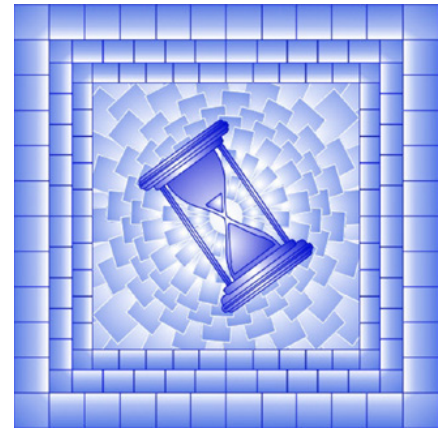


Catalogue no. 62F0014M
ISSN 1706-7723
ISBN 978-0-660-37040-8

Technical Supplement for the December 2020 Consumer Price Index



Release date: January 20, 2021



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Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

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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.

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 December CPI were the same as those used in April through November.¹

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 December data.

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

	Basket weight at link month	Average rate of out of stock product offerings		Average rate of temporarily closed outlets		Average rate of prices received as scheduled	
		December					
		2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
percent							
Total	100.00	9.6	4.3	1.2	0.1	89.2	95.6
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	16.48	8.0	1.9	0.4	0.0	91.6	98.1
Shelter	27.36	6.1	4.2	0.2	0.0	93.6	95.8
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	12.80	11.3	5.6	0.3	0.0	88.4	94.4
Clothing and footwear	5.17	11.5	15.0	2.9	0.3	85.6	84.7
Transportation	19.95	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	99.9	100.0
Health and personal care	4.79	19.7	4.7	1.8	0.0	78.5	95.3
Recreation, education and reading	10.24	10.7	6.2	5.3	0.4	84.0	93.4
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.21	8.6	3.6	6.2	0.0	85.2	96.4

Source: Consumer Prices program.

1. Imputation treatments for the CPI in a given reference month are outlined in the technical supplements for [April](#), [May](#), [June](#), [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), [October](#) and [November](#) 2020.

Table 2
Imputation donors for select products and services unavailable, or partially unavailable for consumption in October, November and December 2020¹

		Affected sub-component basket weight at link month (%)	Imputation donor	Affected geography
October 2020				
Transportation	Air transportation	0.35	Affected sub-components imputed from parent, air transportation	All
	Recreational services	0.13	All-items	All
	Travel tours	1.21	All-items	All
Recreation, education and reading	Spectator entertainment (excluding video and audio subscription services)	0.31	All-items	All
	Use of recreational facilities and services	0.08	All items	Que., Parts of Ontario, including Ottawa and Toronto
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	Beer served in licensed establishments	0.06	Beer purchased from stores	Que.
	Wine served in licensed establishments	0.03	Wine purchased from stores	Que.
	Liquor served in licensed establishments	0.01	Liquor purchased from stores	Que.
November 2020				
Transportation	Air transportation	0.35	Affected sub-components imputed from parent, air transportation	All
	Recreational services	0.13	All-items	All
	Travel tours	1.21	All-items	All
Recreation, education and reading	Spectator entertainment (excluding video and audio subscription services)	0.30	All-items	All
	Use of recreational facilities and services	0.08	All items	Que., Parts of Ontario, including Toronto
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	Beer served in licensed establishments	0.06	Beer purchased from stores	Que.
	Wine served in licensed establishments	0.03	Wine purchased from stores	Que.
	Liquor served in licensed establishments	0.01	Liquor purchased from stores	Que.

Table 2
Imputation donors for select products and services unavailable, or partially unavailable for consumption in October, November and December 2020¹

		Affected sub-component basket weight at link month (%)	Imputation donor	Affected geography
December 2020				
Transportation	Air transportation	0.35	Affected sub-components imputed from parent, air transportation	All
Health and personal care	Personal care services	0.20	All-items	Parts of Ontario, including Toronto, Man., Iqaluit
	Recreational services	0.13	All-items	All
	Travel tours	1.21	All-items	All
Recreation, education and reading	Spectator entertainment (excluding video and audio subscription services)	0.33	All-items	All
	Use of recreational facilities and services	0.12	All items	P.E.I., N.S., Que., Parts of Ontario, including Toronto, Man.
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	Beer served in licensed establishments	0.15	Beer purchased from stores	P.E.I., N.S., Que., Parts of Ontario, including Toronto, Man., Iqaluit
	Wine served in licensed establishments	0.06	Wine purchased from stores	P.E.I., N.S., Que., Parts of Ontario, including Toronto, Man., Iqaluit
	Liquor served in licensed establishments	0.07	Liquor purchased from stores	P.E.I., N.S., Que., Parts of Ontario, including Toronto, Man., Iqaluit

1. Imputation treatments for the CPI in a given reference month are outlined in the technical supplements for [April](#), [May](#), [June](#), [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), [October](#) and [November](#) 2020.

Source: Consumer Prices program.

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

Sub-component	Basket weight at link month (%)
Purchase of recreational vehicles and outboard motors	0.65
Eye care goods	0.32

Source: Consumer Prices program.

Additional questions about how the CPI accounts for outlets remaining temporarily closed, items out of stock at a higher rate than usual, or products and services remaining unavailable for consumption due to COVID-19, can be directed to statcan.cpddisseminationunit-dpcunitedediffusion.statcan@canada.ca.