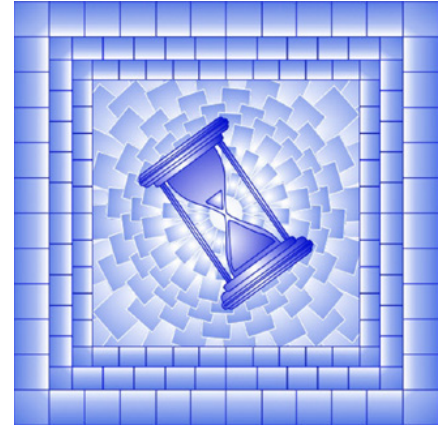


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Technical Supplement for the May 2020 Consumer Price Index



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Technical Supplement for the May 2020 Consumer Price Index

Beginning in April 2020, the collection and compilation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) have been impacted by measures designed to limit the spread of COVID-19, as in-person field collection was conducted remotely, and imputation strategies were required to address an increased number of temporary business closures and out-of-stock products. These strategies were implemented according to international guidelines, and following consultation with other national statistical organizations.

During the May 2020 reference month, the economy began to reopen, to varying degrees, in some provinces. Where outlets remained temporarily closed, items were out of stock at a higher rate than usual or products and services remained unavailable for consumption, the imputation treatments for the May CPI were the same as those used in April (outlined in the [Technical Supplement for the April 2020 CPI](#)). These treatments were implemented to ensure the CPI remains reflective of prices faced by consumers, for the products and services that were available for consumption in May.

Tables reflecting product and outlet availability (Table 1), imputation donors for unavailable products and services (Table 2) and CPI sub-components with an out-of-stock rate above 30% (Table 3) have been updated to reflect May data.

Table 1
Consumer Price Index product and outlet availability, field, scanner and web scraped data collection modes, May 2020 and May 2019

	Basket weight at link month	May							
		2020		2019		2020		2019	
		Average rate of out of stock product offerings		Average rate of temporarily closed outlets		Average rate of prices received as scheduled			
								percent	
Total	100.00	13.0	4.7	2.4	0.1	84.6	95.2		
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	16.48	11.3	2.2	0.5	0.0	88.3	97.8		
Shelter	27.36	8.9	2.9	1.0	0.3	90.0	96.8		
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	12.80	16.6	5.6	1.7	0.2	81.7	94.2		
Clothing and footwear	5.17	12.9	13.5	7.3	0.0	79.8	86.4		
Transportation	19.95	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	99.7	100.0		
Health and personal care	4.79	23.8	3.0	4.0	0.0	72.2	96.9		
Recreation, education and reading	10.24	14.4	7.1	10.2	0.2	75.4	92.7		
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.21	8.0	2.0	4.2	0.2	87.8	97.8		

Source: Consumer Prices program.

Table 2
Imputation donors for select products and services unavailable, or partially unavailable for consumption in April and May 2020

Sub-component	April 2020			May 2020		
	Affected sub-component basket weight at link month percent	Imputation donor	Affected geography	Affected sub-component basket weight at link month percent	Imputation Donor	Affected geography
Household operations, furnishings and equipment						
Child care services	0.15	All-items	All
Housekeeping services	0.31	All-items	All
Transportation						
Air transportation	0.35	Affected sub-components imputed from parent, air transportation	All	0.35	Affected sub-components imputed from parent, air transportation	All
Health and personal care						
Personal care services	0.93	All-items	All	0.61	All-items	NL, NS, QC, ON, Whitehorse, Iqaluit
Recreation						
Recreational services	0.13	All-items	All	0.13	All-items	All
Travel tours	1.21	All-items	All	1.21	All-items	All
Spectator entertainment (excluding video and audio subscription) services	0.35	All-items	All	0.35	All-items	All
Use of recreational facilities and services	0.62	All-items	All	0.45	All-items	All
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis						
Beer served in licensed establishments	0.34	Beer purchased from stores	All	0.23	Beer purchased from stores	NL, PE, NS, QC, ON, SK, Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Iqaluit
Wine served in licensed establishments	0.13	Wine purchased from stores	All	0.09	Wine purchased from stores	NL, PE, NS, QC, ON, SK, Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Iqaluit
Liquor served in licensed establishments	0.19	Liquor purchased from stores	All	0.12	Liquor purchased from stores	NL, PE, NS, QC, ON, SK, Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Iqaluit

... not applicable

Source: Consumer Prices program.

Table 3
CPI sub-components with an out-of-stock rate above 30%, May 2020

Sub-component	Basket weight at link month percent
Non-prescribed medicines	0.46
Flour and flour-based mixes	0.04
Eye care goods	0.32
Video equipment	0.22
Watches	0.09
Jewellery	0.22
Recreational cannabis	0.53
Other fresh or frozen poultry meat	0.11

Source: Consumer Prices program.