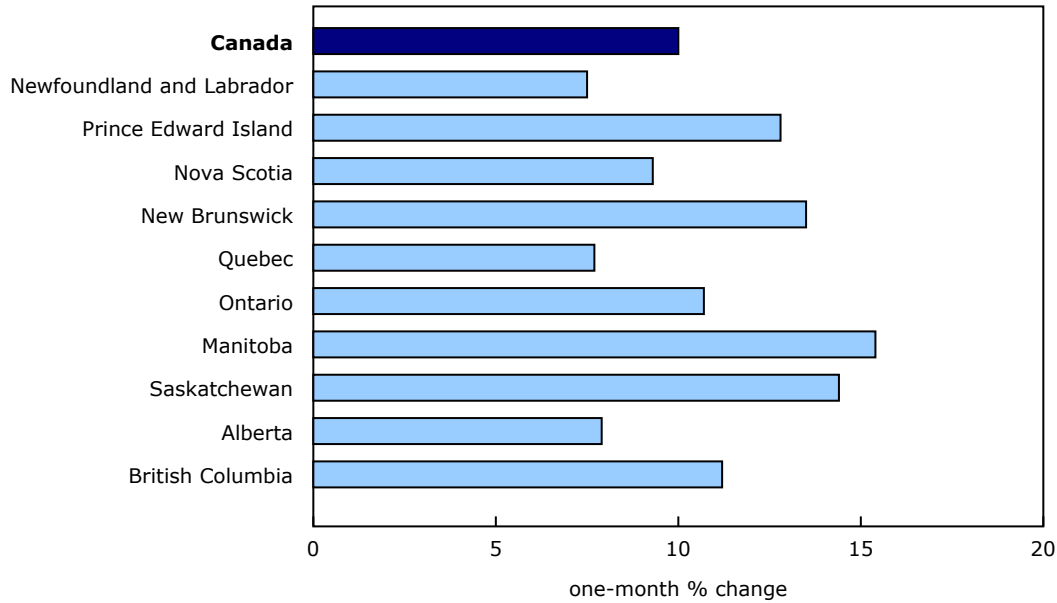


Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

The gasoline index rose 10.0% month over month at the national level in April. Carbon levies, which establish a pricing system on carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, were introduced in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*. Prince Edward Island implemented its own carbon levy in April, while British Columbia increased its existing carbon levy. The six provinces in which carbon levies were implemented or increased experienced the largest month-over-month increases in gasoline prices.

Among the provinces, natural gas prices rose the most month over month in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Chart 4
Gasoline prices increase month over month in all provinces



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

Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index

On a [seasonally adjusted monthly basis](#), the CPI rose 0.3% in April, following a 0.4% increase in March. The transportation index (+0.4%) increased the most in April, while the food and recreation, education and reading indexes were unchanged.

Note to readers

Check out the new Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool!

This dashboard provides access to current and historical Consumer Price Index (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](#).

User consultation

Statistics Canada is planning a series of user consultations on the CPI program. If you are a user of the CPI and wish to participate, please send an email to: statcan.cpdisseminationunit-dpcunitedediffusion.statcan@canada.ca with your name, organization and contact information.

Telephone services index

The release of the November 2018 CPI (published on December 19, 2018) marked the implementation of methodological changes for the calculation of the telephone services index. Detailed documentation describing the new approach for calculating the telephone services index, which was published on April 30, 2019, is available in the article "[New approach for estimating the Telephone Services Index of the Consumer Price Index](#)," which is published as part of the publication *Prices Analytical Series (62F0014M)*.

Real-time data tables

Real-time data table 18-10-0259-01 will be updated on May 27.

Next release

The Consumer Price Index for May will be released on June 19.

