

Consumer Price Index, November 2020

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Year over year, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose at a faster pace in November (+1.0%) than in October (+0.7%), with shelter prices (+1.9%) contributing the most to the all-items increase. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 1.3% in November, up from a 1.0% increase in October.

On a [seasonally adjusted monthly basis](#), the CPI rose 0.3% in November.

Explore the Consumer Price Index

Check out the new [Personal Inflation Calculator](#)! This interactive calculator allows you to enter dollar amounts in the common expense categories to produce a personalized inflation rate, which you can compare to the official measure of inflation that represents the average Canadian household—the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

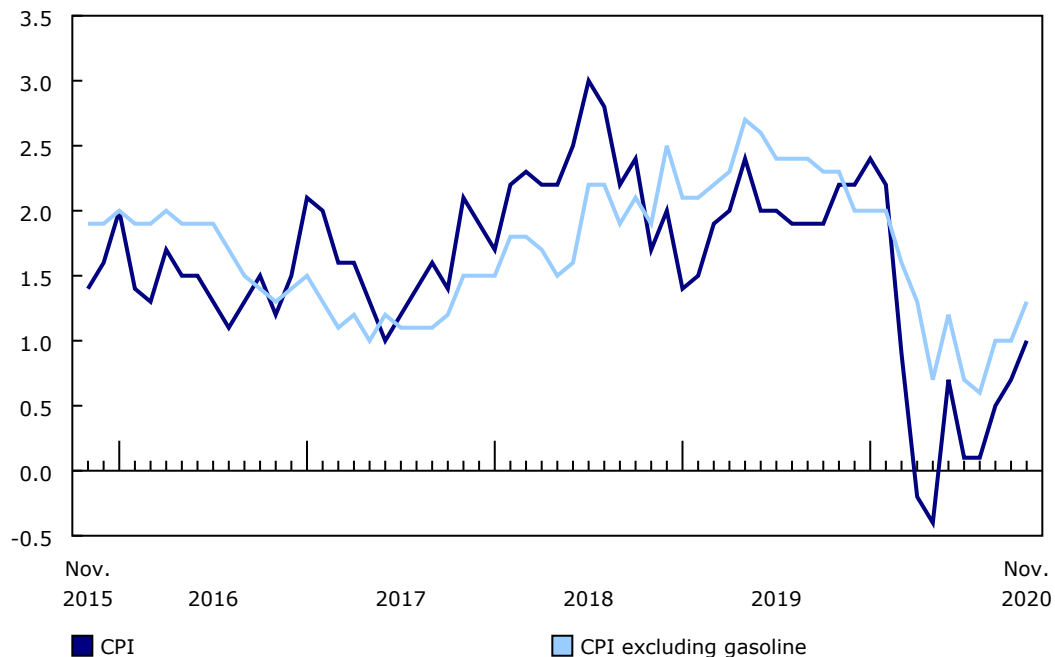
Visit the [Consumer Price Index portal](#) to find all CPI data, publications, interactive tools, and announcements highlighting new products and upcoming changes to the CPI in one convenient location.

Check out the [Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#) to access current and historical CPI data in a customizable visual format.

