



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index, October 2001**
Consumers paid 1.9% more in October than they did in October 2000 for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index basket; it was the smallest increase since July 1999.

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 - **Wholesale trade, September 2001**
A weakening economy and the events of September 11 contributed to a 0.9% fall in wholesale sales in September.

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- Postcensal population estimates by various characteristics, July 1, 2001

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- Deliveries of major grains, October 2001

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Perspectives on labour and income

November 2001 online edition

The November 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, available today, features an article examining trends in job-seeking from 1976 to 2000. It looks at the contribution of demographic and other factors to changes in the overall shares of full- and part-time job seekers.

Also in this issue is a brief note, available as a free PDF file, which examines family incomes in 1999 and changes since 1990. This note can be downloaded from the Perspectives home page—from the *Our products and services* page, choose *In depth*, then *Perspectives on labour and income*, then *Perspectives online*.

For more information on "Trends in part-time job search," contact Berouk Terefe, (613-951-4616; berouk.terefe@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

For more information on "1999 income: an overview," contact Cathy Cotton, (613-951-2300; cathy.cotton@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.

The November 2001 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Volume 2, number 11 (75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Henry Pold, (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

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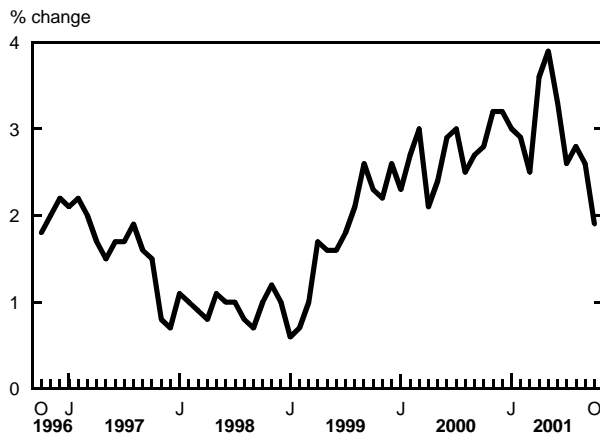
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

October 2001

Consumers paid 1.9% more in October than they did in October 2000 for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket; it was the smallest increase since July 1999. October's rate of increase in the CPI was significantly slower than September's (+2.6%), mainly due to falling energy prices. The All-items excluding energy index rose 2.5% over the 12 months ending in October. Increases for this index have ranged between 2.5% and 2.7% since May.

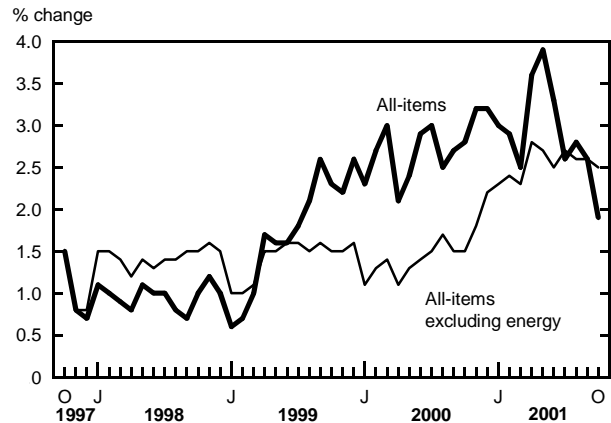
Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year



Energy prices dropped an average 2.7% from October 2000 to October 2001, exerting downward pressure on the All-items CPI for the first time in more than two and a half years. A 9.5% drop in gasoline prices over the 12 months ending in October was primarily responsible for the fall in the energy index—fuel oil provided the remaining downward push. Natural gas prices fell for the fourth consecutive month, leaving prices 14.8% lower than the record high they reached in June. However, the index for natural gas was 14.9% higher than it was in October 2000. This increase, along with the rise in the electricity index, moderated the overall decrease in the energy index.

While food prices fell for the third consecutive month, they continued to have a significant impact on the All-items CPI in October, accounting for almost 40% of the 12-month increase. Higher prices for restaurant meals, beef and fresh fruit continued to play a dominant role.

