



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index, February 2000** 2
In February, Canadians paid 2.7% more for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index than they did in February 1999. This is the largest year-to-year rise in the index since June 1995. The main contributor to February's increase was, once again, energy prices.

OTHER RELEASES

- Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard, January 2000 5
- Air travel between Canada and the United States, second and third quarter 1998 5
- Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM, first quarter 2000 5

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

6



MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

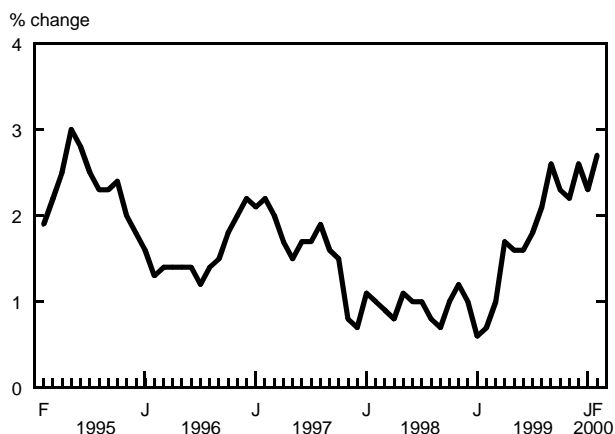
February 2000

In February, Canadians paid 2.7% more for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) than they did in February 1999. This is the largest year-to-year rise in the index since June 1995.

The main contributor to February's annual increase was, once again, energy prices. Gasoline prices rose an average 31.3%, a rate of increase not seen since 1981. The index for fuel oil rose by 63.6% from February 1999, the largest annual increase in the index since its inception in 1950. This increase is particularly strong because the high index level of this February is compared with the unusually low level of February 1999, when the index for fuel oil reached its lowest point since the summer of 1990.

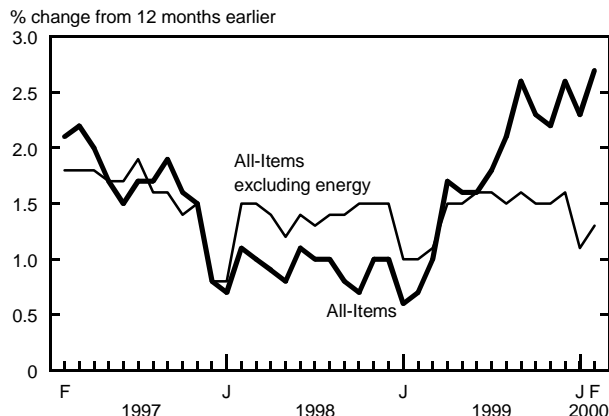
The index for all items excluding energy rose 1.3% in February. Along with the 1.1% rise in January 2000, this is the smallest growth in that index since March 1999.

Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year



Other commodities contributing to the overall growth in the CPI were mortgage interest cost, restaurant food and air transportation. February is the fifth consecutive month in which mortgage interest costs have risen. These increases were somewhat offset by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit.

Annual change in the CPI and in the CPI excluding energy



Modest monthly rise in CPI

The CPI rose by 0.5% from January to February. The main contributors were higher prices for fuel oil, gasoline, travel services and air transportation. These were partly offset by lower prices for fresh vegetables, fresh fruit and child care.

The index for fuel oil posted an unprecedented monthly increase of 22.1%. Prices in Quebec, Ontario, and the Atlantic provinces (excluding Prince Edward Island, where the cost of fuel oil is legislated), rose between 17.7% and 36.1%. The western provinces and the territories showed more modest increases of less than 10%.

Gasoline prices increased by 3.1% in February. These increases are linked to higher crude oil prices, a result of reduced supply from members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, dwindling refinery stockpiles, and greater oil consumption associated with winter heating needs.

Prices for travel services advanced by 7.4% in February, as prices for both travel tours and traveller accommodation increased. Prices of travel tours rose by 11.3%, a result of greater demand for tour packages to certain southern destinations. As well, traveller accommodation prices rose by 4.8%, a result of higher hotel rates in winter recreation areas.

Air transportation prices rose by 5.4%, partly because of rising fuel costs that were being passed on to consumers in the form of fare increases or fuel surcharges for some routes. Fares for certain southern

destinations also increased due to higher seasonal demand.

Fresh vegetable prices fell 7.3%, and fresh fruit prices 2.4%. Both decreases can be attributed to favourable weather in producer countries.

The child care index dropped by 2.4% in February. This was almost entirely due to a decline in the child care index for Quebec. This decrease reflects the phasing-in of the provincial government's subsidy plan, which provides day care at \$5 a day for children two years of age and older.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9956.

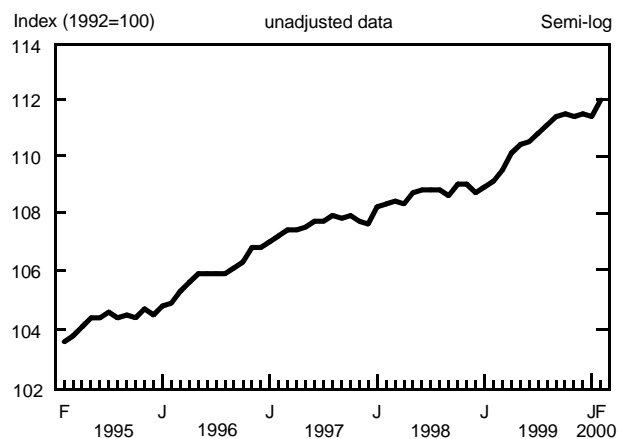
Data are available at 7 a.m. on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

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

The March 2000 Consumer Price Index will be released on April 17.

