

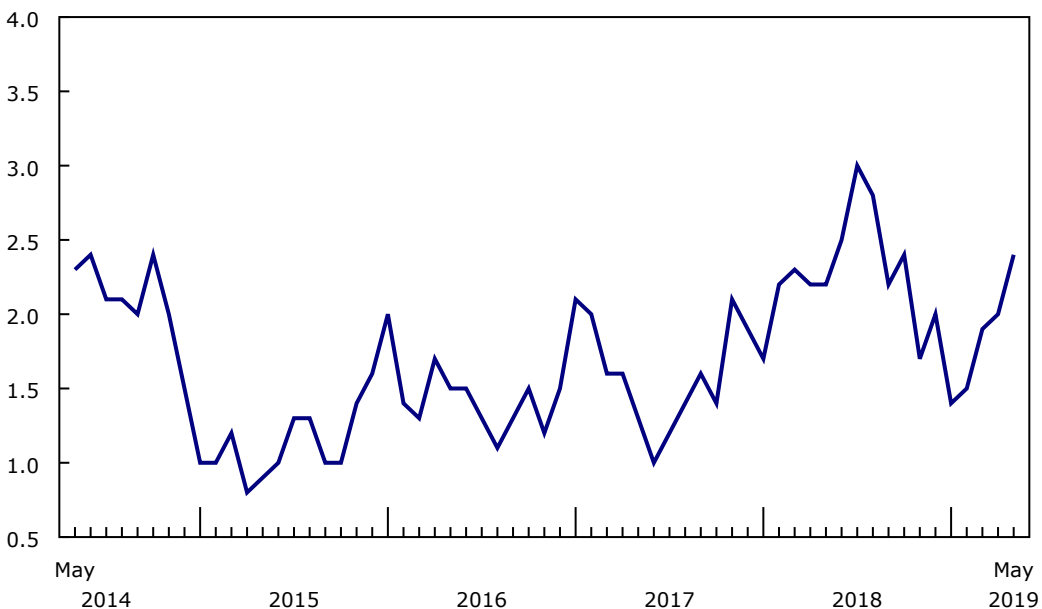
Consumer Price Index, May 2019

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, June 19, 2019

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.4% on a year-over-year basis in May, up from a 2.0% increase in April. The CPI increased amid a series of broad-based gains, including higher prices for food and durable goods, while consumers paid 3.7% less for gasoline compared with May 2018. Excluding gasoline, the CPI increased 2.7% year over year, up from a 2.3% increase in April.

Chart 1
The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index

12-month % change



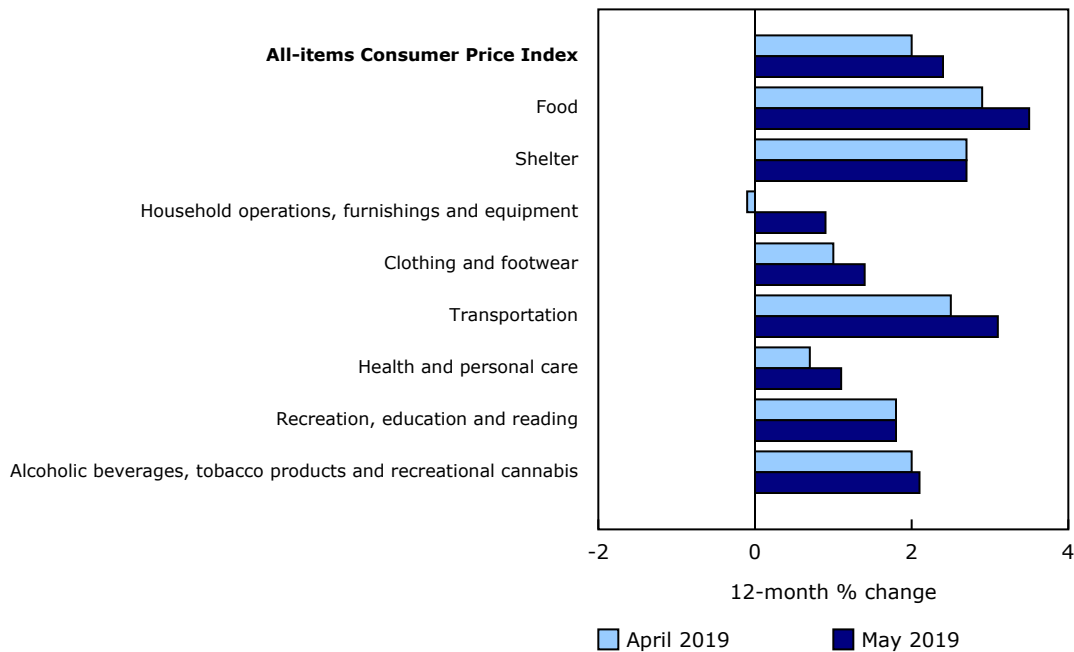
Source(s): Table [18-10-0004-01](#).