Annual change in the CPI and in the CPI excluding energy



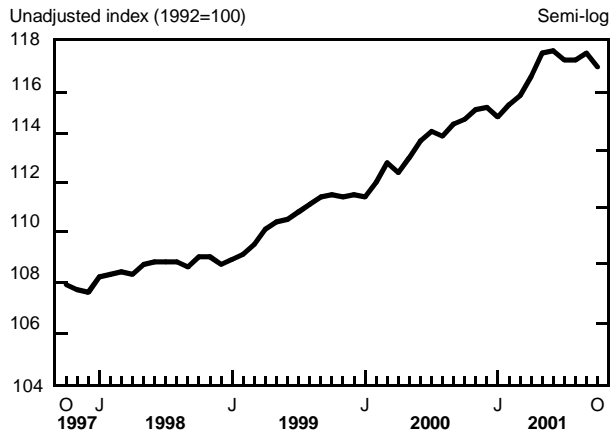
Higher cigarette prices, rent, homeowners' replacement cost and automotive vehicle prices continued to contribute to the 12-month increase in the All-items CPI in October. By contrast, continuing price declines for traveller accommodation and computer equipment and supplies exerted some downward pressure.

Property taxes, including school taxes and special charges, rose an average 1.6% in the last year. Property taxes were up in most provinces. Prince Edward Island (+5.0%), Ontario (+4.0%), Nova Scotia (+3.1%) and New Brunswick (+2.7%) posted the largest average increases, mostly due to province-wide reassessments based on updated market values. Alberta (-3.5%), Manitoba (-1.8%) and Quebec (-0.6%) were the only provinces to show annual property tax decreases, mainly because of lower school taxes and reduced general tax rates. Changes in property taxes are reflected in the CPI once a year, in October.

CPI drops month-to-month

The CPI dropped 0.5% in October from September. Since June, monthly changes in the CPI have ranged between -0.5% and +0.3%. In October, the greatest downward pressure by far came from weaker gasoline prices. Price drops for traveller accommodation also pushed down the All-items CPI. In contrast, higher property taxes and costs for homeowners' maintenance and repairs exerted slight upward pressure on the CPI.

Consumer Price Index



Gasoline prices fell an average 8.0% in October from September, due to falling North American demand and ample crude oil inventories. Price decreases were widespread across all provinces and territories with the exception of Prince Edward Island (+1.9%), where prices are government-regulated. The impact was greatest in the prairie provinces, each of which saw drops of 12.0% or more. Smaller decreases of 7.8% and 5.7% were reported in Ontario and Quebec, respectively.

Prices for traveller accommodation fell 12.0% in October from September. As usual, this decline

follows a price decrease in September, which marks the beginning of the off-peak tourist season. Factors such as the economic slowdown that started before the events of September 11 and the impact of these events on hotel occupancy have also contributed to October's price decline. The effect of the economic slowdown on the traveller accommodation industry is most clearly seen in the 12-month percentage changes in this index—October marks the fifth consecutive month of decreases.

The index for homeowners' maintenance and repairs rose 1.8% in October from September, mostly due to higher material costs.

Available on CANSIM: tables 3260001, 3260003, 3260004 and 3260010.

Available at 7 am on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

The October 2001 issue of the Consumer Price Index (62-001-XIB, \$8/\$77; 62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. See *How to order products*.

November's Consumer Price Index will be released on December 20.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division, or Joanne Moreau (613-951-7130). □

The Consumer Price Index and major components
(1992=100)

	October 2001	September 2001	October 2000	September to October 2001	October 2000 to October 2001
Unadjusted					
	% change				
All-items	116.8	117.4	114.6	-0.5	1.9
Food	116.8	116.9	112.0	-0.1	4.3
Shelter	113.6	113.4	110.6	0.2	2.7
Household operations and furnishings	113.0	113.2	110.7	-0.2	2.1
Clothing and footwear	107.2	107.9	107.5	-0.6	-0.3
Transportation	130.3	133.0	131.5	-2.0	-0.9
Health and personal care	115.0	114.2	112.8	0.7	2.0
Recreation, education and reading	124.5	126.0	124.4	-1.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	106.8	106.5	98.1	0.3	8.9
All-items (1986=100)	149.6				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992	85.6	85.2	87.3		
Special aggregates					
Goods	113.8	114.8	112.1	-0.9	1.5
Services	120.3	120.4	117.5	-0.1	2.4
All-items excluding food and energy	115.1	115.2	112.9	-0.1	1.9
Energy	131.0	137.0	134.6	-4.4	-2.7
All-items excluding the eight most volatile components ¹	118.2	118.2	115.7	0	2.2

¹ Excluded from the All-items CPI are these eight volatile components, as defined 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. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, please consult the Bank of Canada Web site: (www.bankofcanada.ca/inflation).

