

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Consumer prices fell 0.8% in the 12 months to August 2009, following a 0.9% decrease in July. Excluding energy, the Consumer Price Index rose 1.4% year over year in August. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices rose 0.3% from July to August.	
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Releases

Consumer Price Index

August 2009

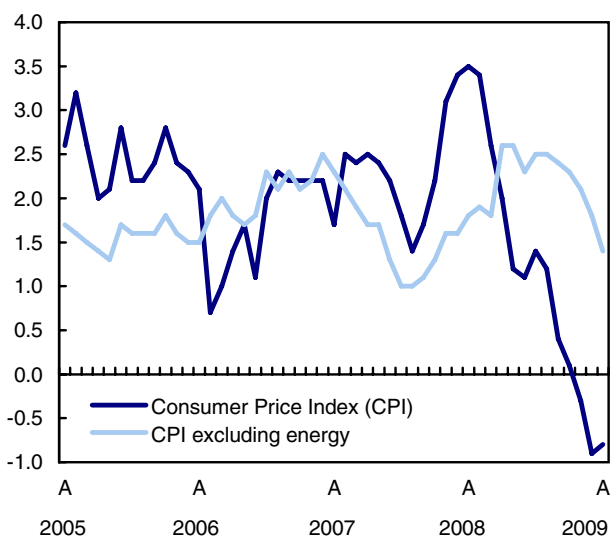
Consumer prices fell 0.8% in the 12 months to August 2009, following a 0.9% decline in July.

The decrease was due primarily to a 12-month drop of 19.1% in prices for energy products, mainly gasoline.

Excluding energy, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.4% between August 2008 and August 2009.

The 12-month change in the CPI is still negative, while that of the CPI excluding energy remains positive

12-month % change



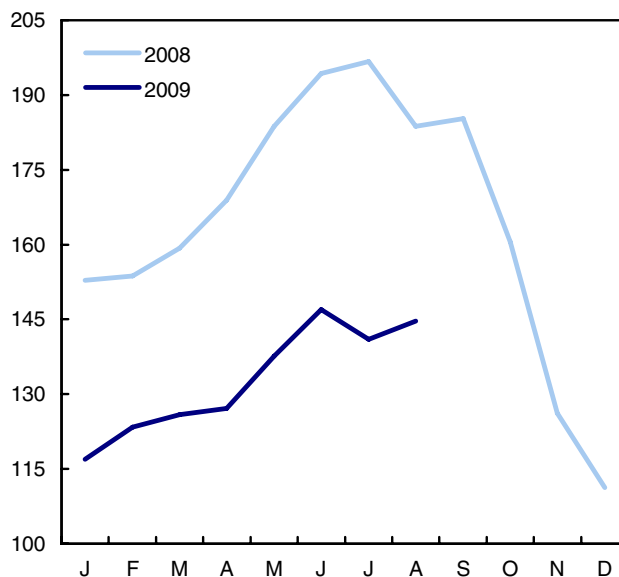
Nationally, gasoline prices fell 21.2% between August 2008 and August 2009, following a 12-month decline of 28.3% in July. Regular unleaded gasoline prices at self-service stations averaged \$1.01 per litre in August compared with \$1.27 per litre in August 2008.

Of the eight major components in the CPI, three recorded declines in the 12 months to August: transportation, shelter, and clothing and footwear. The most significant downward contributor was transportation, which reflected lower prices for gasoline, as well as passenger vehicles, and air transportation.

In the shelter component, prices for natural gas, fuel oil and other fuels, and homeowner's replacement costs were lower than in August 2008, continuing their downward trend.

Gasoline prices in 2009 are still lower than in 2008

index (2002=100)



The primary upward pressure on the CPI came from food prices, which increased 4.0% between August 2008 and August 2009. Household operations, furnishings and equipment (+2.5%) and health and personal care (+2.9%) also contributed to the increase.

Seasonally adjusted monthly CPI increases

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.3% from July to August, after declining 0.3% from June to July. August's increase was due primarily to a 0.4% rise in the transportation cost index. A monthly increase in prices for gasoline in August compared with July largely accounted for the rise. The seasonally adjusted monthly CPI has gone up in three of the past four months.

