

# Consumer Price Index, August 2023

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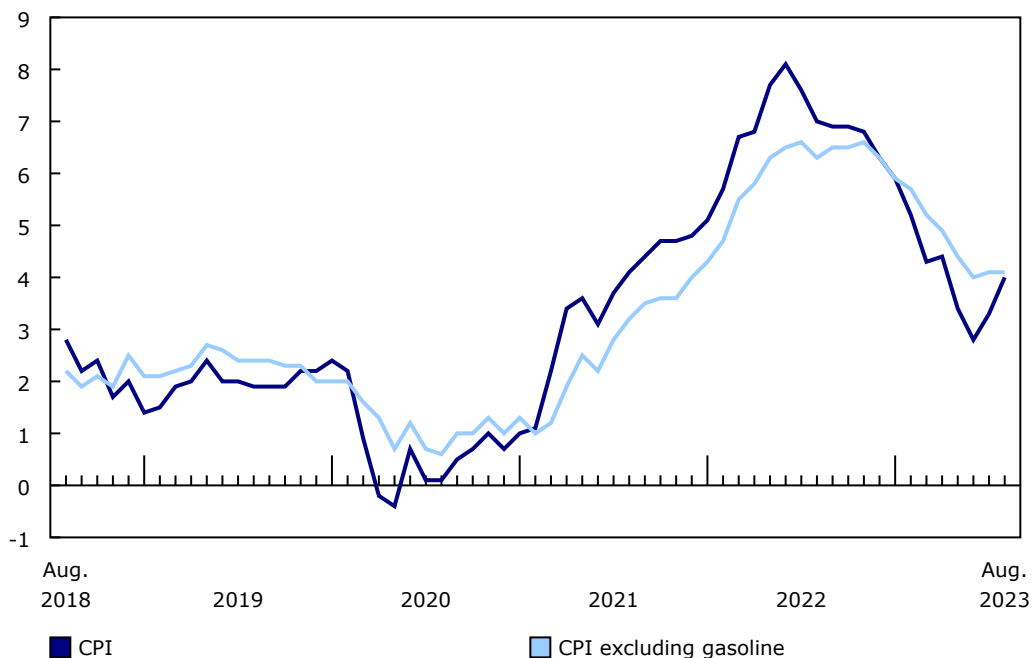
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 4.0% year over year in August, following a 3.3% increase in July. The headline acceleration was largely the result of higher year-over-year prices for gasoline in August (+0.8%) compared with July (-12.9%). Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 4.1% in August, matching the 4.1% increase in July.

In addition to facing higher energy prices, Canadians paid more for rent and mortgage interest in August. Moderating the all-items CPI were declines in prices for travel-related services and a smaller increase in food prices compared with the previous month.

On a monthly basis, the CPI was up 0.4% in August, following a 0.6% gain in July. The monthly slowdown was mainly driven by travel tours (-6.4%) and air transportation (-6.9%), as prices fell month over month following the peak of summer travel demand in July. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.6%.

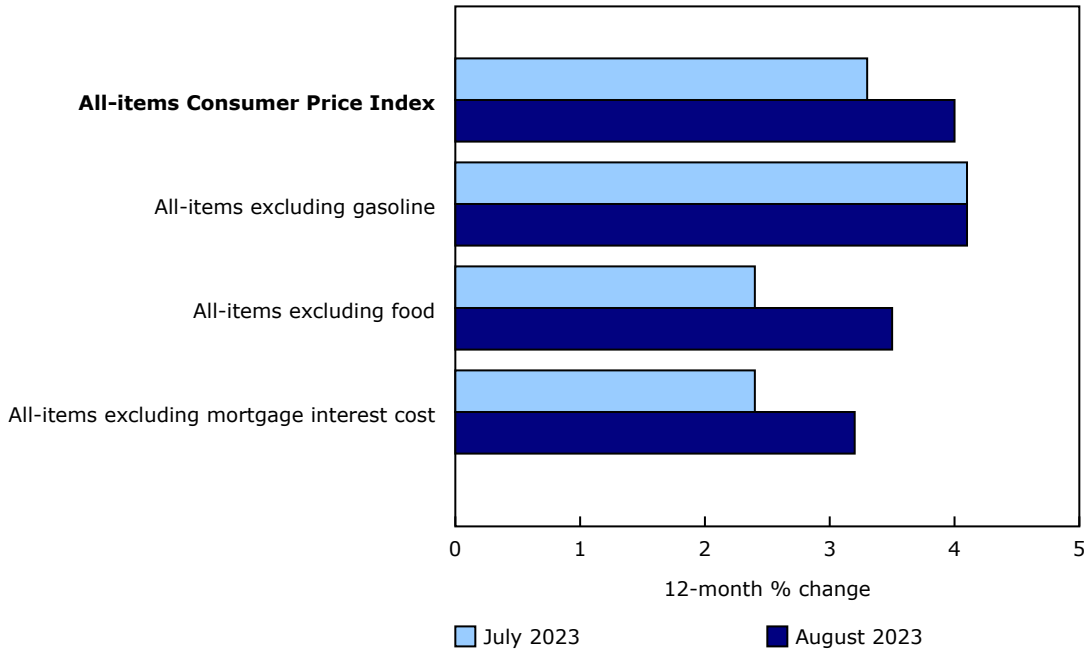
**Chart 1**  
**12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and CPI excluding gasoline**

