

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, November 21, 2008

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<p>Consumer prices rose 2.6% in the 12 months to October 2008, a sharply slower pace than the 3.4% increase recorded in September. While October's slowdown was due primarily to slower price increases for gasoline, prices for food exerted stronger upward pressure on consumer prices. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.5% from September to October.</p>	
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Releases

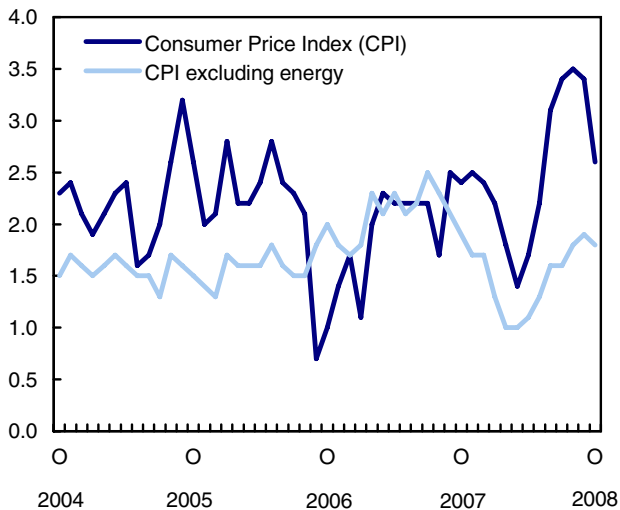
Consumer Price Index

October 2008

Consumer prices rose 2.6% in the 12 months to October 2008, a sharply slower pace than the 3.4% increase recorded in September. While October's slowdown was due primarily to slower price increases for gasoline, prices for food exerted stronger upward pressure on consumer prices. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.5% from September to October.

Growth slows in the all-items CPI and CPI all-items excluding energy

12-month % change



Although the growth in gasoline prices eased in the 12 months to October, they were still the most significant upward contributor to the overall growth in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Prices at the pump increased 13.3%, compared with a 12-month change of 26.5% in September. On a monthly basis, gasoline prices fell 13.4% from September to October 2008.

Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 2.0% in the 12 months to October. Excluding all energy components, the CPI advanced 1.8%.

Increasing mortgage interest costs were the second major contributor to October's rise. Other energy products, such as natural gas and fuel oil and other fuels, also continued to push up consumer prices, as did

price increases for various food items, namely bakery and cereal products.

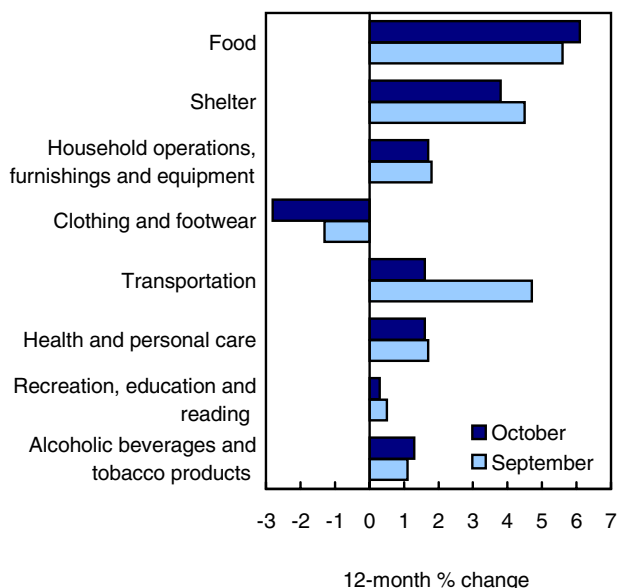
Helping to mitigate the rise in the CPI in October were continuing price declines for purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles, women's clothing and computer equipment and supplies.

12-month change: Food costs match shelter costs as major contributor to the growth in the CPI

Of the eight major components in the CPI, seven recorded increases in the 12 months to October. The largest upward contributors were costs for shelter and food, followed by transportation and household operations, furnishings and equipment.

The clothing and footwear price index remained the only major component that declined.

Food prices continue to gain momentum



Shelter costs rose 3.8% in October, slower than the 4.5% rise posted in September. Price increases for mortgage interest costs (+7.2%), natural gas (+11.1%) and fuel oil and other fuels (+30.1%) were the largest upward contributors to the increase in the shelter component. However, the increase for all three of these items was slower than it was in September, thereby mitigating the rise in shelter costs for October.

Increasing property taxes also contributed to rising shelter costs in October. Property taxes rose by an average of 3.2% across Canada, ranging from a high of 6.1% in Alberta to a low of 0.3% in Newfoundland and Labrador and Manitoba.

