

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Consumer prices rose 1.2% in the 12 months to December 2008, down from the 2.0% increase in November. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.4% from November to December.	
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Perspectives on Labour and Income

January 2009

The January 2009 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, features two items.

The article "Age and earnings" examines earnings over time to determine whether older workers earn less than younger ones. Traditional age-earnings profiles show increases in earnings in the early years, and a peak around middle age followed by a decline.

The second feature is an update on minimum wage rates and workers in 2008.

The January 2009 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 10, no. 1 (75-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.gc.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



Releases

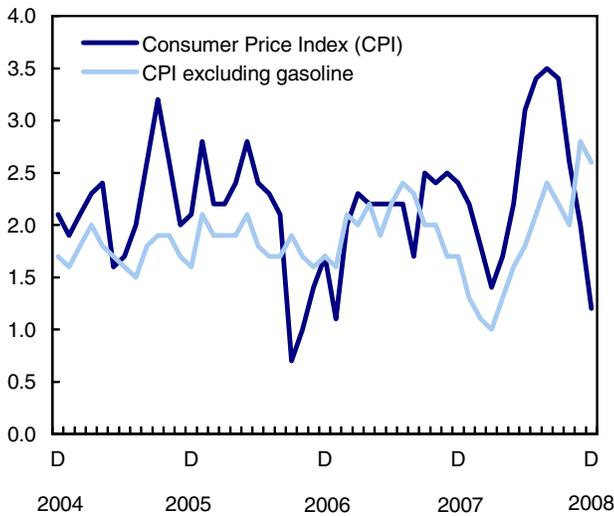
Consumer Price Index

December 2008

Consumer prices rose 1.2% in the 12 months to December 2008, more slowly than the 2.0% increase in November. It was the smallest increase since January 2007 and reflected a sharp decline in the price of gasoline.

CPI inflation continues to substantially slow as the CPI excluding gasoline slightly retreats

12-month % change



Gasoline prices in December 2008 were 25.8% below levels in the same month the year before. This was the largest drop since the inception of the gasoline price index in 1949 and followed a 14.4% drop in pump prices in November.

Excluding gasoline, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.6% in the 12 months to December, down slightly from the 2.8% increase in November.

The 12-month change in the CPI was also tempered by on-going price declines for purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles, women's clothing and fuel oil and other fuels.

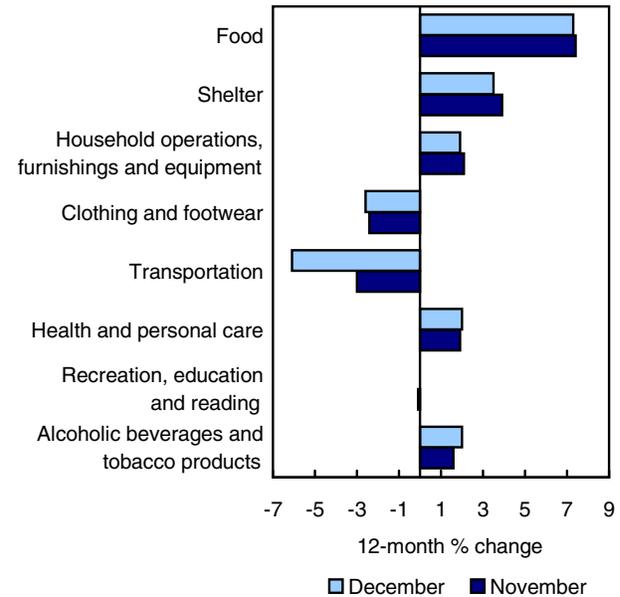
The most significant upward contributor was mortgage interest cost, despite a recent decrease in mortgage interest rates. Increasing prices for natural gas and various food items, particularly fresh vegetables and bakery and cereal products, also put significant upward pressure on consumer prices in December.

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.4% from November to December, following the monthly declines of 0.3% in November and 0.6% in October. As in the previous months, December's decline reflected price decreases for transportation items, which far offset rising food costs.