12-month change: Continuing declines in transportation, shelter, and clothing and footwear costs

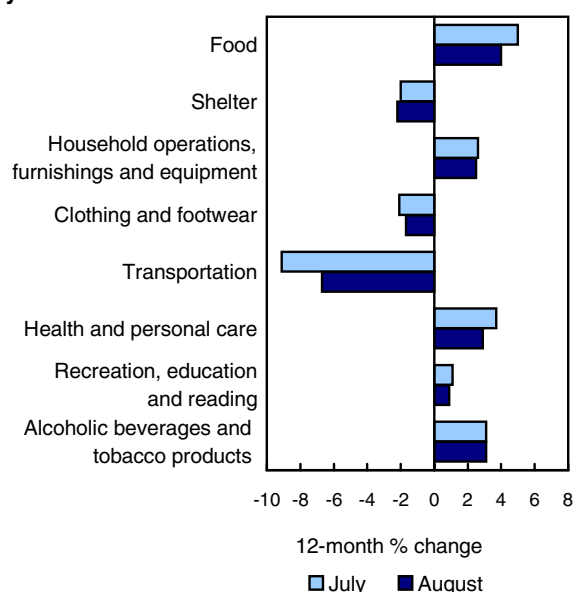
Lower prices for gasoline, passenger vehicles, and air transportation drove down transportation costs by 6.7%, making it the most significant downward contributor to the CPI in the 12 months to August.

In addition to the decline in gasoline prices (-21.2%), prices for purchasing passenger vehicles fell 4.7% in August, following a 4.3% decrease in July. However, a 4.8% increase in passenger vehicle insurance premiums mitigated the overall drop in the transportation component.

Downward movements in the shelter index continued to gain momentum, as prices decreased 2.2% in the 12 months to August, following declines of 2.0% in July and 0.8% in June. The decline in August was primarily the result of persistent price decreases in natural gas, fuel oil and other fuels since energy prices peaked in the summer of 2008. Shelter costs were also dampened by declines in homeowner's replacement costs and in mortgage interest costs.

The mortgage interest cost index, which measures the change in the interest portion of payments on outstanding mortgage debt, fell 1.1% in August, following a 0.1% decrease in July.

Less downward pressure from transportation, year over year



Clothing and footwear prices fell 1.7% between August 2008 and August 2009, led by lower prices for both women's and men's clothing.

Food costs put significant upward pressure on overall prices, albeit to a lesser degree than in previous months. In the 12 months to August, food prices rose 4.0%, compared with increases of 5.0% in July and 5.5% in June. Upward price movements for meat, fresh fruit, and fresh vegetables have eased from record highs in recent months.

A major contributor to higher food prices in the 12 months to August was food purchased from restaurants, which rose 3.1%. As well, price increases of 5.7% for fresh vegetables and 10.1% for sugar and confectionery were partly responsible for the overall rise in food prices.

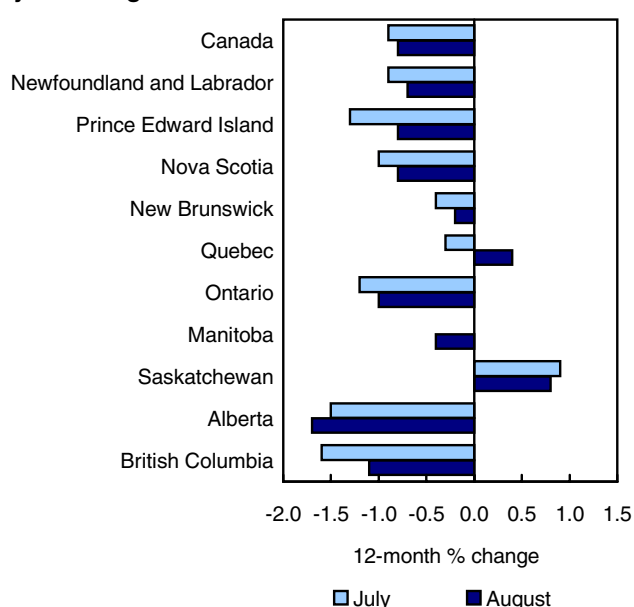
Price increases were widespread within household operations, furnishings and equipment. Upward pressure came from the cost of child care (+4.1%), financial services (+7.8%) and pet food (+10.3%).

As well, broadly-based price advances were observed in the health and personal care component, which includes personal care services (+3.2%) and prescribed medicines (+3.7%).

Provinces: Consumer prices down in eight provinces

Consumer prices declined in eight provinces between August 2008 and August 2009.

Saskatchewan and Quebec post positive year-over-year change



Consumer prices declined at the fastest pace in Alberta (-1.7%) and British Columbia (-1.1%).