Chart 1

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

12-month % change



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



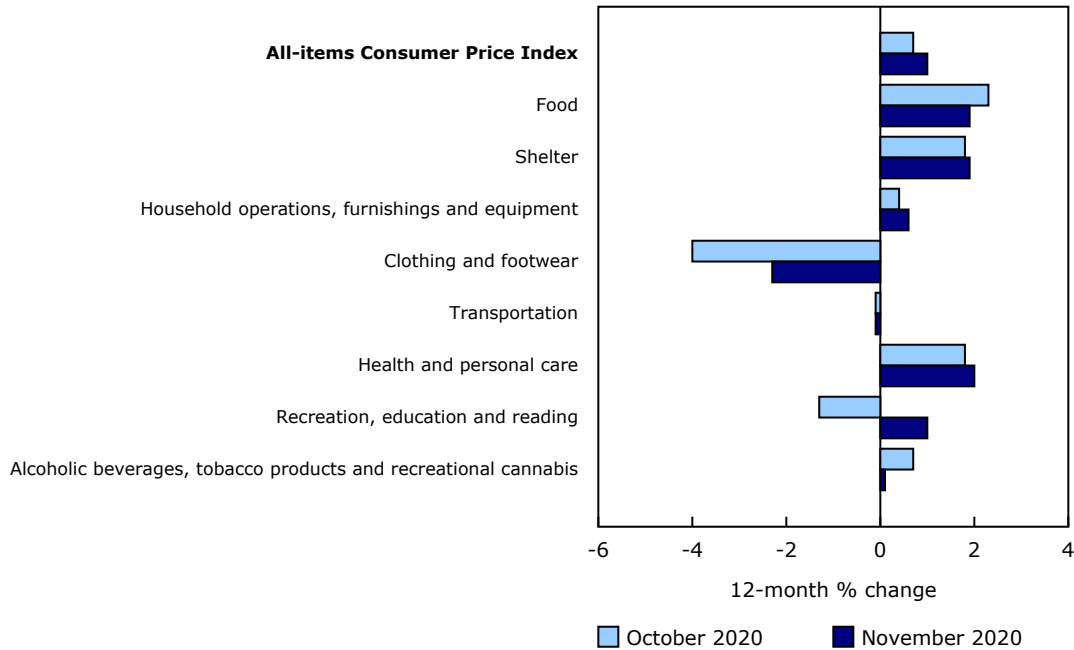
Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Canada

Highlights

Prices rose in six of the eight major components on a year-over-year basis in November.

Chart 2 Prices rise in six of eight major components



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

Although consumer confidence remains below pre-pandemic levels, [increased consumer spending on household durable goods](#) supported higher prices for furniture (+2.8%) and household appliances (+2.9%), which remain above pre-pandemic levels. As the household savings rate declined compared with the early months of the pandemic, physical distancing rules encouraging Canadians to stay home may have prompted increased spending on big-ticket items for the home.

Rent prices rise year over year

Rent prices rose 1.5% in the 12 months to November, up from a 1.0% increase in October.

While year-over-year growth in rent prices remained below pre-pandemic levels, November marked the fifth month-over-month increase in six months, with the lone decrease occurring in July.

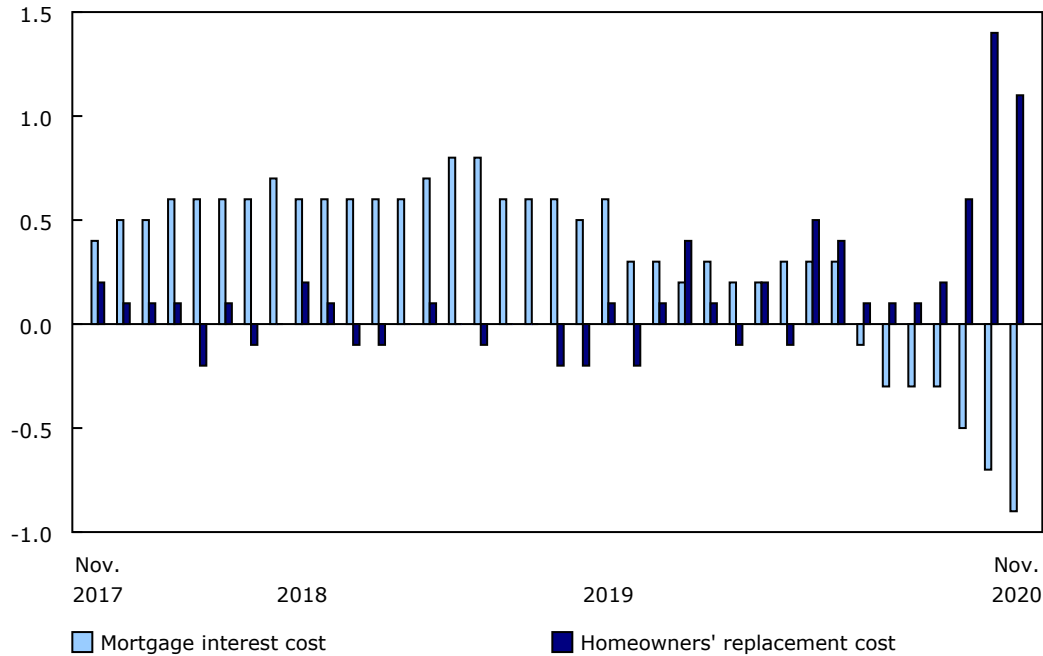
Homeowners' replacement cost rises, while mortgage interest cost falls

The homeowners' replacement cost index, which is linked to the price of new homes, rose 1.1% month over month in November, the ninth consecutive monthly increase. Historically low interest rates coupled with a [shift in home buyer preferences toward larger spaces](#) continued to fuel demand for single-family homes. This higher demand and the combination of [higher building material costs](#) and [low inventory of homes for sale in some markets](#) contributed to [rising prices for new housing](#).