Component Highlights

Prices increased year over year in all eight major components in May, with six components growing at faster rates and two components growing at the same pace compared with April. Higher prices for food (+3.5%) and transportation (+3.1%) contributed to the increased growth in the all-items index.



Chart 2
Consumer prices increase in all major components



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

Prices for food purchased from stores rose 4.0% in the 12 months to May, after increasing 3.0% in April. Faster growth in the cost of food was driven by higher prices for meat (+2.9%). Canadians paid 16.7% more for fresh vegetables compared with May 2018, the highest year-over-year increase in the index since February 2016. This movement follows supply issues stemming from inclement weather in source regions, and may have also been influenced by higher demand as observed in the other fresh vegetables index (+17.8%).

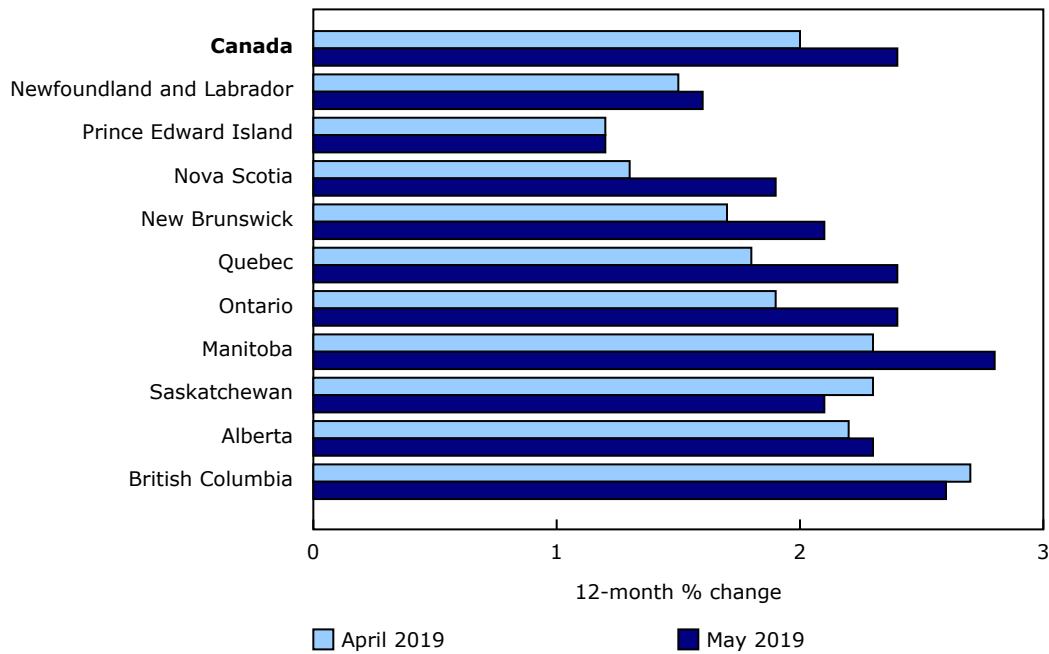
The durable goods index rose 2.5% on a year-over-year basis in May, up from a 1.3% increase the previous month. The purchase of passenger vehicles index rose 4.2% compared with May 2018, when manufacturers increased rebates for new trucks. This was the largest year-over-year increase in this index since October 2016.

Energy prices were down 0.1% compared with May 2018. A decline in gasoline prices (-3.7%) over the 12 months to May was the only contributor to the decrease in the energy index.

Regional highlights

Prices rose more on a year-over-year basis in seven provinces in May compared with April. In British Columbia (+2.6%) and Saskatchewan (+2.1%), the CPI increased more slowly on an annual basis in May than in April.

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



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

On a year-over-year basis, the growth rate for electricity prices increased to 2.3% in May at the national level. This was due in part to an 11.4% increase in electricity costs in Alberta compared with last May, when prices declined. Similarly, natural gas prices rose 11.6% year over year at the Canada level, and increased 29.9% in Alberta due to declines this time last year.

Quebec was the sole province where the traveller accommodation index (+4.6%) rose year over year in May, which is attributable to increased demand during a series of festivals and concerts held in the province. The cost of traveller accommodation was down 12.2% in Nova Scotia, following a 33.8% decrease in April.

Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index

On a [seasonally adjusted monthly basis](#), the CPI rose 0.3% in May, matching the increase in April. While all eight major components increased month over month, the recreation, education and reading index (+1.6%) reported the largest seasonally adjusted month-over-month increase.

Note to readers

User consultations

Statistics Canada is planning a series of user consultations on the Consumer Price Index (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.

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](#).

Upcoming changes to the table "Inter-city indexes of price differentials of consumer goods and services": Addition of a new geographic stratum

Data on inter-city indexes of price differentials of consumer goods and services, appearing in table 18-10-0003-01, will be updated to October 2018 with the release of the June 2019 CPI (to be published on July 17, 2019). As well, the geographic stratum "Iqaluit, Nunavut" will be introduced into the table, reflecting data for the food major component.

