



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, January 21, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Consumer Price Index, December 1999** 2  
 In December, consumers paid 2.6% more than they did in December 1998 for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index basket. This rate matched the September 1999 increase, which was the highest since June 1995. Rising energy prices, led by gasoline, fuel oil and natural gas, drove December's increase.
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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Consumer Price Index

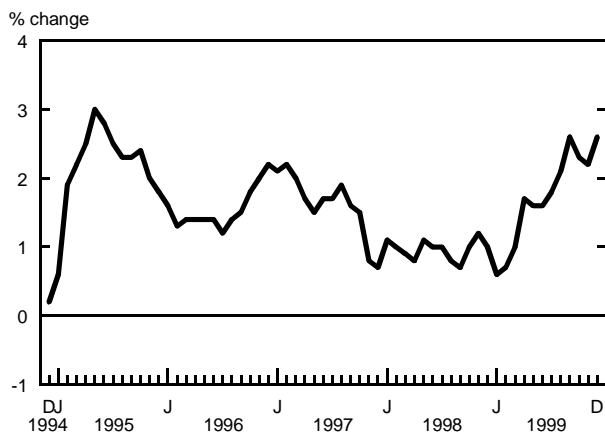
December 1999

Consumers paid 2.6% more in December than they did in December 1998 for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. This change matches the increase recorded in September 1999, which was the highest since June 1995. An annual increase of 2.3% was registered in October while the CPI increased 2.2% in November.

The biggest part of December's increase is attributable to rising energy prices. The index for All-items excluding energy increased 1.6% compared with December 1998. Since April 1999, the 12-month percentage change of this index has remained between 1.5% and 1.6%.

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**Percentage change in the CPI from  
the same month of the previous year**



Energy prices were mainly pushed up by higher prices for gasoline, fuel oil and natural gas. Gasoline prices increased 26.5% compared with December 1998, while fuel oil prices rose 28.4% over the same period. These increases follow a 93.0% jump in crude oil prices as measured by the Raw Material Price Index for the 12-month period ending in November 1999.

Higher costs for air transportation, food purchased from restaurants and tuition fees also contributed to the increase in the CPI. Partially offsetting these increases, were decreased prices for computer equipment and supplies, and fresh produce.

### Annual CPI average for 1999 was 1.7% higher than the 1998 average

In 1999, the annual average of the All-items CPI for Canada was 1.7% higher than the 1998 average. While this rise is larger than the 0.9% increase recorded between 1997 and 1998, it is in line with the 1.6% increase registered for each of 1996 and 1997.

Energy prices were an important contributor to the CPI's increase in 1999. The annual average index for energy was up 5.7% — the largest increase since 1990 — after decreasing 4.0% in 1998.

Annual average indexes are obtained by averaging the index levels for each month of the calendar year. Two tables showing changes in these indexes are in the Consumer Price Index publication.

### Monthly CPI edges up slightly

As a result of mixed price movements for a number of commodities, the CPI posted a small increase of 0.1% from November to December. Higher prices for gasoline, air transportation, fuel oil and natural gas were the main contributors to the overall increase. Conversely, there were lower prices for clothing and footwear, traveller accommodation, and household furnishings.

Gasoline prices rose 2.4% in December, with increases across the country except in British Columbia and Whitehorse. The continuing rise in crude oil prices was also reflected in the prices of fuel oil, which rose 8.0%. This is the largest monthly increase since November 1990.

Natural gas prices rose 3.8% from November to December. This was due to a combination of two factors: the introduction of winter rate schedules by some companies and increased gas costs that were passed along by some distributors.

The prices paid, on average, for air transportation rose 5.6% from November to December. This advance was due mainly to fare increases on some domestic and transatlantic routes. December's increase is in keeping with historical trends; only once in the past 20 years have prices for air transportation decreased in December.

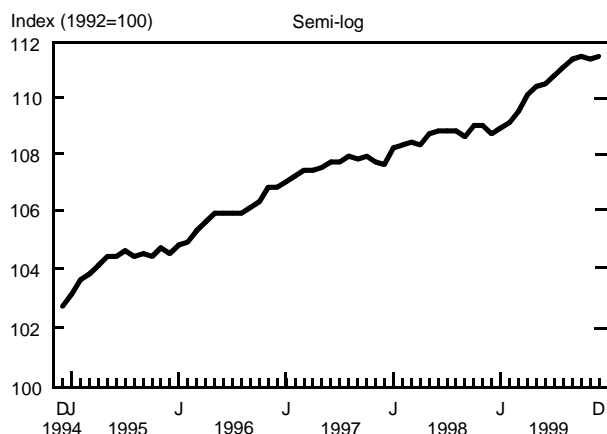
Prices for clothing and footwear decreased 1.9% in December. This was indicative of widespread sales pricing for all categories of women's clothing, men's clothing and footwear.

