

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 17, 2001

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Consumer Price Index, April 2001** 2  
Consumers faced a 3.6% average price increase in April compared with April 2000 for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index basket.
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## OTHER RELEASES

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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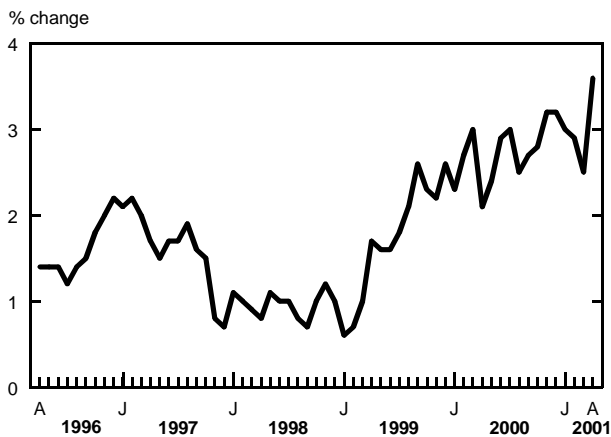
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Consumer Price Index

April 2001

Consumers faced a 3.6% average price increase in April compared with April 2000 for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. This is up from the 12-month increase of 2.5% recorded in March 2001. April's increase is the largest observed since December 1991.

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

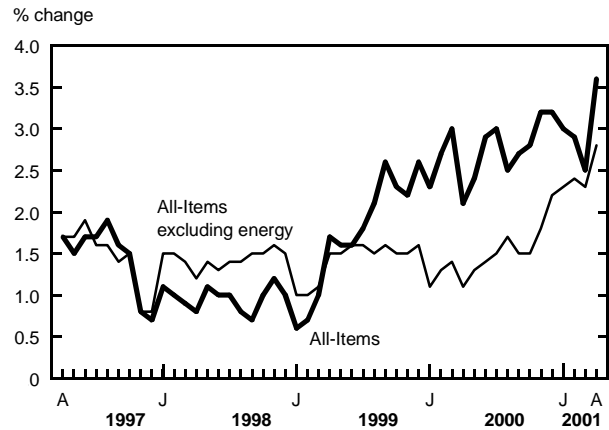


### CPI excluding energy rose

Since the 12-month percentage change in the CPI compares the index of a given month to the index of 12 months previous, the variation in last year's index affects this year's 12-month percentage change. This is especially the case in April; the upsurge from 2.5% to 3.6% in the All-items index is due to the combination of an unusually large decline in energy prices last April and continued increases in energy prices this April. Higher gasoline prices were the primary contributor to the upsurge.

The All-items excluding energy index rose 2.8% in April, compared with 2.3% in March. The federal-provincial tax increases introduced in April for cigarettes were in large part responsible for this higher 12-month rate of increase. Price rises for the purchase of automotive vehicles also played a role, as consumers received fewer and smaller rebates.

**Annual change in the CPI and in the CPI excluding energy**



Energy prices rose an average 11.6% from April 2000 to April 2001, accounting for almost one-third of the All-items annual increase. This rise in the Energy index follows an annual increase of 3.6% in March. All energy components contributed to April's increase; more than half the rise came from a 49.9% hike in natural gas prices. Gasoline prices rose 8.3% over the same period, after posting an annual decline of 3.2% in March. A 9.9% increase in fuel oil prices and a 1.5% advance in electricity prices provided the remaining upward pressure on the Energy index.

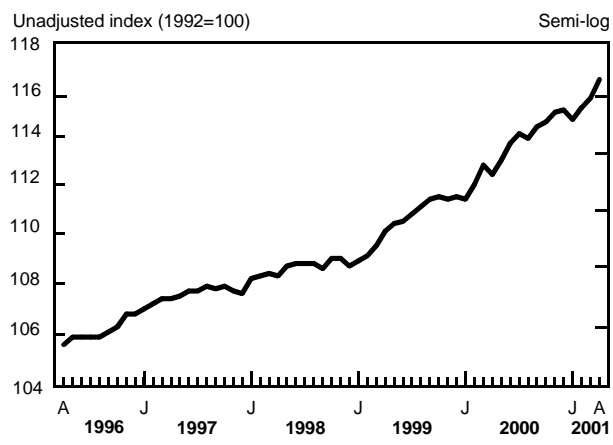
More than one-quarter of the annual increase in the All-items CPI in April can be attributed to higher food prices. Most of the movement in the food index came from higher prices for fresh vegetables, beef, fresh fruit and restaurant meals. The lingering effect of bad weather last winter and higher transportation costs resulted in price increases for both fresh fruit and fresh vegetables. The index for fresh vegetables rose 17.0%, while the fresh fruit index was up 17.8%, its largest advance since September 1991. Beef prices advanced 18.0%, largely because of tight supplies. The 2.5% increase in the index for food purchased from restaurants reflects higher operating costs.