Food prices continued to gain momentum, increasing 6.1% in October, after a 5.6% rise in September. This was the eighth consecutive month in which food prices accelerated.

A 7.3% rise in prices for food purchased from stores primarily accounted for this increase. Price increases for grain related products, mainly bakery (+14.2%) and cereal (+19.2%), continued to be the primary driver of rising costs for food purchased from stores. Other main contributors were price increases for dairy products (+5.4%) and fresh fruit (+13.7%) and fresh vegetables (+12.3%).

Owing to slower price increases for gasoline, transportation costs advanced 1.6% in October, a slowdown from the 4.7% rise recorded in September. Prices at the pump rose 13.3% in October on a year-over-year basis, compared with the 26.5% increase in September. Despite this slowdown, gasoline continued to be the primary upward contributor for transportation costs.

Increasing prices for passenger vehicle insurance and air transportation also contributed to the rise in transportation costs in October.

A 9.0% decline in prices to purchase and lease passenger vehicles was the most significant downward contributor for transportation costs. The latest decline comes on the heels of the 9.3% drop in September, the largest decline since February 1956.

Clothing and footwear prices fell in October for the 10th consecutive month. Although both clothing and footwear prices fell, it was a 5.8% drop in prices for women's clothing that primarily contributed to the 2.8% decline in the clothing and footwear price index.

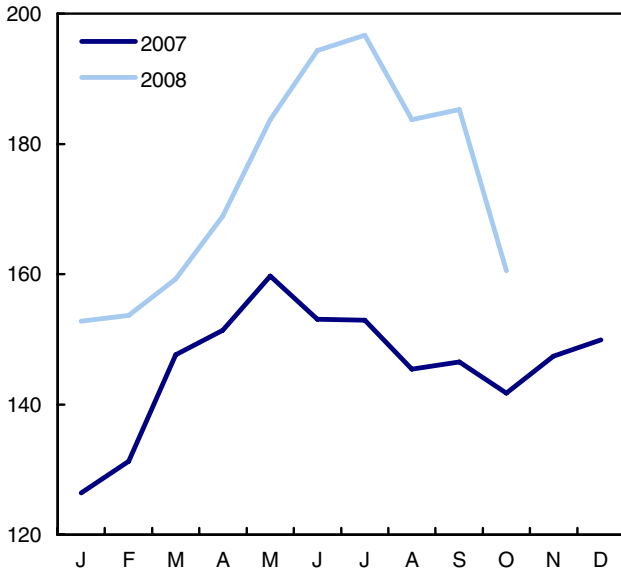
The provinces: Growth in consumer prices slows in eight provinces

The growth in consumer prices slowed across most provinces in the 12 months to October. Only Manitoba and Saskatchewan did not report a slowdown.

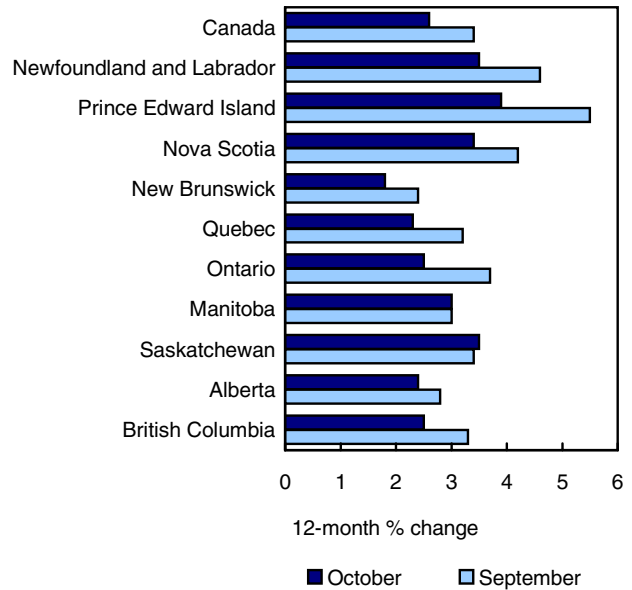
Consumers in Prince Edward Island saw the greatest slowdown in consumer prices, from 5.5% in September to 3.9% in October.

Evolution of gasoline prices

index (2002=100) not seasonally adjusted



Consumer price increases slow considerably in most provinces



The slowdown in the 12-month price change for gasoline between September and October largely contributed to easing consumer prices in all provinces. Quebec and Ontario posted the largest slowdowns in gasoline prices.

Although gasoline prices eased across the country, they remained the primary upward contributor of consumer prices for most provinces.

Price declines for purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles remained the largest downward contributor to the change in consumer prices in all provinces.

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

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 1.7% over the 12 months to October, identical to the rate posted in the previous two periods.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index posted no growth from September to October, after increasing 0.2% from August to September.