Prices for traveller accommodation dropped 4.5% from November to December, continuing the downward

trend that began in September and mirroring the seasonal pattern observed in the fall for the past five years.

A 1.0% price decrease for household furnishings in was primarily due to lower prices for furniture and household equipment. These decreases were the result of scattered sales pricing that more than offset sporadic price increases.

**The Consumer Price Index  
(not seasonally adjusted)**



## Provincial highlights

In December, 12-month changes in the All-Items indexes for provinces ranged from a low of 1.7% for British Columbia to a high of 3.3% for Nova Scotia and Alberta.

From November to December, changes in provincial CPI's ranged from a decline of 0.1% in Quebec to an increase of 0.4% in Alberta.

## Spotlight on Alberta and Prince Edward Island

Over the 12-month period ending in December, the CPI for Alberta rose 3.3%, while that of Prince Edward Island advanced 3.1%. These compare with an annual increase of 2.6% for Canada overall.

In Alberta, more than a third of the province's overall annual increase was due to an advance in the transportation index, which rose 6.9%, the result of higher costs to operate automotive vehicles. Gasoline prices, in particular, rose 24.0%. Transportation costs also increased due to higher prices for inter-city transportation and the purchase of automotive vehicles.

The 3.6% rise in the shelter index also was an important contributor to Alberta's overall increase.

Higher prices were observed for owned accommodation, particularly for property taxes and homeowners' replacement costs. The owned accommodation index for Alberta was up 3.3% while it rose only 1.2% for Canada. Prices for natural gas and rent were also up in Alberta. As well, higher prices for household operations and furnishings contributed to the province's overall increase.

The advance in Alberta's CPI was offset to some extent by a drop in prices for recreational equipment and services, and home entertainment equipment and services. Consumers also benefited from lower prices for women's clothing, sugar and confectionery items, and household appliances.

In Prince Edward Island, the 12-month increase of 3.1% in the All-items index was mainly the result of advances in the transportation and shelter indexes. In transportation, higher prices were recorded for the operation of automotive vehicles (mainly gasoline), inter-city transportation and the purchase of automotive vehicles. The 4.3% rise in the shelter index was mainly due to higher prices for fuel oil and owned accommodation. Fuel oil prices rose 30.3% in Prince Edward Island, while they were up 28.4% for Canada as a whole.

Residents also faced price increases for clothing and footwear, fresh or frozen meat (excluding poultry), cigarettes, other recreational services, tuition fees, and processed meat. Offsetting part of these increases were price declines for fresh vegetables; bakery and other cereal products; home entertainment equipment and services; fresh or frozen chicken; other household goods and services; furniture and household textiles; paper, plastic and foil supplies; and personal care supplies and equipment.

## Spotlight on Whitehorse and Yellowknife

Over the 12-month period ending in December 1999, the CPI for Yellowknife advanced 1.9%, while it rose 2.2% in Whitehorse. These were below the 2.6% annual increase for Canada as a whole.

In Yellowknife, the advance in the shelter index explains about one third of the city's All-items annual increase. The shelter index rose by 2.2%, primarily due to higher prices for fuel oil, which rose 30.8% compared with 28.4% on average for Canada as a whole. Higher prices for inter-city transportation also played a significant role in the increase of the All-items index for Yellowknife.

Other notable increases were recorded for alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, gasoline, food purchased from restaurants, women's clothing, vegetables and vegetable preparations, and telephone services. These advances were partially offset by price

declines for recreational equipment and services; the purchase, leasing and rental of automotive vehicles; and non-alcoholic beverages.

In Whitehorse, the 12-month increase in its All-items index (+2.2%) was largely the result of advances in the transportation and shelter indexes. Higher prices for inter-city transportation, gasoline, and the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles contributed significantly to the rise in the transportation index. Residents of Whitehorse faced an 8.0% price increase for gasoline, much lower than the 26.5% jump faced by Canadians on average. Much of the advance in the shelter index over the last year was due to the 13.6% rise in fuel oil prices; however, these were much lower than the 28.4% jump in fuel oil prices recorded for Canada as a whole.

Whitehorse residents also faced higher prices for clothing and footwear; telephone services; other household goods and services; education and reading;

and the purchase and operation of recreational vehicles. Offsetting some of these increases were price declines for recreational equipment and services, fresh fruit, other food products, household furnishings, and rent.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9970.