The mortgage interest cost index fell 0.9% on a month-over-month basis in November, following a 0.7% decline in October, which marked the seventh consecutive monthly decline and the largest decrease since February 1994. Lower interest rates following reductions to the Bank of Canada's policy interest rate in March continued to contribute to the decline in borrowing costs as more Canadians renewed mortgages at lower rates.

Chart 3
Monthly changes in mortgage interest cost and homeowners' replacement cost diverge

1-month % change



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

Gasoline prices remain low

Gasoline prices fell 11.9% year over year in November, with domestic and international demand remaining low. The tightening of public health restrictions in response to the second wave of COVID-19 continued to weigh on low global demand for gasoline.

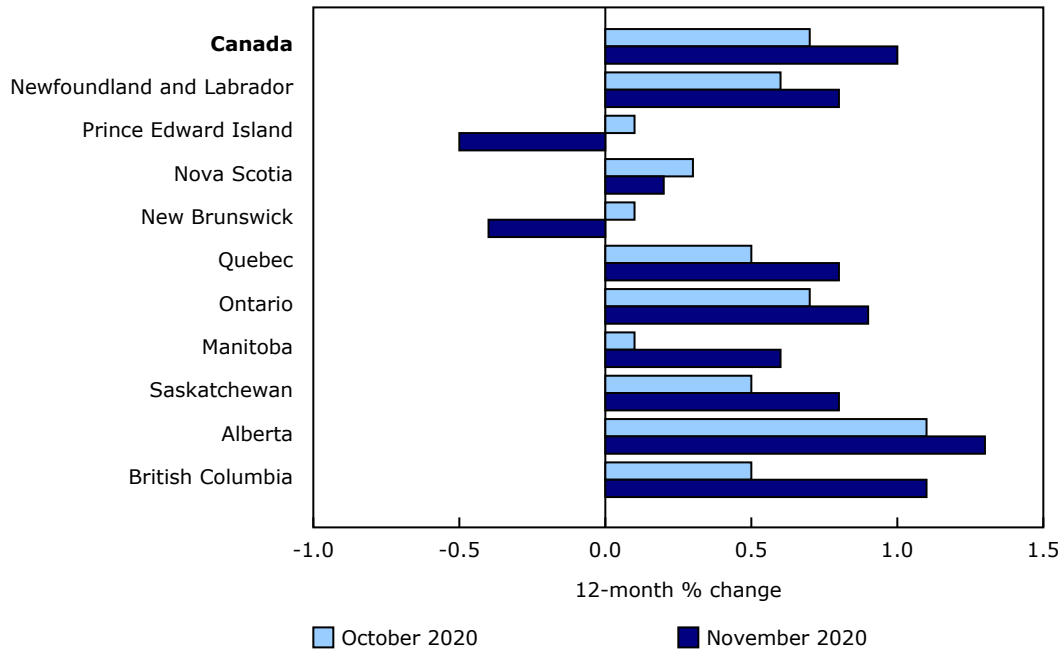
Travel tours and COVID-19

As a result of international travel advisories, travel tours remained unavailable to consumers in November. A general imputation strategy for services not available to consumers resulted in prices for travel tours being replaced with an imputed movement from the all-items CPI. As a result of this treatment, the travel tours index, which is highly seasonal in nature, is up 18.0% compared with November 2019, when prices fell 11.0%. This seasonal decline, which typically follows a price increase related to travel during Thanksgiving and the fall reading week, was not observed in 2020 due to the unavailability of international travel tours, resulting in upward pressure on the index. As such, the interpretation of the 12-month price change indicator should be made with caution.