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

	Relative importance ^{1,2}	April 2018	March 2019	April 2019	March to April 2019	April 2018 to April 2019
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	100.00	133.3	135.4	136.0	0.4	2.0
Food	16.48	144.8	149.4	149.0	-0.3	2.9
Shelter	27.36	140.3	143.8	144.1	0.2	2.7
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	12.80	123.9	123.5	123.8	0.2	-0.1
Clothing and footwear	5.17	96.2	96.4	97.2	0.8	1.0
Transportation	19.95	139.5	140.6	143.0	1.7	2.5
Gasoline	3.13	190.1	170.1	187.1	10.0	-1.6
Health and personal care	4.79	126.2	126.6	127.1	0.4	0.7
Recreation, education and reading	10.24	113.7	116.6	115.8	-0.7	1.8
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.21	167.9	170.9	171.3	0.2	2.0
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	83.52	131.0	132.7	133.4	0.5	1.8
All-items excluding food and energy	77.01	127.5	130.0	130.1	0.1	2.0
All-items excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smokers' supplies and recreational cannabis	96.79	132.1	134.3	134.8	0.4	2.0
All-items excluding energy	93.50	130.6	133.5	133.5	0.0	2.2
All-items excluding gasoline	96.87	131.2	134.1	134.2	0.1	2.3
Energy ³	6.50	167.1	159.1	168.2	5.7	0.7
Goods	44.29	122.0	122.7	123.7	0.8	1.4
Durable goods	12.94	90.6	91.9	91.8	-0.1	1.3
Semi-durable goods	6.63	98.5	98.5	99.3	0.8	0.8
Non-durable goods	24.72	146.9	147.4	149.4	1.4	1.7
Services	55.71	144.6	148.1	148.1	0.0	2.4

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}	April 2018	March 2019	April 2019	March to April 2019	April 2018 to April 2019
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
Canada	100.00	133.3	135.4	136.0	0.4	2.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.31	137.7	139.1	139.7	0.4	1.5
Prince Edward Island	0.33	136.1	137.0	137.8	0.6	1.2
Nova Scotia	2.31	135.7	136.8	137.4	0.4	1.3
New Brunswick	1.76	134.1	135.9	136.4	0.4	1.7
Quebec	20.72	129.2	131.0	131.5	0.4	1.8
Ontario	39.83	134.8	137.0	137.4	0.3	1.9
Manitoba	3.16	134.0	136.1	137.1	0.7	2.3
Saskatchewan	2.98	137.5	139.2	140.6	1.0	2.3
Alberta	12.15	140.6	143.1	143.7	0.4	2.2
British Columbia	15.27	127.7	130.7	131.2	0.4	2.7
Whitehorse	0.08	130.4	131.6	132.2	0.5	1.4
Yellowknife	0.07	135.9	138.5	138.4	-0.1	1.8
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	128.8	130.5	131.3	0.6	1.9

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

	February 2019	March 2019	April 2019	February to March 2019	March to April 2019
	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	134.7	135.2	135.6	0.4	0.3
Food	148.5	148.8	148.8	0.2	0.0
Shelter	143.4	143.8	144.1	0.3	0.2
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	123.3	123.2	123.5	-0.1	0.2
Clothing and footwear	95.5	95.3	95.5	-0.2	0.2
Transportation	139.0	140.8	141.4	1.3	0.4
Health and personal care	126.4	126.7	126.8	0.2	0.1
Recreation, education and reading	115.9	115.9	115.9	0.0	0.0
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	171.2	170.9	171.1	-0.2	0.1
Special aggregates					
All-items excluding food	131.9	132.5	132.9	0.5	0.3
All-items excluding food and energy ²	129.4	129.7	129.9	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 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}

	January 2019	February 2019	March 2019	April 2019
	% change			
CPI-common ^{3,5}	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
CPI-median ^{4,6}	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.9
CPI-trim ^{4,7}	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0

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](#).

2. 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.

3. This measure is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series adjusted to remove the effect of changes in indirect taxes.

4. 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.

5. CPI-common is a measure of core inflation that tracks common price changes across categories in the CPI basket.

6. 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.

7. 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

April 2018 to April 2019

	% change
Main contributors to the 12-month change	
Main upward contributors	
Mortgage interest cost	8.2
Purchase of passenger vehicles	2.7
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	6.3
Fresh vegetables	14.5
Rent	2.2
Main downward contributors	
Traveller accommodation	-9.6
Gasoline	-1.6
Telephone services	-1.7
Digital computing equipment and devices	-3.7
Children's clothing	-3.9
March to April 2019	
	% change
Main contributors to the 1-month change, not seasonally adjusted	
Main upward contributors	
Gasoline	10.0
Women's clothing	2.5
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	0.9
Natural gas	2.8
Mortgage interest cost	0.6
Main downward contributors	
Travel tours	-7.9
Purchase of passenger vehicles	-0.7
Rent	-0.4
Fresh vegetables	-1.4
Dairy products	-0.8

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).