Available at 7 a.m. on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)).

The December 1999 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

The January 2000 Consumer Price Index will be released on February 24.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.

### Consumer Price Index and major components 1992=100

	Dec. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Nov. to Dec. 1999	Dec. to Dec. 1999
not seasonally adjusted					
	% change				
<b>All-items</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>111.4</b>	<b>108.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Food	110.9	110.6	109.7	0.3	1.1
Shelter	106.4	105.9	104.4	0.5	1.9
Household operations and furnishings	109.2	109.5	107.8	-0.3	1.3
Clothing and footwear	103.4	105.4	102.6	-1.9	0.8
Transportation	128.3	127.3	120.3	0.8	6.7
Health and personal care	110.8	110.5	108.8	0.3	1.8
Recreation, education and reading	119.4	120.3	116.5	-0.7	2.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	95.9	95.1	93.4	0.8	2.7
Goods	109.0	108.7	105.6	0.3	3.2
Services	114.5	114.5	112.2	0.0	2.0
All-items excluding food and energy	110.9	111.0	109.1	-0.1	1.6
Energy	118.4	115.8	102.9	2.2	15.1
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1992	89.7	89.8	92.0		
All-items (1986=100)	142.8				

**Consumer Price Index by province, Whitehorse and Yellowknife**  
1992=100

	Dec. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Nov. to Dec. 1999	Dec. 1998 to Dec. 1999
not seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland	111.1	111.1	108.0	0.0	2.9
Prince Edward Island	109.4	109.4	106.1	0.0	3.1
Nova Scotia	112.0	112.0	108.4	0.0	3.3
New Brunswick	110.7	110.4	107.4	0.3	3.1
Quebec	108.7	108.8	106.3	-0.1	2.3
Ontario	112.1	111.8	108.9	0.3	2.9
Manitoba	116.5	116.1	113.9	0.3	2.3
Saskatchewan	114.5	114.5	112.5	0.0	1.8
Alberta	115.1	114.6	111.4	0.4	3.3
British Columbia	111.6	111.5	109.7	0.1	1.7
Whitehorse	113.0	112.6	110.6	0.4	2.2
Yellowknife	110.3	109.6	108.2	0.6	1.9



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Construction-type plywood

November 1999

Canadian firms produced 161 057 cubic metres of construction-type plywood during November 1999, up 7.7% from the 149 571 cubic metres produced during November 1998.

For January to November, production totalled 1 772 310 cubic metres, an increase of 9.7% from the 1 615 675 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1998.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).**

The November 1999 issue of *Construction-type plywood* (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; [simales@statcan.ca](mailto:simales@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Stocks of frozen poultry meat

January 1, 2000 (preliminary)

Data for stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on January 1, 2000 are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

### Potato production

1999 (revised)

Revised 1999 data for the area planted and harvested, yield and production of potatoes are now available. Data are tabulated by province.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 1044.**

These data are available in *Canadian potato production* (22-008-UPB, \$21). See *How to order publications*. Data are also available free (22-008-UIB) on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)), under *Products and services* then *Downloadable publications (free)*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Barb McLaughlin (902-893-7251), Agriculture Division. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Infomat - A weekly review**, January 21, 2000  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE**  
(Canada: \$3/\$109).

**Infomat - A weekly review**, January 21, 2000  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE**  
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

**Construction-type plywood**, November 1999  
**Catalogue number 35-001-XIB**  
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

**Industry price indexes**, November 1999  
**Catalogue number 62-011-XPB**  
(Canada: \$22/\$217; outside Canada: US\$22/US\$217).

**Focus on culture**, Autumn 1999  
**Catalogue number 87-004-XPB**  
(Canada: \$9/\$27; outside Canada: US\$9/US\$27).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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Catalogue 11-001E (if single) 11-001/11-001E 0000-0000



**The Daily**  
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.



**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 100 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expenditure Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, steel and/or May 31, 1997** 12
- **Flag production, April 1997** 12

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## **Statistics Canada's official release bulletin**

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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**RELEASE DATES: JANUARY 24 TO 28**

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**January 24 to 28**  
(Release dates are subject to change.)

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<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
24	<b>Wholesale trade</b>	November 1999
24	<b>Canada's international transactions in securities</b>	November 1999
26	<b>Retail trade</b>	November 1999
26	<b>Employment Insurance</b>	November 1999
26	<b>Composite Index</b>	December 1999
27	<b>Employment, earnings and hours</b>	November 1999
28	<b>Industrial Product Price Index</b>	December 1999
28	<b>Raw Materials Price Index</b>	December 1999

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