Regional highlights

Prices increased in eight provinces on a year-over-year basis in November. Gasoline prices in British Columbia fell less, on a year-over-year basis, in November (-12.3%) than in October (-18.0%). A price drop in November 2019, resulting from a surplus of fuel in the Pacific Northwest, no longer impacted the 12-month movement in November 2020. In contrast, consumer prices were down in New Brunswick (-0.4%) and Prince Edward Island (-0.5%), where furnace fuel oil is more commonly used. At the national level, prices for fuel oil and other fuels (-23.3%) were almost one-quarter lower this November than in November 2019.

Chart 4
The Consumer Price Index increases in eight provinces



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

Higher natural gas prices in Manitoba

Manitobans paid just over one-quarter more for natural gas (+26.7%) in November compared with the same month a year earlier. The increase primarily reflected the removal of temporary rate adjustments introduced in the province in November 2019. On a month-over-month basis, natural gas prices rose 17.5% in November compared with a decline of 20.7% in November 2019 when this subsidy was introduced.

Additional research related to COVID-19

For more information about the impact of COVID-19 on consumer spending, please consult our additional publications, which are available in the *Prices Analytical Series* ([62F0014M](#)):

[Canadian Consumers Prepare for COVID-19](#) (released April 8)

[Canadian Consumers Adapt to COVID-19: A Look at Canadian Grocery Sales up to April 11](#) (released May 11)

[Adjusting the Consumer Price Index to the new spending realities during the pandemic](#) (released October 8). Note that table [18-10-0263-01](#) (monthly adjusted price index, provisional) and table [18-10-0264-01](#) (monthly adjusted consumer expenditure basket weights) will be updated on January 12, 2021.

Note to readers

COVID-19 and the Consumer Price Index

Statistics Canada continues to monitor the impacts of the novel coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) on Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Goods and services in the CPI which were not available to consumers in November due to COVID-19 restrictions received special treatments, effectively removing their impact on the monthly CPI. The following sub-indexes were imputed from the monthly change in the All-items index: travel tours, components of spectator entertainment, recreational services, and some components of use of recreational facilities and services in some areas.

Due to new restrictions, the price indexes for beer served in licensed establishments, wine served in licensed establishments and liquor served in licensed establishments were imputed in Quebec, using the indexes to which consumers likely redirected their expenditures: beer purchased from stores, wine purchased from stores and liquor purchased from stores.

Consistent with previous months affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, prices for suspended flights are excluded from the November CPI calculation because passengers were ultimately unable to consume them. As a result, select sub-components of the air transportation index were imputed from the parent index (air transportation).

A document entitled [Technical Supplement for the November 2020 Consumer Price Index](#) is available in the Prices Analytical Series ([62F0014M](#)) publication, with further details on the imputations used to compile the November 2020 CPI.

Inter-city data tables

With this release, data on inter-city indexes of price differentials of consumer goods and services, appearing in data table [18-10-0003-01](#), have been updated to October 2019. This table includes **spatial** indexes that measure the price differentials across geographical locations (15 Canadian cities) at a given period of time known as the reference period. A document entitled [Inter-city indexes of price differentials, of consumer goods and services](#) provides further information on methodology.

This program is currently under review, which may impact the timing of the next release. For questions about this program, please contact us (statcan.cpdisseminationunit-dpcunitedediffusion.statcan@canada.ca).

Real-time data tables

Real-time data table [18-10-0259-01](#) will be updated on January 4, 2021. For more information, consult the document [Real-time CANSIM tables](#).

Next release

The Consumer Price Index for December 2020, including the Consumer Price Index Annual Review, will be released on January 20, 2021.