12-month % change



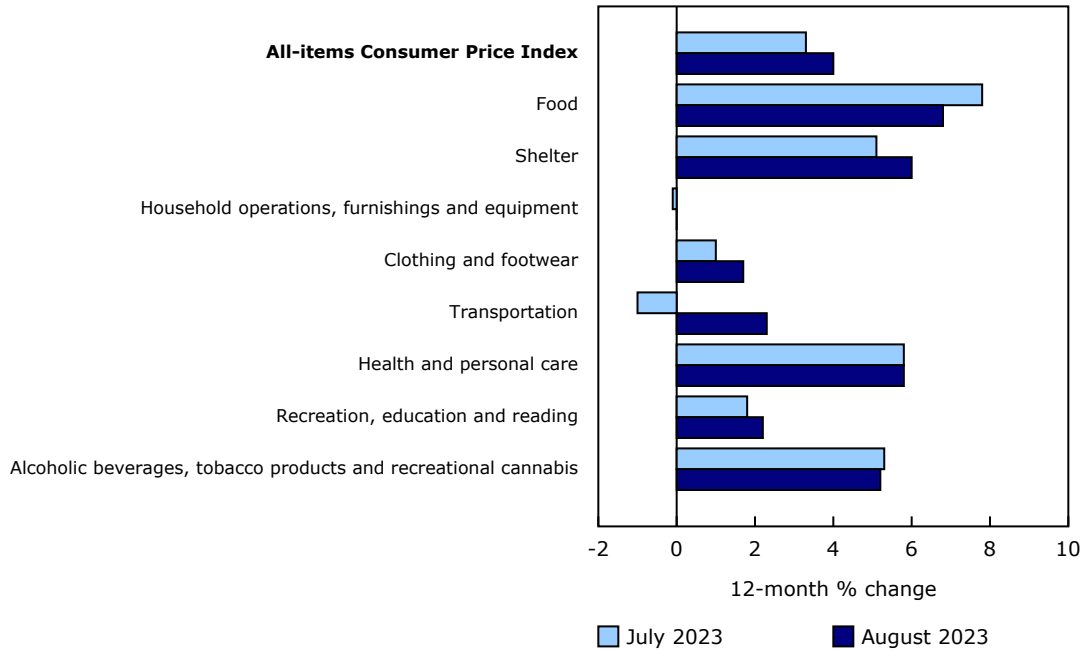
Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