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

The October 2008 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 87, no. 10 (62-001-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPE, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The November Consumer Price Index will be released on December 19.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Prices Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components
(2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	October 2007	October 2008	September 2007 to September 2008	October 2007 to October 2008
		Unadjusted		% change	
All-items	100.00²	111.6	114.5	3.4	2.6
Food	17.04	110.7	117.4	5.6	6.1
Shelter	26.62	118.7	123.2	4.5	3.8
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	103.4	105.2	1.8	1.7
Clothing and footwear	5.36	97.1	94.4	-1.3	-2.8
Transportation	19.88	115.2	117.0	4.7	1.6
Health and personal care	4.73	107.5	109.2	1.7	1.6
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	102.7	103.0	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.3	128.0	1.1	1.3
All-items (1992=100)		132.9	136.3	3.4	2.6
Special aggregates					
Goods	48.78	107.1	108.9	3.4	1.7
Services	51.22	116.1	120.0	3.4	3.4
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.6	110.6	1.0	0.9
Energy	9.38	134.5	147.5	18.2	9.7
Core CPI ³	82.71	110.3	112.2	1.7	1.7

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm).
2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
3. The measure of 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 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	October 2007	October 2008	September 2007 to September 2008	October 2007 to October 2008
		Unadjusted		% change	
Canada	100.00²	111.6	114.5	3.4	2.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	111.2	115.1	4.6	3.5
Prince Edward Island	0.35	114.1	118.6	5.5	3.9
Nova Scotia	2.56	112.6	116.4	4.2	3.4
New Brunswick	1.97	111.4	113.4	2.4	1.8
Québec	21.05	110.5	113.0	3.2	2.3
Ontario	41.22	110.9	113.7	3.7	2.5
Manitoba	3.06	111.0	114.3	3.0	3.0
Saskatchewan	2.64	113.0	116.9	3.4	3.5
Alberta	11.43	118.6	121.5	2.8	2.4
British Columbia	14.29	110.0	112.8	3.3	2.5
Whitehorse	0.06	110.4	114.9	3.6	4.1
Yellowknife	0.08	111.1	116.3	5.0	4.7
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	108.1	111.1	2.6	2.8

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm).
2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Consumer Price Index and major components
(2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	August 2008	September 2008	October 2008	August to September 2008	September to October 2008	
Seasonally adjusted							
						% change	
All-items	100.00²	115.4	115.5	114.9	0.1	-0.5	
Food	17.04	116.7	117.7	118.2	0.9	0.4	
Shelter	26.62	123.8	123.1	123.2	-0.6	0.1	
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	104.4	105.4	105.3	1.0	-0.1	
Clothing and footwear	5.36	93.9	93.5	92.7	-0.4	-0.9	
Transportation	19.88	123.1	122.4	117.0	-0.6	-4.4	
Health and personal care	4.73	109.4	109.3	109.3	-0.1	0.0	
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	102.6	102.6	102.5	0.0	-0.1	
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	127.6	127.9	128.2	0.2	0.2	
Special aggregates							
All-items excluding food	82.96	115.0	115.1	114.1	0.1	-0.9	
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	110.6	110.5	110.5	-0.1	0.0	
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	110.7	110.8	110.8	0.1	0.0	
Core CPI ³	82.71	112.0	112.2	112.2	0.2	0.0	

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm).

2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

3. The measure of 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 Core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).



Production and value of honey and maple products

2008

Canada produced 62 million pounds of honey in 2008, which was one-tenth less than the 69 million pounds produced in 2007. The average yield per colony in 2008 was 106 pounds, over 10 pounds less per colony than in 2007. Alberta, which generates over one-third of Canadian honey production, saw a one-quarter reduction in honey production from 2007 to 2008. The decreasing production across provinces was reported to be due to poor weather conditions, an increasing amount of winter kill and continuing losses from varroa mites.

The number of colonies, however, remained at 585,000 managed hives, which was less than a 1% decrease from 2007. This was due to colony splitting or replacement of colonies as beekeepers tried to rebuild their honey bee population. Over the last seasons, beekeepers were facing increasing operating expenses as the cost of fuel and labour were rising. Additional costs included bee medication and the cost of operating extra hives in anticipation of winter losses.

Canada produced almost 4.9 million gallons of maple syrup in 2008, 4.8% less than the 5.1 million gallons in 2007. Quebec, which accounts for over 90% of Canadian production, reported a drop of 219,000 gallons of maple syrup collected, compared with the 2007 season. In Quebec, above-average snow falls kept day temperatures relatively cold in the early season followed quickly by a warm spring for the rest of the season. Ideal weather conditions for sap collection requires cold nights followed by sunny days.