12-month change: Steady increase in food prices

Of the eight major components in the CPI, five recorded increases in the 12 months to December: food, shelter, health and personal care, household operations, furnishings and equipment, and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

Transportation costs fall by record amount



Food prices increased 7.3% during the 12-month period, following a 7.4% increase in November. Excluding food, the CPI posted no change in the 12 months to December. This was the slowest pace registered for this index since November 2001.

The underlying factor for rising prices for food was sustained price increases for food purchased from stores. Prices for food purchased from stores rose 9.0% in December, identical to November's increase. The main contributor was a 26.9% increase in prices for fresh vegetable items, products which are largely imported.

Persistent price increases for bakery and cereal products (+12.4%) also contributed to rising prices for food purchased from stores.

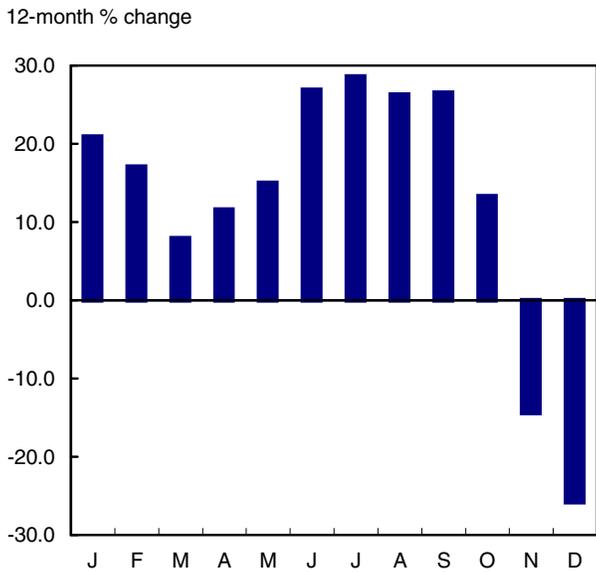
Shelter costs remained the second largest contributor to the increase in the CPI, propelled by higher mortgage interest costs and natural gas prices. Shelter costs rose 3.5% in December, down from the 3.9% increase posted in November. The slowdown primarily reflected price declines for fuel oil and other fuels, as well as slower increases in mortgage interest costs.

While mortgage interest costs were up 6.4%, the pace of change has been slowing as a result of a slowdown in new housing prices and easing interest rates.

Natural gas prices rose 18.4% in December, following a 16.8% gain in November. The only components of shelter to decline were prices for fuel oil and other fuels (-13.5%) and tenants' insurance premiums (-0.4%).

Thanks primarily to the sharp 25.8% drop in gasoline prices, the transportation price index declined 6.1% in December. This was its second consecutive drop and the largest decline since the inception of the index in 1949.

Gasoline prices continue to slide



Also contributing to the drop in transportation costs was a 3.5% decline in prices for purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles, which followed a 2.7% decline in November. These declines were slightly

offset by a 4.4% increase in prices for passenger vehicle insurance premiums and a 6.1% rise in air transportation prices.

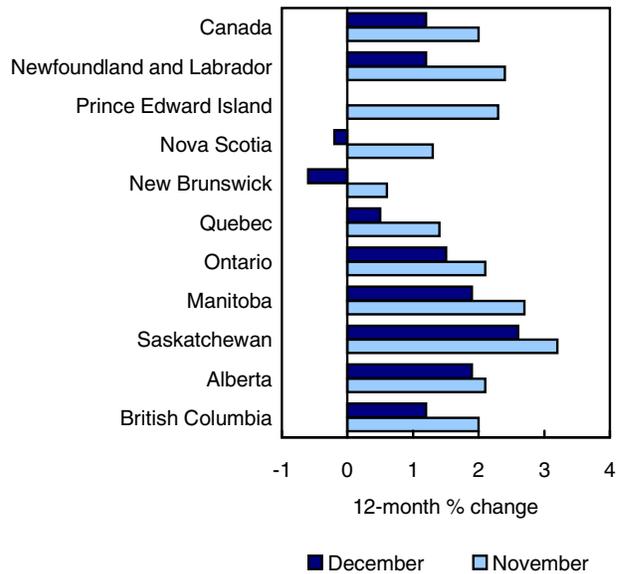
The clothing and footwear price index continued its downward trend, falling 2.6% in December. Both men's and women's clothing and footwear components contributed to the drop.