In Alberta, prices were down for the fifth consecutive month. The main factor in the decline was a 6.1% decrease in shelter costs in the 12 months to August, a much larger drop than the 2.2% national decline. This was due mainly to a 28.6% drop in energy costs and a 10.0% decline in homeowner's replacement costs.

In British Columbia, the two main factors in the decline over the 12 months to August were an 18.0% decrease in energy costs and a 14.9% decline in homeowner's replacement costs.

Saskatchewan and Quebec were the only two provinces to experience price increases.

In Saskatchewan, consumer prices rose 0.8% in the 12 months to August after increasing 0.9% in July. This was due to higher costs for food (+4.9%) and shelter (+2.9%).

In Quebec, consumer prices rose 0.4% in the 12 months to August. This was due to a slower decline in shelter costs (-0.3%) compared with the national decline (-2.2%).

Consumer prices were down 1.0% in Ontario. Energy prices in this province fell 20.0% between August 2008 and August 2009.

12-month change in the Bank of Canada's core index

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 1.6% over the 12 months to August, following a 1.8% rise in July.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index edged up 0.1% from July to August, following no growth from June to July.

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 in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-X, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

The August 2009 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 88, no. 8 (62-001-X, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy (62-001-X, \$12/\$111) is also available. A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The September Consumer Price Index will be released on October 16.

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

□

Consumer Price Index and major components, Canada¹ (2002=100)

	Relative importance ²	August 2008	August 2009	July 2008 to July 2009	August 2008 to August 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
All-items	100.00³	115.6	114.7	-0.9	-0.8
Food	17.04	116.8	121.5	5.0	4.0
Shelter	26.62	123.8	121.1	-2.0	-2.2
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.10	104.4	107.0	2.6	2.5
Clothing and footwear	5.36	93.7	92.1	-2.1	-1.7
Transportation	19.88	123.1	114.8	-9.1	-6.7
Health and personal care	4.73	109.3	112.5	3.7	2.9
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	103.5	104.4	1.1	0.9
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	127.5	131.4	3.1	3.1
All-items (1992=100)		137.6	136.6	-0.9	-0.7
Special aggregates					
Goods	48.78	111.5	107.8	-3.9	-3.3
Services	51.22	119.6	121.6	1.8	1.7
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	110.5	111.5	1.0	0.9
Energy	9.38	164.0	132.6	-23.4	-19.1
Core CPI ⁴	82.71	112.0	113.8	1.8	1.6

1. The month-to-month percentage changes are available in 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% due to 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	August 2008	August 2009	July 2008 to July 2009	August 2008 to August 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Canada	100.00²	115.6	114.7	-0.9	-0.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	115.8	115.0	-0.9	-0.7
Prince Edward Island	0.35	119.3	118.3	-1.3	-0.8
Nova Scotia	2.56	117.7	116.7	-1.0	-0.8
New Brunswick	1.97	114.3	114.1	-0.4	-0.2
Quebec	21.05	113.5	113.9	-0.3	0.4
Ontario	41.22	114.8	113.7	-1.2	-1.0
Manitoba	3.06	115.0	114.5	0.0	-0.4
Saskatchewan	2.64	117.0	117.9	0.9	0.8
Alberta	11.43	124.1	122.0	-1.5	-1.7
British Columbia	14.29	114.0	112.8	-1.6	-1.1
Whitehorse	0.06	115.4	114.2	-0.8	-1.0
Yellowknife	0.08	116.9	116.3	-0.1	-0.5
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	112.2	114.0	1.5	1.6

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% due to rounding.

Consumer Price Index and major components (2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	June 2009	July 2009	August 2009	June to July 2009	July to August 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	114.4	114.0	114.3	-0.3	0.3
Food	17.04	121.6	121.8	121.7	0.2	-0.1
Shelter	26.62	121.3	120.9	121.1	-0.3	0.2
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.10	107.3	107.2	107.3	-0.1	0.1
Clothing and footwear	5.36	93.0	92.6	92.4	-0.4	-0.2
Transportation	19.88	116.1	114.3	114.8	-1.6	0.4
Health and personal care	4.73	112.4	112.4	112.5	0.0	0.1
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	103.1	103.1	103.1	0.0	0.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	131.6	131.5	131.4	-0.1	-0.1
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	82.96	113.6	113.1	113.4	-0.4	0.3
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	111.5	111.5	111.5	0.0	0.0
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	112.3	112.3	112.5	0.0	0.2
Core CPI ³	82.71	113.7	113.7	113.8	0.0	0.1

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% due to rounding.