**Chart 2**  
**Price growth remains unchanged in the "all-items excluding gasoline" special aggregate**



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

**Chart 3**  
**Acceleration in headline inflation led by transportation and shelter components**



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

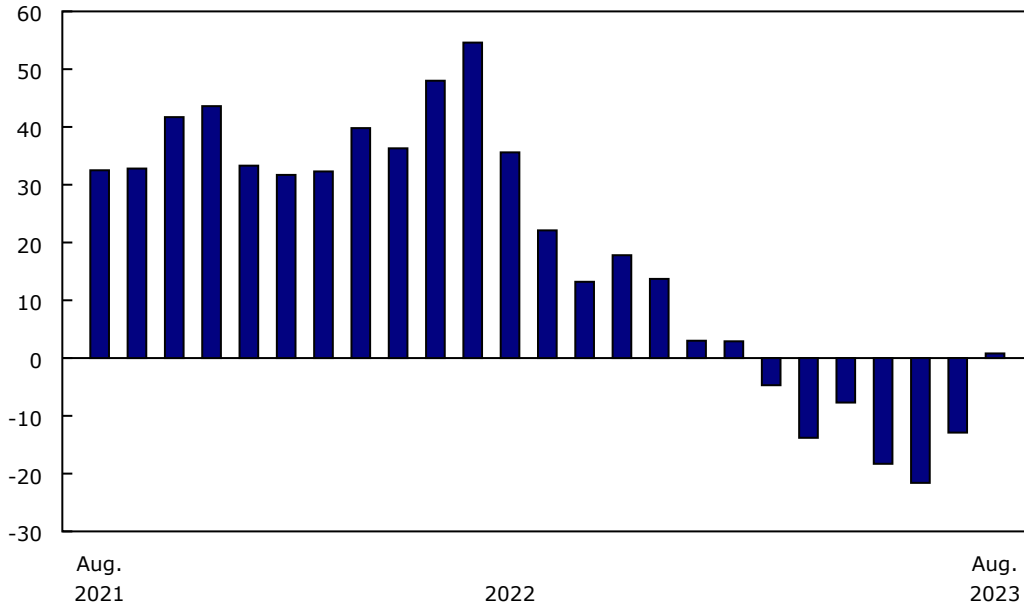
**Gasoline prices increase year over year, the first yearly gain since January 2023**

Gasoline prices rose 0.8% year over year in August, the first yearly increase since January 2023, after falling 12.9% in July. The year-over-year gain in the gasoline index was partly driven by a base-year effect, as prices fell 9.6% month over month in August 2022, resulting from higher global oil production and lower refining margins.

On a monthly basis, gasoline prices rose 4.6%, also contributing to the year-over-year increase in August 2023. The month-over-month gain was mainly the result of higher prices for crude oil following production cuts from major oil-producing countries.

**Chart 4**  
**Gasoline prices increase on a year-over-year basis for the first time since January 2023**

12-month % change



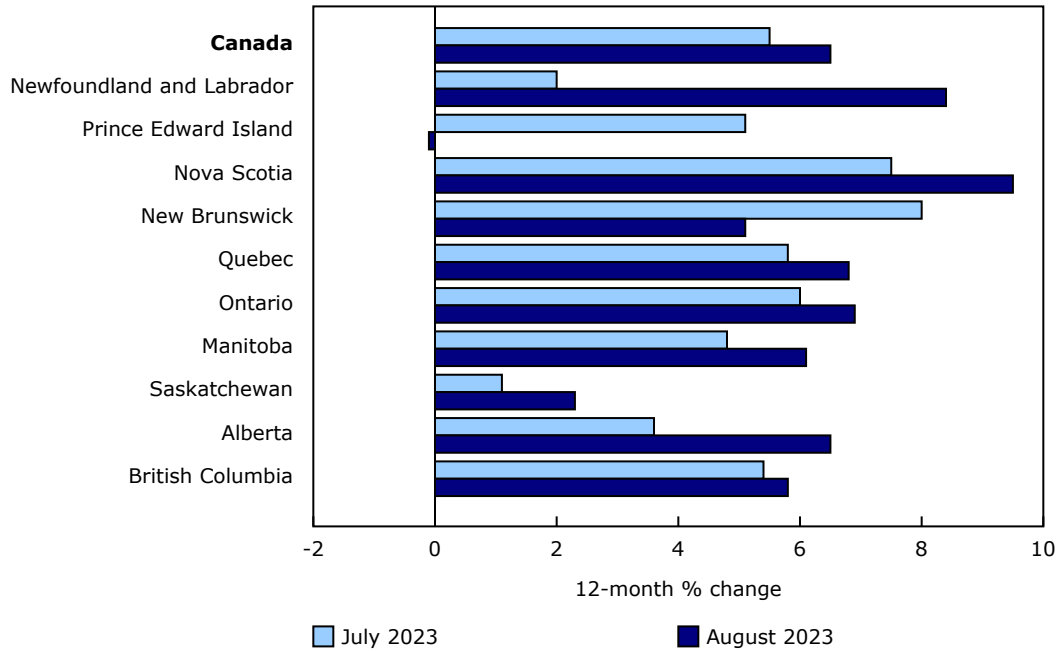
Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

**Shelter prices accelerate, led by rent**

Shelter prices were up 6.0% on a year-over-year basis in August, after increasing 5.1% in July. Faster growth in shelter prices was led by the rent index, which rose 6.5% year over year nationally, after a 5.5% gain in July. Among other factors, a higher interest rate environment, which may create barriers to homeownership, put upward pressure on the index. While rent prices accelerated in eight provinces, those with the fastest price growth were Newfoundland and Labrador (+8.4%), Alberta (+6.5%), Nova Scotia (+9.5%) and Manitoba (+6.1%).