Provinces: Prices drop in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia on a 12-month basis

Consumers in two Atlantic provinces witnessed an outright drop in consumer prices in the 12 months to December. In New Brunswick, average prices in December 2008 were 0.6% below levels in the same month a year earlier. In Nova Scotia, the 12-month decline was 0.2%.

This was the first time since October 2006 that the 12-month price change in any province fell into negative territory.

Consumer prices drop in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia



In addition to the large drop in gasoline prices in these provinces, a second major contributor was a sharp decline in the 12-month price change of fuel oil and other fuels. These energy products are used in great intensity in home heating in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Excluding energy, consumer prices rose by 1.9% in Nova Scotia and 1.8% in New Brunswick. These increases were much lower than the 2.6% national rate of change.

Among the provinces, consumer prices in Saskatchewan (+2.6%), Manitoba (+1.9%) and Alberta (+1.9%) advanced at the fastest pace.

The change in consumer prices during the past 12 months slowed in every province, reflecting falling gasoline prices. Gasoline price declines ranged from 29.9% in Prince Edward Island to 20.6% in British Columbia.

Most of the upward pressure in prices came from higher shelter and food costs. The main items driving this pressure were mortgage interest costs, energy products associated with housing, fresh vegetables and bakery and cereal items.

Inflation in the Bank of Canada's core index holds steady on a 12-month basis

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 2.4% over the 12 months to December, identical to the rise in November. The main contributors to the increase in the core index were higher prices for bread, cereal products and meat products. Price declines for purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles remained the primary downward contributor.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index posted no change from November to December, after rising 0.6% from October to November.

Annual 2008: Fastest average increase in prices since 2003

On average for 2008 as a whole, consumer prices increased 2.3%, slightly faster than the annual average increase of 2.2% in 2007. This was the fastest rate

of change since the annual average increase of 2.8% in 2003.

Major contributors to the increase in 2008 were higher prices for food and energy products and mortgage interest costs. Tempering the increase were substantial declines in prices for passenger vehicles, clothing and footwear products and various electronic items.

For a more detailed analysis, consult the publication *The Consumer Price Index*.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0015 and 326-0020 to 326-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

The December 2008 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 87, no. 12 (62-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPE, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The January Consumer Price Index will be released on February 20.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Prices Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components¹
(2002=100)

	Relative importance ²	December 2007	December 2008	November 2007 to November 2008	December 2007 to December 2008
Unadjusted					
				% change	
All-items	100.00³	112.0	113.3	2.0	1.2
Food	17.04	111.7	119.8	7.4	7.3
Shelter	26.62	119.2	123.4	3.9	3.5
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.10	103.5	105.5	2.1	1.9
Clothing and footwear	5.36	93.7	91.3	-2.4	-2.6
Transportation	19.88	117.5	110.3	-3.0	-6.1
Health and personal care	4.73	107.7	109.9	1.9	2.0
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	101.2	101.2	-0.1	0.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.2	128.7	1.6	2.0
All-items (1992=100)		133.3	134.9	2.0	1.2
Special aggregates					
Goods	48.78	107.4	106.5	0.5	-0.8
Services	51.22	116.5	120.1	3.3	3.1
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.4	111.0	1.6	1.5
Energy	9.38	138.2	123.0	-4.2	-11.0
Core CPI ⁴	82.71	110.0	112.6	2.4	2.4