The Consumer Price Index by province, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
(1992=100)

	October 2001	September 2001	October 2000	September to October 2001	October 2000 to October 2001
Unadjusted					
	% change				
Newfoundland	114.3	115.0	114.2	-0.6	0.1
Prince Edward Island	115.4	114.7	113.3	0.6	1.9
Nova Scotia	116.4	117.2	115.4	-0.7	0.9
New Brunswick	114.8	115.4	113.9	-0.5	0.8
Quebec	113.2	113.7	111.5	-0.4	1.5
Ontario	118.2	118.5	115.2	-0.3	2.6
Manitoba	121.5	122.4	118.8	-0.7	2.3
Saskatchewan	121.2	122.1	117.5	-0.7	3.1
Alberta	121.0	122.4	119.2	-1.1	1.5
British Columbia	115.8	116.7	114.5	-0.8	1.1
Whitehorse	117.5	118.5	115.1	-0.8	2.1
Yellowknife	113.5	114.3	111.5	-0.7	1.8

Wholesale trade

September 2001 (preliminary)

A weakening economy and the events of September 11 contributed to a 0.9% fall in wholesale sales in September. Nine of the 11 sectors reported declines. Over the past year, wholesale trade has reported three monthly declines equal to or in excess of 0.9%, and the trend has continued to rise. As a point of comparison, wholesale sales fell 5.0% during the ice storm of January 1998.

September also saw wholesalers in the computer and electronics sector come back strongly (+5.0%), dampening the overall decline. Had it not been for this strong showing, wholesale sales would have dropped 1.4% in September.

Wholesale sales have been generally climbing in 2001, after levelling out during the latter half of 2000. The rate of climb has weakened—growth in the third quarter slowed to 0.5%, after rising 1.5% in the second.

Wholesale sales totalled \$32.7 billion in September. Major contributors to the decline were wholesalers of metals and hardware (-2.9%), food products (-2.4%), and industrial and other machinery (-1.4%). Wholesale sales in the automotive sector retreated a relatively modest 0.4%.

Besides the strong increase seen in computers and other electronics, wholesale sales of beverages, drugs and tobacco products rose 0.7%.

Note to readers

Estimates from the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

Woes continue for metals and hardware sector and industrial machinery wholesalers

The drop of 2.9% in wholesale sales of metals and hardware added to the plight of wholesalers in this sector. Wholesale sales now rest at mid-1999 levels. On a quarterly basis, this sector was one of three sectors that registered their second consecutive drop (-1.6%). Weak prices for metals and primary metal products and slower demand across the sector have hurt sales.

Wholesale sales of industrial and other machinery dropped 1.4% in September. Sales rose at the start of 2001, after levelling off during the latter half of 2000. Since March 2001, however, wholesale sales in this sector have again gone flat. Wholesalers of industrial machinery and equipment saw their second consecutive quarterly decline (-0.7%). Wholesalers in this sector cited the difficulty of getting stock to the United States, a general loss of contracts, and returns of merchandise as reasons for September's decline.