The mortgage interest cost index also contributed to the acceleration in shelter prices, rising at a slightly faster pace in August (+30.9%) compared with July (+30.6%).

**Chart 5**  
**Rent prices accelerate in eight provinces**



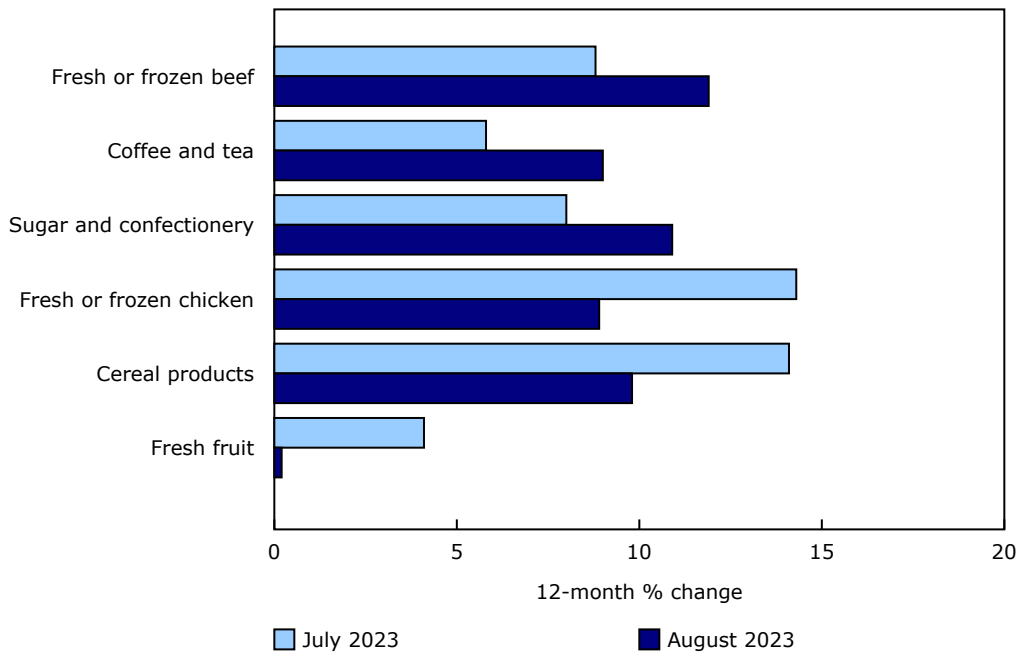
Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

**Price growth for groceries slows, but remains elevated**

Although year-over-year price growth for groceries slowed in August, price levels remained elevated. On a year-over-year basis, prices for food purchased from stores rose 6.9% in August compared with an 8.5% increase in July. On a monthly basis, prices for groceries were down 0.4% in August.

Prices for fresh fruit (+0.2%), cereal products (+9.8%), and fresh or frozen chicken (+8.9%) increased at a slower year-over-year pace in August compared with July, contributing to the deceleration in grocery prices. Conversely, consumers paid more for fresh or frozen beef (+11.9%), coffee and tea (+9.0%), as well as for sugar and confectionery (+10.9%).

**Chart 6**  
**Prices accelerate for some food products while others decelerate**



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

## Explore the Consumer Price Index tools

Check out the [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 for 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.