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Leading indicators

August 2009

The composite leading index rose by 1.1% in August, after a 0.6% gain in July. The increase was the largest since April 2002. Growth in the leading index usually only exceeds 1% early in the recovery from a downturn. In August, 8 of the 10 components contributed to the advance, up from 5 the month before, as the manufacturing sector joined the advance.

The housing index rose by 3.1% after sizeable gains in June and July. This is the strongest three months of growth since the spring of 1991. The upturn that began in existing home sales in March was reinforced by higher housing starts over the summer. Consumer spending for other durable goods also continued to expand, even before auto sales rose sharply in July.

The Toronto stock market continued to trend upwards for the fifth straight month. While the rally has been widespread, metals have led the gains over the summer.

The leading indicator for the United States continued to recover, up 0.7% for its third straight gain. The index had fallen steadily for nearly two years. Both housing and manufacturing turned up after prolonged slumps.

New orders for durable goods manufactured in Canada rose 8.1% as summer began, its largest gain on record following marked declines in each of the previous seven months. Transportation equipment led the gain. The ratio of shipments to inventories also rebounded after eight consecutive declines, as the drop in inventories accelerated while shipments began to level off.

Services employment remained on a steady downward trend, falling 0.2%, due to declines in both personal and business services.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

This release will be reprinted in the October 2009 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 22, no. 10 (11-010-X, free). For more information on the economy, consult the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; ceo@statcan.gc.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

Leading indicators

	March 2009	April 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	August 2009	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	215.8	213.8	213.7	213.6	214.8	217.2	1.1
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	97.8	96.7	97.7	102.5	107.3	110.6	3.1
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,917	2,914	2,914	2,905	2,898	2,892	-0.2
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	8,759	8,770	9,047	9,383	9,915	10,345	4.3
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	189,656	191,602	192,980	193,952	195,887	197,377	0.8
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) ³	120.1	119.7	119.7	120.0	120.6	121.4	0.7
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	36.5	36.3	36.5	36.6	36.6	36.7	0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	23,728	21,942	19,377	17,639	16,627	17,971	8.1
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.64	1.60	1.57	1.56	1.54	1.55	0.01 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	2,917	2,881	2,850	2,825	2,814	2,809	-0.2
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	9,355	9,254	9,200	9,203	9,391	9,441	0.5
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	210.2	211.9	217.7	217.1	217.3	222.1	2.2

1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.

5. Difference from previous month.

Travel between Canada and other countries July 2009

Travel from the United States to Canada reached 1.6 million trips in July, up 4.9% from June, when the lowest level on record had been reached.

United States travellers made 964,000 overnight trips to Canada in July, also up 4.9% from June. This was the result of increased travel by car (+5.1%) and plane (+5.3%). Americans made 579,000 same-day car trips to Canada, up 7.5% from the previous month.

Travel from overseas countries increased 0.8% to 340,000 trips in July. Travel from Japan, which had fallen significantly in May (-33.5%), rebounded strongly in July (+32.4%). Travel from the United Kingdom, Canada's most important overseas market, fell 11.0% to 52,000 trips, the lowest level since May 2003.

In July, travel from Mexico fell 19.4% from June and 36.2% from the beginning of the year. As of July 16, Mexican travellers are required to present visas when entering Canada.

In the other direction, Canadian residents took 3.0 million trips to the United States in July, up 2.3% from June.

Overnight trips to the United States advanced 1.5% to 1.4 million, with increased travel by car (+0.8%) and

plane (+3.1%). Same-day car travel to the United States reached 1.6 million trips, up 3.1% from June.

Travel by Canadians to overseas destinations increased 2.5% to 679,000 trips in July.

Note: Seasonally adjusted data have been revised back to January 2008. Revisions have been made to some unadjusted series for each month of the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The July 2009 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 25, no. 7 (66-001-P, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; tourism@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; eric.desjardins@statcan.gc.ca), Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics Division.