Despite September's rise, wholesale computer and electronics sector not yet out of the woods

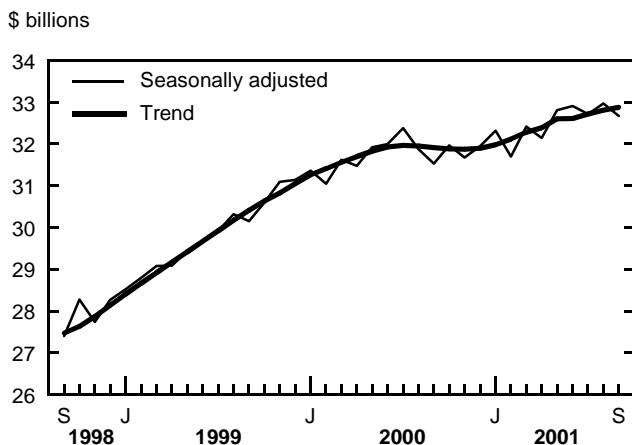
Wholesalers in the computer and electronic sector saw a 5.0% jump in September. This strength came as a result of strong sales in electronic equipment such as cellular telephones, satellite television and communication systems, and sales to the public sector for upgrades to high-end computer equipment. Wholesale sales also rose in the computer services market. However, despite the strong comeback in September, wholesale sales in this sector have been generally free-falling in 2001, primarily as a result of the weak personal computer market. Prior to 2001, sales climbed early in 2000, but started to level off by that summer. The wholesaling of computer and other electronics also posted a second consecutive quarterly decline (-2.3%).

Three provinces post gains

Three provinces bucked the trend and posted gains in September—New Brunswick (+6.9%), Saskatchewan (+3.3%), and Manitoba (+3.2%).

In New Brunswick, broad-based gains in most sectors boosted wholesale sales 6.9%. Unlike their

Wholesale sales continue general rise in 2001



counterparts in the rest of the country, wholesalers in New Brunswick appear to have been better placed to take advantage of special one-time purchases by their clients, especially in the agricultural and industrial machinery sectors. Healthy sales in computers and electronic equipment also helped. Wholesale sales have been climbing in New Brunswick since the start of 2001. Prior to this, falling sales in the summer of 2000 were preceded by stagnant sales in the early months of that year.

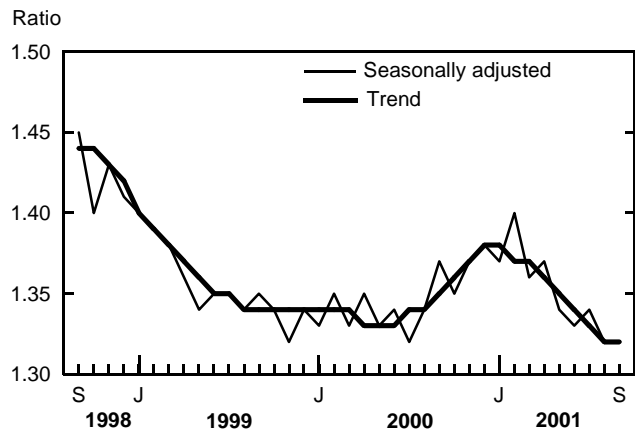
In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, wholesalers of seeds and seed processing in the other products category contributed to the provincial increases. Strong wholesale sales in the computer and electronic sector also helped.

Wholesalers continue to sell off inventories

Wholesalers continued to sell off inventories in September, pushing their value down 0.9% to \$43.0 billion. This was the fourth consecutive monthly decline. Inventory levels have weakened and then fallen in 2001. Inventories are now at September 2000 levels.

The inventory-to-sales ratio remained unchanged at 1.32 in September. After falling for most of 2001, the ratio remains at its lowest level in recent times.

Inventory-to-sales ratio dropping throughout 2001



Available on CANSIM: tables 810001 and 810002.

The September 2001 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

October's wholesale trade estimates will be released December 19.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alexander Hays (613-951-3552; haysale@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. □