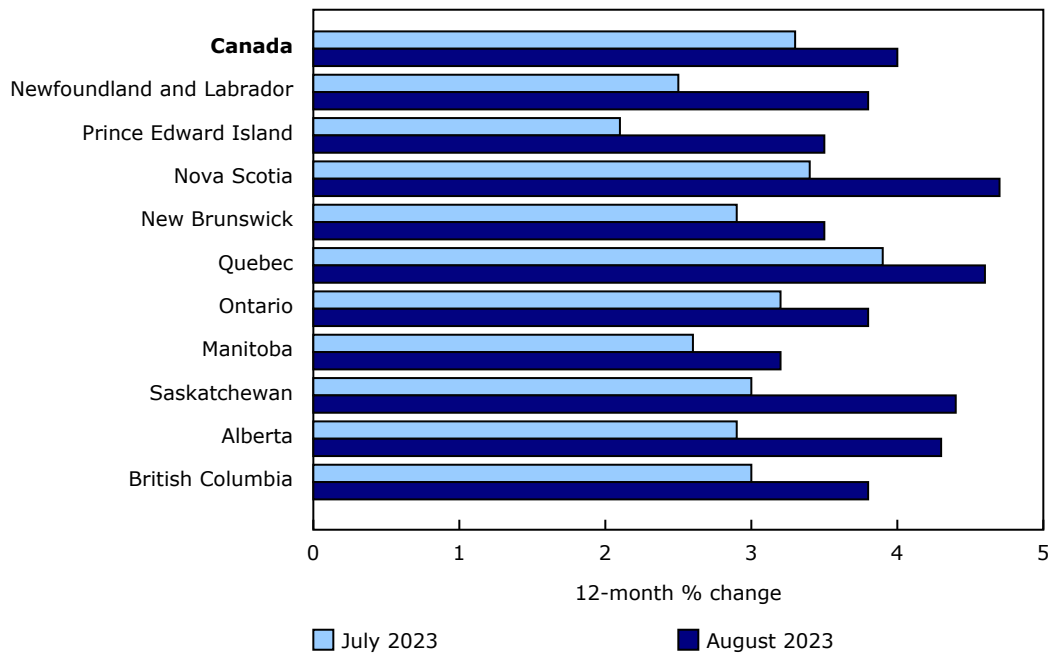
Browse the [Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#) to access current ([Latest Snapshot of the CPI](#)) and historical ([Price trends: 1914 to today](#)) CPI data in a customizable visual format.

## Regional highlights

Year over year, prices rose at a faster pace in August compared with July in every province.

### Chart 7

#### The Consumer Price Index rises at a faster pace in all provinces



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

## Energy prices increase the most in Alberta

Among the provinces, energy prices rose the most in Alberta, increasing 13.3% year over year in August, following a 7.7% decline in July. Along with gasoline, prices for natural gas and electricity contributed to the acceleration amid high summer demand.

In Alberta, natural gas prices fell to a lesser extent on a year-over-year basis in August (-12.5%) compared with July (-32.7%), putting upward pressure on the index.

Following a [large price increase in July](#), electricity prices rose 121.7% year over year in August. During the period of high demand in the summer of 2022, [provincial rebates kept prices lower for consumers](#). These rebates were gradually phased out and ended in spring 2023.

**Note to readers**

**Real-time data tables**

Real-time data table [18-10-0259-01](#) will be updated on October 3. For more information, consult the document "[Real-time data tables](#)."

**Next release**

The Consumer Price Index for September will be released on October 17.



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

	Relative importance <sup>1,2</sup>	August 2022	July 2023	August 2023	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>152.6</b>	<b>158.1</b>	<b>158.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Food	16.65	173.5	185.5	185.3	-0.1	6.8
Shelter	28.34	164.1	172.6	174.0	0.8	6.0
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	14.36	132.2	131.8	132.2	0.3	0.0
Clothing and footwear	4.73	94.6	95.2	96.2	1.1	1.7
Transportation	16.44	169.7	172.4	173.6	0.7	2.3
Gasoline	3.89	245.8	236.8	247.8	4.6	0.8
Health and personal care	5.03	139.1	146.6	147.2	0.4	5.8
Recreation, education and reading	9.92	125.4	129.4	128.2	-0.9	2.2
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	4.53	182.4	191.2	191.9	0.4	5.2
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
All-items excluding food	83.35	148.6	153.1	153.8	0.5	3.5
All-items excluding food and energy	76.57	143.1	148.0	148.3	0.2	3.6
All-items excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smokers' supplies and recreational cannabis	95.47	151.6	157.1	157.6	0.3	4.0
All-items excluding energy	93.22	148.3	154.3	154.5	0.1	4.2
All-items excluding gasoline	96.11	149.5	155.5	155.7	0.1	4.1
Energy <sup>3</sup>	6.78	214.5	210.7	218.4	3.7	1.8
Goods	47.22	140.4	144.7	145.6	0.6	3.7
Durable goods	13.08	103.6	104.7	105.0	0.3	1.4
Semi-durable goods	7.56	100.7	103.1	103.5	0.4	2.8
Non-durable goods	26.59	174.6	182.3	183.9	0.9	5.3
Services	52.78	164.3	171.2	171.3	0.1	4.3