□

Travel between Canada and other countries

	July 2008 ^r	January 2009 ^r	June 2009 ^r	July 2009 ^p	June to July 2009
Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands				% change ¹
Canadian trips abroad²	4,355	3,802	3,642	3,729	2.4
To the United States	3,669	3,113	2,980	3,050	2.3
To other countries	686	690	662	679	2.5
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,055	1,648	1,533	1,580	3.1
Total trips, one or more nights	2,242	2,115	2,076	2,114	1.8
United States ³	1,556	1,426	1,414	1,436	1.5
Car	927	844	853	860	0.8
Plane	530	493	474	489	3.1
Other modes of transportation	100	88	87	87	-0.3
Other countries ⁴	686	690	662	679	2.5
Travel to Canada²	2,273	2,183	1,881	1,959	4.1
From the United States	1,865	1,799	1,543	1,619	4.9
From other countries	408	384	337	340	0.8
Same-day car trips from the United States	766	706	539	579	7.5
Total trips, one or more nights	1,411	1,378	1,249	1,296	3.8
United States ³	1,013	1,004	919	964	4.9
Car	600	604	546	574	5.1
Plane	288	283	263	277	5.3
Other modes of transportation	125	118	110	114	3.2
Other countries ⁴	398	374	330	332	0.6
Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin⁵					
United Kingdom	75	68	58	52	-11.0
France	38	34	35	36	1.6
Germany	27	30	26	27	4.9
Australia	21	19	17	19	11.8
Japan	26	19	12	16	32.4
Mexico	23	22	16	13	-19.4
China	15	16	13	12	-4.1
South Korea	16	14	12	12	0.7
Netherlands	10	9	9	10	14.4
India	10	10	9	9	-2.3
Switzerland	8	8	9	9	-0.3
Italy	9	9	8	8	10.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

3. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

4. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

5. Includes same-day and overnight trips.



Study: Older mothers of pre-school children

2006

Women in their 40s who have pre-school children are still in the minority, but the phenomenon is not as uncommon as it was 20 years ago. The growth in the share of women with post-secondary education is an important factor in explaining their increased number.

The 2006 Census enumerated 1.3 million women aged 40 to 44 in Canada. Of these, about 117,100, or 8.9%, were mothers of at least one child under the age of 5. This was more than double the proportion of 4.3% in 1986.

The professional and economic situation of women aged 40 to 44 who have pre-school children is different from that of women in the same age group who had their children earlier. The occupations with the highest proportion of older mothers with pre-school kids were those that required a high level of skill and education, such as physicians, dentists, veterinarians, judges, lawyers and Quebec notaries.

More women have a university education. In Canada, the proportion of women aged 40 to 44 who have a university degree more than doubled in 20 years, climbing from 11% in 1986 to 23% in 2006. Statistics suggest that the higher this proportion, the more common childbearing will become for women in their 30s and 40s.

In 2006, 14% of women aged 40 to 44 who had a bachelor's degree were mothers of a young child, compared with 6% of women of the same age who had a high school diploma or less. For women who had a doctorate, the proportion was 20%.

About 30% of women aged 40 to 44 who had young children were in a "professional" occupation, that is an occupation that requires a bachelor's degree or higher.

Women who were health professionals in the 40-to-44 age group were particularly likely to have young children. In 2006, this was true of 25% of female specialist physicians, the highest proportion for an individual occupation in Canada.

In 2006, the median personal income of women aged 40 to 44 who did paid work and whose children were all under 5 years old was \$33,700 after taxes. This was higher than the median personal income of \$28,700 for those whose children were at least 12 years of age.

Women who were born in countries outside of Canada were more likely than Canadian-born women to have a university degree and to be older mothers of young children. In 2006, 32% of them had a university degree, compared with 19% of Canadian-born women. The proportion that had a pre-school child was also

higher: 13% compared with 8% for Canadian-born women.

Note: This release is based on an analytical article in the September 2009 issue of *Canadian Social Trends* that profiles women in their 40s who have young children. Data came from the 1986 and 2006 censuses. People living in institutions or collective dwellings were excluded from this study.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3901.

The article "Forty-year old mothers of pre-school children: A profile" is now available in the September 2009 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 88 (11-008-X, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.gc.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

August 2009

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in August compared with July. The composite index increased 2.4% compared with August 2008.

Note: Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 22 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 2007=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0045.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The second quarter 2009 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in October.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-3117; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca) or Louise Chaîné (613-951-3393), Producer Prices Division. ■

New products

Canadian Social Trends, no. 88
Catalogue number 11-008-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Canadian Economic Observer, September 2009,
Vol. 22, no. 9
Catalogue number 11-010-X (Print, \$25/\$243)

The Consumer Price Index, August 2009, Vol. 88,
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Print, \$12/\$111)

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