Other commodities contributing to the 12-month increase in the All-items CPI in April were mortgage interest cost, cigarettes, telephone services and rent. These rises were partly offset by decreases for air transportation, computer equipment and supplies and automotive vehicle insurance premiums.

### Month-to-month rise more than double that of March

The CPI rose 0.7% from March to April. An increase of this magnitude was last recorded in March 2000 (+0.7%), and is more than double the 0.3% posted this March. Higher prices for gasoline, electricity, cigarettes and fresh fruit were the largest contributors to April's rise in the CPI. However, declining prices for women's clothing, automotive vehicle insurance premiums and fresh vegetables dampened the monthly increase in the index.

**Consumer Price Index**



Gasoline prices advanced 5.5% from March to April, after a monthly decline of 2.3% in March. A 9.3% price hike in Ontario led this monthly increase, the largest since September 2000. Among the reasons for this rise were an anticipated increase in North American demand for the summer and low U.S. inventories.

The 5.8% increase in the electricity index for April primarily reflects the return to regular billing for BC Hydro customers, as the average customer would have exhausted the \$200 credit given in February. The rise in the index was moderated by a 25.7% drop in the index for Newfoundland, the result of a one-time credit given on the April bill of hydro customers in that province.

Cigarette prices rose 7.7% from March to April. This increase can be explained by a combined federal-provincial tax of \$4 per carton introduced on April 6. Price increases ranged from 9.9% to 11.2% in the five affected provinces: Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario. An increase of 4.1% was also observed in Manitoba due to a rise in the provincial tobacco tax effective April 10.

Fresh fruit prices were on average 7.7% higher in April than in March. Seasonal decreases in the availability of oranges, and a delay in some imported crops, were mostly responsible for the increase.

Prices for women's clothing were down 2.7% in April, after advancing 2.2% in March. Sale pricing was widespread in most categories of women's clothing — all registered price declines.

The index for automotive vehicle insurance premiums declined 1.3% in April compared with March. This drop reflects a 2.6% decrease in Ontario rates; prices were unchanged in all other provinces and territories.

Prices for fresh vegetables were down 3.3% in April, after rising 5.4% in March. The decrease is the result of increased supplies following improved weather in southwestern U.S. growing regions.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 3260001, 3260003, 3260004 and 3260010 and matrices 9940-9956.**

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as in CANSIM, but in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

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

The April 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*.

May's Consumer Price Index will be released on June 15.

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

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

	April 2001	March 2001	April 2000	March to April 2001	April 2000 to April 2001
Not seasonally adjusted					
	% change				
<b>All-items</b>	<b>116.4</b>	<b>115.6</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Food	117.0	116.6	111.3	0.3	5.1
Shelter	112.5	111.9	107.5	0.5	4.7
Household operations and furnishings	112.0	111.3	109.5	0.6	2.3
Clothing and footwear	106.5	107.9	105.1	-1.3	1.3
Transportation	132.1	130.1	129.2	1.5	2.2
Health and personal care	114.0	113.5	111.5	0.4	2.2
Recreation, education and reading	123.9	123.5	121.0	0.3	2.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	103.3	99.4	96.8	3.9	6.7
Goods	114.7	113.5	109.8	1.1	4.5
Services	118.5	118.1	115.6	0.3	2.5
All-items excluding food and energy	113.9	113.5	111.6	0.4	2.1
Energy	136.4	131.6	122.2	3.6	11.6
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1992	85.9	86.5	89.0		
All-items (1986=100)	149.1				

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

	April 2001	March 2001	April 2000	March to April 2001	April 2000 to April 2001
Not seasonally adjusted					
	% change				
Newfoundland	113.6	114.4	112.3	-0.7	1.2
Prince Edward Island	114.6	113.3	110.7	1.1	3.5
Nova Scotia	116.5	115.6	113.1	0.8	3.0
New Brunswick	114.8	114.1	112.1	0.6	2.4
Quebec	113.8	112.7	109.6	1.0	3.8
Ontario	117.9	117.3	113.0	0.5	4.3
Manitoba	121.0	120.7	117.3	0.2	3.2
Saskatchewan	119.2	118.8	115.9	0.3	2.8
Alberta	118.9	118.7	115.9	0.2	2.6
British Columbia	115.0	113.3	112.4	1.5	2.3
Whitehorse	116.3	116.1	113.7	0.2	2.3
Yellowknife	112.2	111.9	110.8	0.3	1.3

## OTHER RELEASES

### Travel between Canada and other countries

March 2001

Travel both into and out of Canada picked up slightly in March, following declines in February.

Foreign travel into Canada, including same-day car trips and overnight trips from both the United States and overseas nations, rose 1.7% to 4.2 million trips in March. Americans and overseas residents took 1.4% and 4.1% more trips, respectively, than they did in February.