1. 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at April 2023 prices, Canada, effective with the May 2023 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 <sup>1,2</sup>	August 2022	July 2023	August 2023	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>152.6</b>	<b>158.1</b>	<b>158.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.30	155.1	159.8	161.0	0.8	3.8
Prince Edward Island	0.38	159.2	163.8	164.8	0.6	3.5
Nova Scotia	2.45	155.7	162.1	163.0	0.6	4.7
New Brunswick	1.93	153.6	158.3	158.9	0.4	3.5
Quebec	20.67	148.6	154.4	155.4	0.6	4.6
Ontario	40.14	154.1	159.6	159.9	0.2	3.8
Manitoba	3.24	154.6	159.3	159.5	0.1	3.2
Saskatchewan	2.87	154.8	161.1	161.6	0.3	4.4
Alberta	11.46	160.0	166.0	166.8	0.5	4.3
British Columbia	15.40	147.0	152.1	152.6	0.3	3.8
Whitehorse	0.08	151.0	158.4	158.0	-0.3	4.6
Yellowknife	0.07	152.7	157.1	158.3	0.8	3.7
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	140.3	143.5	142.9	-0.4	1.9

1. 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at April 2023 prices, effective with the May 2023 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 adjusted<sup>1</sup>**

	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	June to July 2023	July to August 2023
	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>156.5</b>	<b>157.4</b>	<b>158.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Food	184.5	185.1	185.5	0.3	0.2
Shelter	171.4	172.6	174.0	0.7	0.8
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	132.0	131.7	132.1	-0.2	0.3
Clothing and footwear	96.3	96.5	97.0	0.2	0.5
Transportation	167.4	169.2	171.9	1.1	1.6
Health and personal care	146.2	146.3	146.9	0.1	0.4
Recreation, education and reading	125.9	126.6	127.0	0.6	0.3
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	190.3	191.0	191.7	0.4	0.4
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
All-items excluding food	151.5	152.3	153.4	0.5	0.7
All-items excluding food and energy <sup>2</sup>	146.9	147.5	148.0	0.4	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 (CPI), measures of core inflation – Bank of Canada definitions, Canada<sup>1,2</sup>**

	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023
	year-over-year % change					
CPI-common <sup>3,5</sup>	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.8
CPI-median <sup>4,6</sup>	4.6	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1
CPI-trim <sup>4,7</sup>	4.4	4.2	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.9
	index (January 1989=100)					
CPI-median <sup>4,6</sup>	204.2	205.0	205.4	206.0	206.7	207.6
CPI-trim <sup>4,7</sup>	200.9	201.8	202.2	202.9	203.6	204.5

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 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. 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 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**

August 2022 to August 2023

	% change
<b>Main contributors to the 12-month change</b>	
<b>Main upward contributors</b>	
Mortgage interest cost	30.9
Rent	6.5
Food purchased from restaurants	6.1
Electricity	12.3
Meat	6.5
<b>Main downward contributors</b>	
Telephone services	-10.4
Natural gas	-11.1
Child care and housekeeping services	-10.2
Homeowners' replacement cost	-0.9
Furniture	-3.2
July to August 2023	
	% change
<b>Main contributors to the 1-month change, not seasonally adjusted</b>	
<b>Main upward contributors</b>	
Gasoline	4.6
Mortgage interest cost	2.7
Rent	0.7
Electricity	1.5
Jewellery	9.3
<b>Main downward contributors</b>	
Travel tours	-6.4
Air transportation	-6.9
Fresh vegetables	-2.2
Internet access services	-2.3
Purchase of passenger vehicles	-0.3

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

**Available tables:** [18-10-0001-01](#), [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 on 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.

Find out [answers to the most common questions](#) posed about the CPI in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

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; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations ([statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca)).