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

Consumer Price Index



The Consumer Price Index and its major components 1992=100

	Feb. 2000	Jan. 2000	Feb. 1999	Jan. to Feb. 2000	Feb. 1999 to Feb. 2000
not seasonally adjusted					
	% change				
All-items	112.0	111.4	109.1	0.5	2.7
Food	110.6	110.8	110.5	-0.2	0.1
Shelter	107.4	106.7	104.5	0.7	2.8
Household operations and furnishings	109.3	108.7	108.5	0.6	0.7
Clothing and footwear	105.3	104.3	104.4	1.0	0.9
Transportation	128.5	127.3	119.9	0.9	7.2
Health and personal care	111.1	111.0	109.2	0.1	1.7
Recreation, education and reading	119.9	118.5	116.8	1.2	2.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	96.4	96.2	93.7	0.2	2.9
Goods	109.6	108.8	106.2	0.7	3.2
Services	114.8	114.3	112.4	0.4	2.1
All-items excluding food and energy	111.2	110.6	109.4	0.5	1.6
Energy	122.1	118.6	102.3	3.0	19.4
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1992	89.3	89.8	91.7		
All-items (1986=100)	143.5				

The Consumer Price Index for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife 1992=100

	Feb. 2000	Jan. 2000	Feb. 1999	Jan. to Feb. 2000	Feb. 1999 to Feb. 2000
not seasonally adjusted					
	% change				
Newfoundland	112.5	111.6	108.4	0.8	3.8
Prince Edward Island	109.2	109.1	106.2	0.1	2.8
Nova Scotia	112.9	112.0	108.7	0.8	3.9
New Brunswick	111.1	110.3	107.5	0.7	3.3
Quebec	109.6	108.7	106.6	0.8	2.8
Ontario	112.8	111.9	109.4	0.8	3.1
Manitoba	116.7	116.4	113.9	0.3	2.5
Saskatchewan	115.0	114.6	112.9	0.3	1.9
Alberta	114.7	114.7	111.6	0.0	2.8
British Columbia	111.4	111.3	110.1	0.1	1.2
Whitehorse	112.9	112.3	110.4	0.5	2.3
Yellowknife	109.9	109.6	107.9	0.3	1.9



OTHER RELEASES

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

January 2000

Oriented strandboard production in January totalled 688 989 cubic metres, up 1.9% from 676 355 (revised) cubic metres in January 1999. Particleboard production reached 199 690 cubic metres, an increase of 2.2% from 195 301 (revised) cubic metres produced in January 1999. Fibreboard production was 100 974 cubic metres, 36.2% more than the 74 127 cubic metres manufactured in January 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 31 (series 2, 3, and 5) and 122 (series 8).

The January issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard* (36-003-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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Air travel between Canada and the United States

Second and third quarter 1998 (preliminary)

Air passenger origin and destination data are now available for the second and third quarters of 1998. The data represent passengers who travelled between Canada and the United States on scheduled flights provided by major air carriers.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Carol Gudz (613-951-0124), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM

First quarter 2000

Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM (61-517-XCB) is now available. An annual subscription with quarterly updates is \$995; a single copy without updates is \$350. The *Inter-corporate ownership 1998 directory* is also available (61-517-XPB, \$350). See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Jeannine D'Angelo (613-951-2604) or Steve Dufour (613-951-2651), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fiberboard,
January 2000
Catalogue number 36-003-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Refined petroleum products, July 1999
Catalogue number 45-004-XPB
(Canada: \$21/\$206; outside Canada: US\$21/US\$206).

New motor vehicle sales, December 1999
Catalogue number 63-007-XIB
(Canada: \$13/\$124).

Exports by country, January-December 1999
Catalogue number 65-003-XMB
(Canada: \$62/\$206; outside Canada: US\$62/US\$206).

Exports by country, January-December 1999
Catalogue number 65-003-XPB
(Canada: \$124/\$412; outside Canada: US\$124/US\$412).

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.

How to order publications

Order publications by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

1-800-267-6677

From other countries call:

1-613-951-7277

To fax your order:

1-877-287-4369

Address changes or account inquiries:

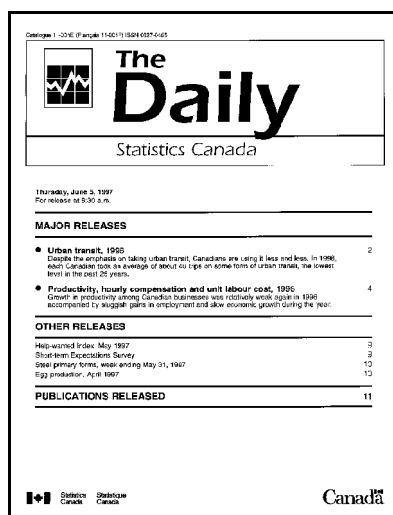
1-800-700-1033

To order a publication by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to order@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca), under the headings *Products and services*, *Downloadable publications*.

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



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.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, vradtom@statcan.ca)

Head of Official Release: Dan Smythe (613-951-1088), smytdan@statcan.ca

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2000. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.