1. The month-to-month percentage changes are available from the monthly publication *The Consumer Price Index*.
2. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
3. Figures may not add up to 100% as a result of rounding.
4. The measure of the core Consumer Price Index (CPI) excludes from the all-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on the core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit
(2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	December 2007	December 2008	November 2007 to November 2008	December 2007 to December 2008
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Canada	100.00²	112.0	113.3	2.0	1.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	111.8	113.1	2.4	1.2
Prince Edward Island	0.35	114.7	114.7	2.3	0.0
Nova Scotia	2.56	113.6	113.4	1.3	-0.2
New Brunswick	1.97	111.9	111.2	0.6	-0.6
Quebec	21.05	111.1	111.7	1.4	0.5
Ontario	41.22	111.1	112.8	2.1	1.5
Manitoba	3.06	110.9	113.0	2.7	1.9
Saskatchewan	2.64	112.9	115.8	3.2	2.6
Alberta	11.43	118.9	121.2	2.1	1.9
British Columbia	14.29	110.1	111.4	2.0	1.2
Whitehorse	0.06	110.6	113.9	3.5	3.0
Yellowknife	0.08	111.9	115.4	4.7	3.1
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	108.7	112.4	3.4	3.4

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
2. Figures may not add up to 100% as a result of rounding.

Consumer Price Index and major components
(2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008	October to November 2008	November to December 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	114.8	114.5	114.0	-0.3	-0.4
Food	17.04	118.4	119.6	119.9	1.0	0.3
Shelter	26.62	123.2	123.4	123.4	0.2	0.0
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.10	105.3	105.7	105.8	0.4	0.1
Clothing and footwear	5.36	92.7	93.1	92.8	0.4	-0.3
Transportation	19.88	117.0	113.2	110.3	-3.2	-2.6
Health and personal care	4.73	109.4	109.9	110.1	0.5	0.2
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	102.5	102.1	102.1	-0.4	0.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	128.2	128.5	129.0	0.2	0.4
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	82.96	114.2	113.4	112.7	-0.7	-0.6
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	110.5	111.1	111.2	0.5	0.1
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	110.8	111.5	111.6	0.6	0.1
Core CPI ³	82.71	112.2	112.9	112.9	0.6	0.0

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).

2. Figures may not add up to 100% as a result of rounding.

3. The measure of core Consumer Price Index (CPI) excludes from the all-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on the core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).



Large urban transit

November 2008 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 1.2% higher in November 2008 than it was for the same month in 2007.

Approximately 127.3 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in November. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$211.0 million in revenue in November (excluding subsidies), a 4.2% increase over November 2007.

Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Employment Insurance Coverage Survey 2007

The product *Employment Insurance Coverage Survey: Public Use Microdata Files* for 2007 is now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4428.

The product *Employment Insurance Coverage Survey: Public Use Microdata File*, 2007 (89M0025XCB, \$1,500), is now available.

To order a copy, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; ssd@statcan.gc.ca), Special Surveys Division. ■

New products

Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, 1998 to 2006, Vol. 7, no. 5
Catalogue number 21-006-XWE
(free).

The Consumer Price Index, December 2008, Vol. 87, no. 12
Catalogue number 62-001-XPE (\$12/\$111).

The Consumer Price Index, December 2008, Vol. 87, no. 12
Catalogue number 62-001-XWE
(free).

Retail Trade, November 2008, Vol. 80, no. 11
Catalogue number 63-005-XWE
(free).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, January 2009, Vol. 10, no. 1
Catalogue number 75-001-XWE
(free).

Employment Insurance Coverage Survey: Public Use Microdata File, 2007
Catalogue number 89M0025XCB (\$1,500).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
Released at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several export commodities combined with a lower trade deficit in the financial account. Foreign investment income from Canada almost tripled from the equivalent quarter of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

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2006 Census profiles

With the release of the final and revised release components, the complete cumulative profiles is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions.

To obtain these profiles in electronic format (costs vary by different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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The Daily, January 23, 2009

Release dates: January 26 to 30, 2009

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
27	Employment Insurance	November 2008
28	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	November 2008
29	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	December 2008
30	Gross domestic product by industry	November 2008