Meanwhile, the number of international trips Canadians took to both the United States and overseas nations rose just 0.3% from February to 3.9 million. Canadian travel to the United States increased 0.2% and to overseas destinations, 0.8%. (Data are seasonally adjusted and cover both same-day and overnight trips.)

Americans made 1.4 million trips of one or more nights to Canada in March, up 1.6% from February. Canadians also increased their number of overnight trips south of the border by 0.2% to 1.2 million.

The number of overnight auto trips by Americans to Canada increased 1.4% to 851,000 in March. American travel by plane was unchanged at 329,000 trips. Meanwhile, Canadians took 666,000 trips of one or more nights by car to the United States in March, up 1.2%, after a 9.7% decline in February. Canadian overnight travel by plane to the United States decreased 1.1% to 433,000.

In March, same-day car trips by Americans to Canada rose 1.9% to 2.3 million trips. The flow of Canadians travelling south of the border by car dipped 1.1% to just under 2.2 million.

Canadians took 413,000 overnight trips to overseas countries in March, up a marginal 0.8% from February. Overseas residents increased their number of overnight trips to Canada by 3.6% to 386,000, following a decline of 4.0% in February.

Travellers from five of Canada's top 12 overseas markets showed increases in same-day and overnight trips to Canada in March. Hong Kong and Taiwan posted the strongest gains in travel to Canada in March, after registering the lowest declines in February.

### Travel between Canada and other countries

	Feb. 2001 <sup>r</sup>	March 2001 <sup>p</sup>	Feb. to March 2001	March 2001 <sup>p</sup>	March 2000 to March 2001
	Seasonally adjusted		Unadjusted		
	'000		% change	'000	% change
<b>Canadian trips abroad<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3,876</b>	<b>3,886</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>4,105</b>	<b>-3.6</b>
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,188	2,163	-1.1	2,092	-8.3
Total trips, one or more nights	1,619	1,625	0.3	1,931	2.0
United States <sup>2</sup>	1,210	1,212	0.2	1,326	-4.0
Car	658	666	1.2	661	-4.7
Plane	438	433	-1.1	594	-3.6
Other modes of transport	113	113	-0.4	71	-1.4
Other countries <sup>3</sup>	410	413	0.8	605	18.2
<b>Travel to Canada<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>4,149</b>	<b>4,219</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Same-day car trips from the United States	2,253	2,296	1.9	2,047	3.3
Total trips, one or more nights	1,706	1,741	2.1	1,084	7.9
United States <sup>2</sup>	1,333	1,355	1.6	851	8.0
Car	839	851	1.4	516	10.5
Plane	329	329	0.0	260	1.9
Other modes of transport	164	175	6.2	76	13.5
Other countries <sup>3</sup>	373	386	3.6	233	7.8
<b>Most important overseas markets<sup>4</sup></b>					
United Kingdom	76	77	1.9	138	6.0
Japan	47	47	-0.2	74	9.6
France	33	33	-0.8	56	-8.8
Germany	32	32	-1.7	38	-8.9
Taiwan	10	18	88.5	24	2.8
Australia	16	16	-0.5	33	9.2
South Korea	15	15	2.8	24	13.6
Hong Kong	6	14	126.8	24	7.0
Mexico	12	12	-1.3	18	4.1
Netherlands	10	11	4.1	12	-11.7
Switzerland	10	9	-8.7	12	5.1
Italy	9	9	-1.6	11	-18.6

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

<sup>4</sup> Includes same-day trips and trips of one or more nights.

Available on CANSIM: tables 4270001-4270006 and matrices 2661-2698, 5780-6049 and 8200-8329.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as in CANSIM, but in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The March 2001 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PIB, \$6/\$55) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Laurie McDougall (613-951-6766) or the Client Services, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; [cult&tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult&tourstats@statcan.ca)). ■

### Crushing statistics

April 2001

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 221,861 metric tonnes of canola in April, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 91,801 tonnes and meal production was 138,896 tonnes.

In the first nine months of the 2000/2001 crop year, the canola crush volume was 2,420,432 tonnes, up 6.6% from 2,270,701 tonnes in the same nine months of 1999/2000.

**Available on CANSIM: table 10005 and matrix 5687.**

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as in CANSIM, but in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; [les.macartney@statcan.ca](mailto:les.macartney@statcan.ca)) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856; [karen.gray@statcan.ca](mailto:karen.gray@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

### Stocks of frozen poultry meat

May 1, 2001 (preliminary)

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

**Available on CANSIM: tables 30023 and 30024 and matrices 5675-5677.**

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For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; [sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca](mailto:sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca)) or Gilles Beaudry (613-951-7128; [gilles.beaudry@statcan.ca](mailto:gilles.beaudry@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

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no. 3  
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**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Discusses the attitudes on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six 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 noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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