Prices increased by more than \$10 per gallon in some provinces due to continuing demand for maple syrup in the domestic and export markets. Prices ranged from \$42 per gallon in Quebec to \$60 per gallon in Ontario. The total value of all maple products sold in 2008 was almost \$212 million or \$44.4 million more than in 2007.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0007 and 001-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3414 and 3419.

The publication *Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products, 2008 (23-221-XWE)*, free) is now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marco Morin (613-951-2074), Agriculture Division. ■

Canadian potato production

2007 (revised) and 2008 (preliminary)

Canadian farmers harvested 374,100 acres (151 398 hectares) of potatoes in 2008, resulting in 104,285,000 cwts (4 730 368 metric tonnes) being produced.

The yields in 2008 were almost identical to 2007. However, a 6% reduction in the area harvested resulted in a 5% decrease in production at the national level from the previous year.

Note: The publication *Canadian Potato Production* contains tables from the United State's National Agricultural Statistics Service. These potato tables will become an ongoing part of this release. They contain area planted and harvested, production and value estimates by harvest season.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0014 and 001-0045.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3407, 3446 and 3465.

The November 2008 issue of *Canadian Potato Production*, Vol. 6, no. 2 (22-008-XWE), free) is now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

To more information, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Natural gas sales

September 2008 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 4 511 million cubic metres in September, down 3.8% from September 2007.

Volumes of sales to the residential (-1.4%) and industrial including direct sales (-4.9%) sectors were down, while sales to the commercial sector were up 2.2% from September 2007.

Total sales in September 2008 were 15.5% above August 2008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division.

Natural gas sales

	September 2008 ^P	September 2007	September 2007 to September 2008
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total sales	4 510 700	4 690 831	-3.8
Residential ¹	566 510	574 745	-1.4
Commercial ²	413 227	404 215	2.2
Industrial ³ and direct sales ⁴	3 530 963	3 711 871	-4.9

^P preliminary

1. Gas sold for domestic purposes, including space heating, water heating and cooking, to a residential dwelling unit.
2. Gas sold to customers engaged in wholesale or retail trade, governments, institutions, office buildings, etc.
3. Gas sold to customers engaged in a process that creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product. Includes mining and manufacturing establishments. Includes firm, interruptible and buy/sell agreements.
4. Represents direct, non-utility, sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

Innovation Analysis Bulletin

November 2008

The *Innovation Analysis Bulletin* focuses on trends in science, technology and the information society.

This issue features articles about organizational and technological improvements in Canadian firms and organizations; research and development of private non-profit organizations; commercialization activities of innovative manufacturing plants; and, the transmission of technology and knowledge to innovative manufacturing firms.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4218.

The *Innovation Analysis Bulletin*, Vol. 10, no. 2 (88-003-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Ben Veenhof at 613-951-5067

(ben.veenhof@statcan.gc.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Shipments of solid fuel burning heating products

Third quarter 2008

Data on shipments of solid fuel burning heating products are now available for the third quarter of 2008.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0063.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2189.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canadian Potato Production, November 2008, Vol. 6,
no. 2
Catalogue number 22-008-XWE
(free).

**Production and Value of Honey and Maple
Products**, 2008
Catalogue number 23-221-XWE
(free).

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire,
September 2008, Vol. 4, no. 9
Catalogue number 41-019-XWE
(free).

The Consumer Price Index, October 2008, Vol. 87,
no. 10
Catalogue number 62-001-XPE (\$12/\$111).

The Consumer Price Index, October 2008, Vol. 87,
no. 10
Catalogue number 62-001-XWE
(free).

Wholesale Trade, September 2008, Vol. 71, no. 9
Catalogue number 63-008-XWE
(free).

Innovation Analysis Bulletin, Vol. 10, no. 2
Catalogue number 88-003-XWE
(free).

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Page 1) (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE)

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
Released at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.0 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several export commodities compared with a lower base level in the financial account. Energy and investment flows into Canada almost tripled from the equivalent quarter of the previous year, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

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2006 Census profiles

With the inclusion of the income and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profiles is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions.

To obtain these profiles in electronic format (costs vary by different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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Release dates: November 24 to 28, 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
24	Farm income	2005, 2006 and 2007
24	National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth	2006
25	Retail trade	September 2008
25	Employment Insurance	September 2008
26	Canadian Social Trends	2006
26	Productivity growth in Canadian and US infrastructure industries	1997 to 2003
27	International travel account	Third quarter 2008
27	Characteristics of international travellers	Second quarter 2008
28	Balance of international payments	Third quarter 2008
28	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	October 2008
28	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	September 2008