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. Users should note that changing methodological elements of any index may result in variations in the series. As such, the interpretation of the 12-month price change indicator should be made with caution, particularly in the year following the implementation of a new methodology.

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 July 2.

Next release

The Consumer Price Index for June will be released on July 17.

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

	Relative importance ^{1,2}	May 2018	April 2019	May 2019	April to May 2019	May 2018 to May 2019
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	100.00	133.4	136.0	136.6	0.4	2.4
Food	16.48	144.6	149.0	149.7	0.5	3.5
Shelter	27.36	140.4	144.1	144.2	0.1	2.7
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	12.80	122.8	123.8	123.9	0.1	0.9
Clothing and footwear	5.17	95.4	97.2	96.7	-0.5	1.4
Transportation	19.95	139.7	143.0	144.0	0.7	3.1
Gasoline	3.13	196.4	187.1	189.2	1.1	-3.7
Health and personal care	4.79	125.9	127.1	127.3	0.2	1.1
Recreation, education and reading	10.24	116.5	115.8	118.6	2.4	1.8
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.21	168.1	171.3	171.7	0.2	2.1
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	83.52	131.2	133.4	134.1	0.5	2.2
All-items excluding food and energy	77.01	127.6	130.1	130.7	0.5	2.4
All-items excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smokers' supplies and recreational cannabis	96.79	132.3	134.8	135.5	0.5	2.4
All-items excluding energy	93.50	130.6	133.5	134.1	0.4	2.7
All-items excluding gasoline	96.87	131.2	134.2	134.8	0.4	2.7
Energy ³	6.50	169.4	168.2	169.2	0.6	-0.1
Goods	44.29	121.6	123.7	123.9	0.2	1.9
Durable goods	12.94	89.6	91.8	91.8	0.0	2.5
Semi-durable goods	6.63	97.9	99.3	98.8	-0.5	0.9
Non-durable goods	24.72	147.2	149.4	150.0	0.4	1.9
Services	55.71	145.3	148.1	149.2	0.7	2.7

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}	May 2018	April 2019	May 2019	April to May 2019	May 2018 to May 2019
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
Canada	100.00	133.4	136.0	136.6	0.4	2.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.31	137.8	139.7	140.0	0.2	1.6
Prince Edward Island	0.33	136.5	137.8	138.2	0.3	1.2
Nova Scotia	2.31	135.2	137.4	137.8	0.3	1.9
New Brunswick	1.76	133.9	136.4	136.7	0.2	2.1
Quebec	20.72	129.3	131.5	132.4	0.7	2.4
Ontario	39.83	134.9	137.4	138.1	0.5	2.4
Manitoba	3.16	133.7	137.1	137.5	0.3	2.8
Saskatchewan	2.98	137.9	140.6	140.8	0.1	2.1
Alberta	12.15	140.7	143.7	144.0	0.2	2.3
British Columbia	15.27	128.4	131.2	131.8	0.5	2.6
Whitehorse	0.08	130.6	132.2	132.9	0.5	1.8
Yellowknife	0.07	136.0	138.4	139.1	0.5	2.3
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	128.8	131.3	131.9	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

	March 2019	April 2019	May 2019	March to April 2019	April to May 2019
	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	135.2	135.6	136.0	0.3	0.3
Food	148.8	148.8	149.2	0.0	0.3
Shelter	143.8	144.1	144.2	0.2	0.1
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	123.2	123.6	123.7	0.3	0.1
Clothing and footwear	95.3	95.5	95.6	0.2	0.1
Transportation	140.8	141.6	142.7	0.6	0.8
Health and personal care	126.7	126.8	127.0	0.1	0.2
Recreation, education and reading	115.9	115.9	117.8	0.0	1.6
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	170.9	171.1	171.2	0.1	0.1
Special aggregates					
All-items excluding food	132.5	133.0	133.4	0.4	0.3
All-items excluding food and energy ²	129.7	130.0	130.4	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): 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}

	February 2019	March 2019	April 2019	May 2019
	% change			
CPI-common ^{3,5}	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
CPI-median ^{4,6}	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.1
CPI-trim ^{4,7}	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.3

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

	May 2018 to May 2019
	% change
Main contributors to the 12-month change	
Main upward contributors	
Purchase of passenger vehicles	4.2
Mortgage interest cost	8.2
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	8.1
Fresh vegetables	16.7
Air transportation	8.9
Main downward contributors	
Gasoline	-3.7
Internet access services	-9.2
Traveller accommodation	-4.4
Digital computing equipment and devices	-3.7
Video equipment	-7.1
	April to May 2019
	% change
Main contributors to the 1-month change, not seasonally adjusted	
Main upward contributors	
Traveller accommodation	15.5
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	2.6
Travel tours	5.5
Gasoline	1.1
Air Transportation	2.4
Main downward contributors	
Women's clothing	-1.2
Homeowners' maintenance and repairs	-1.1
Personal care supplies and equipment	-1.0
Natural gas	-1.2
Fresh fruit	-1.1

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).