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	September 2000	June 2001 ^r	July 2001 ^r	August 2001 ^r	September 2001 ^p	August to September 2001	September 2000 to September 2001
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Sales, all trade groups	31,526	32,906	32,715	32,968	32,670	-0.9	3.6
Food products	4,906	5,336	5,401	5,412	5,283	-2.4	7.7
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,118	2,273	2,272	2,318	2,335	0.7	10.2
Apparel and dry goods	541	585	615	617	608	-1.4	12.3
Household goods	855	902	865	857	837	-2.4	-2.1
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	5,921	6,443	6,173	6,379	6,351	-0.4	7.3
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,056	1,988	2,010	1,981	1,924	-2.9	-6.4
Lumber and building materials	2,293	2,435	2,403	2,405	2,364	-1.7	3.1
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	617	689	668	664	643	-3.1	4.2
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	5,002	5,024	4,976	5,112	5,041	-1.4	0.8
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,921	2,641	2,671	2,625	2,757	5.0	-5.6
Other products	4,294	4,590	4,661	4,599	4,528	-1.5	5.4
Sales by province and territory							
Newfoundland	226	212	215	214	211	-1.5	-6.8
Prince Edward Island	53	59	57	52	52	-0.3	-2.3
Nova Scotia	551	578	601	615	610	-0.8	10.7
New Brunswick	403	422	420	404	432	6.9	7.3
Quebec	6,426	6,654	6,636	6,687	6,608	-1.2	2.8
Ontario	15,829	16,341	16,161	16,410	16,266	-0.9	2.8
Manitoba	904	959	953	972	1,003	3.2	10.9
Saskatchewan	853	1,088	1,091	982	1,015	3.3	19.0
Alberta	3,067	3,354	3,384	3,399	3,311	-2.6	7.9
British Columbia	3,189	3,211	3,170	3,207	3,136	-2.2	-1.7
Yukon	10	10	10	10	10	-6.6	-0.1
Northwest Territories	11	15	16	14	15	4.0	30.0
Nunavut	2	2	2	2	2	28.3	-9.5
Inventories, all trade groups	43,038	43,848	43,698	43,400	43,015	-0.9	-0.1
Food products	2,907	3,223	3,237	3,202	3,170	-1.0	9.0
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,672	2,792	2,790	2,778	2,731	-1.7	2.2
Apparel and dry goods	1,115	1,183	1,248	1,300	1,273	-2.1	14.2
Household goods	1,595	1,636	1,613	1,547	1,531	-1.0	-4.0
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,491	6,500	6,504	6,461	6,285	-2.7	-3.2
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	4,035	3,722	3,664	3,609	3,610	0.0	-10.5
Lumber and building materials	4,000	4,115	4,109	4,126	4,123	-0.1	3.1
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,941	1,852	1,884	1,860	1,872	0.6	-3.6
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	10,660	11,014	10,934	10,903	10,833	-0.6	1.6
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,324	2,007	1,863	1,886	1,936	2.6	-16.7
Other products	5,299	5,803	5,853	5,727	5,651	-1.3	6.7

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Postcensal population estimates by various characteristics

July 1, 2001 (preliminary)

The postcensal population estimates by age and sex for census divisions and census metropolitan areas as of July 1, 2001, as well as the updated estimates for July 1, 1998 to 2000, are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 510014-510016.

These estimates will appear in *Annual demographic statistics, 2001* (91-213-XIB, \$56; 91-213-XPB, \$125), which will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

These estimates are available from Lise Champagne, Demography Division (613-951-2320; lise.champagne@statcan.ca; fax: 613-951-2307) or the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Center. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel

Larrivée, Demography Division, (613-951-0694; fax: 613-951-2307; daniel.larrivee@statcan.ca). ■

Deliveries of major grains

October 2001

Data on October grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 10001.

The October 2001 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be available in January 2002. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; sue.anderson@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, September 2001
Catalogue number 31-001-XIB (\$15/\$147).

Perspectives on labour and income, Vol. 2, no. 11,
November 2001
Catalogue number 75-001-XIE (\$5/\$48).

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

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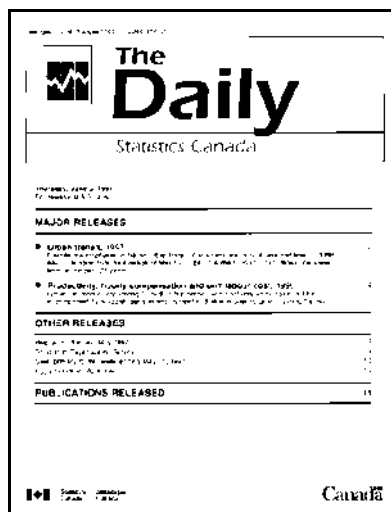
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Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca)
Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), madeleine.simard@statcan.ca

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