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

	Relative importance ^{1,2}	November 2019	October 2020	November 2020	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	100.00	136.4	137.5	137.7	0.1	1.0
Food	16.48	151.1	153.3	153.9	0.4	1.9
Shelter	27.36	145.9	148.3	148.7	0.3	1.9
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	12.80	123.6	124.3	124.3	0.0	0.6
Clothing and footwear	5.17	98.5	95.4	96.2	0.8	-2.3
Transportation	19.95	141.5	141.1	141.3	0.1	-0.1
Gasoline	3.13	166.7	149.0	146.8	-1.5	-11.9
Health and personal care	4.79	128.0	130.2	130.6	0.3	2.0
Recreation, education and reading	10.24	114.5	116.1	115.6	-0.4	1.0
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.21	172.0	172.5	172.1	-0.2	0.1
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	83.52	133.6	134.4	134.6	0.1	0.7
All-items excluding food and energy	77.01	131.0	132.5	132.7	0.2	1.3
All-items excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smokers' supplies and recreational cannabis	96.79	135.3	136.3	136.6	0.2	1.0
All-items excluding energy	93.50	134.6	136.2	136.5	0.2	1.4
All-items excluding gasoline	96.87	135.2	136.7	137.0	0.2	1.3
Energy ³	6.50	158.1	149.4	149.1	-0.2	-5.7
Goods	44.29	123.3	122.9	123.2	0.2	-0.1
Durable goods	12.94	91.9	93.2	93.5	0.3	1.7
Semi-durable goods	6.63	100.2	97.8	98.4	0.6	-1.8
Non-durable goods	24.72	148.1	146.9	147.1	0.1	-0.7
Services	55.71	149.4	151.9	152.1	0.1	1.8

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}	November 2019	October 2020	November 2020	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
Canada	100.00	136.4	137.5	137.7	0.1	1.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.31	139.9	140.5	141.0	0.4	0.8
Prince Edward Island	0.33	139.0	138.6	138.3	-0.2	-0.5
Nova Scotia	2.31	138.4	138.4	138.7	0.2	0.2
New Brunswick	1.76	137.3	137.0	136.8	-0.1	-0.4
Quebec	20.72	132.4	133.1	133.5	0.3	0.8
Ontario	39.83	137.7	138.9	139.0	0.1	0.9
Manitoba	3.16	137.6	138.1	138.4	0.2	0.6
Saskatchewan	2.98	140.5	141.6	141.6	0.0	0.8
Alberta	12.15	143.6	145.2	145.4	0.1	1.3
British Columbia	15.27	131.8	132.9	133.3	0.3	1.1
Whitehorse	0.08	133.9	134.5	134.8	0.2	0.7
Yellowknife	0.07	139.5	138.6	138.8	0.1	-0.5
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	130.9	130.8	130.9	0.1	0.0

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

	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020	September to October 2020	October to November 2020
	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	137.2	137.6	138.0	0.3	0.3
Food	153.8	155.0	154.7	0.8	-0.2
Shelter	147.3	148.3	148.7	0.7	0.3
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	124.0	124.1	124.2	0.1	0.1
Clothing and footwear	92.9	93.3	94.9	0.4	1.7
Transportation	141.9	142.0	142.4	0.1	0.3
Health and personal care	129.7	130.2	130.6	0.4	0.3
Recreation, education and reading	115.5	115.4	117.6	-0.1	1.9
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	172.0	172.6	172.3	0.3	-0.2
Special aggregates					
All-items excluding food	134.1	134.4	134.9	0.2	0.4
All-items excluding food and energy ²	132.2	132.5	132.9	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}

	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020
	% change			
CPI-common ^{3,5}	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
CPI-median ^{4,6}	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9
CPI-trim ^{4,7}	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7

1. For more information on these measures of core inflation, please consult the [methodology](#) and [general information](#) documents found in the "Definitions, data sources and methods" section of survey [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

November 2019 to November 2020

	% change
Main contributors to the 12-month change	
Main upward contributors	
Homeowners' replacement cost	4.6
Travel tours	18.0
Purchase of passenger vehicles	2.0
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	4.5
Food purchased from restaurants	2.2
Main downward contributors	
Gasoline	-11.9
Telephone services	-9.1
Traveller accommodation	-18.4
Mortgage interest cost	-1.9
Women's clothing	-3.8
October to November 2020	
	% change
Main contributors to the 1-month change, not seasonally adjusted	
Main upward contributors	
Homeowners' replacement cost	1.1
Fresh vegetables	3.1
Purchase of passenger vehicles	0.4
Women's clothing	1.8
Furniture	2.6
Main downward contributors	
Gasoline	-1.5
Traveller accommodation	-4.4
Mortgage interest cost	-0.9
Digital computing equipment and devices	-2.9
Telephone services	-0.9

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

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

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

The "[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).