

# The Daily

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## Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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### Releases

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<b>Consumer Price Index, April 2009</b>	2
Consumer prices rose 0.4% in the 12 months to April 2009, down from the 1.2% observed in March. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.3% from March to April.	
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### Health Reports

May 2009 online edition

The May 2009 online edition of *Health Reports*, released today, features one article.

"Validation of disability categories derived from Health Utilities Index Mark 3 scores" uses data from the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey to establish empirical evidence for the validity of disability categories derived from the Health Utilities Index Mark 3.

For more information, contact Cameron McIntosh (613-951-3725; [cameron.mcIntosh@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:cameron.mcIntosh@statcan.gc.ca)), Health Analysis Division.

The online edition of *Health Reports*, Vol. 20, no. 2 (82-003-X, free), is available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; [christine.wright@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:christine.wright@statcan.gc.ca)), Health Information and Research Division.



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## Releases

### Consumer Price Index

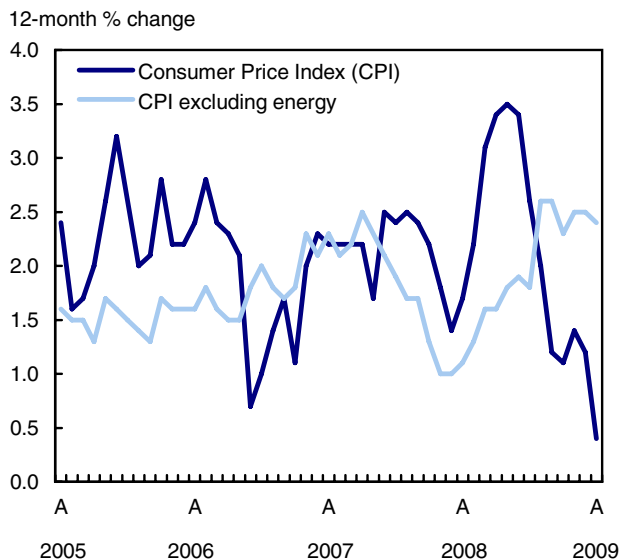
April 2009

Consumer prices rose 0.4% in the 12 months to April 2009, down from the 1.2% increase in March.

While upward pressure on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) came primarily from food, the slowdown was due mainly to price declines for energy and reduced upward pressure from non-energy shelter components.

Excluding food, the CPI fell 1.1% in the 12 months to April. Excluding energy, the CPI rose 2.4% over the same period.

#### 12-month change in the all-items CPI slows while the CPI excluding energy remains relatively stable



Food prices rose 7.1% during the 12-month period to April, slower than the 7.9% rise in March.

Shelter costs rose 0.2% during the 12-month period to April after increasing 2.1% in March. A sharp decline in natural gas prices mitigated growth in the shelter index in April. The 12-month change in the shelter price index has been slowing since July 2008.

Transportation costs fell 8.0% in the wake of year-over-year declines in prices for both gasoline and passenger vehicles.

#### Seasonally adjusted monthly CPI falls

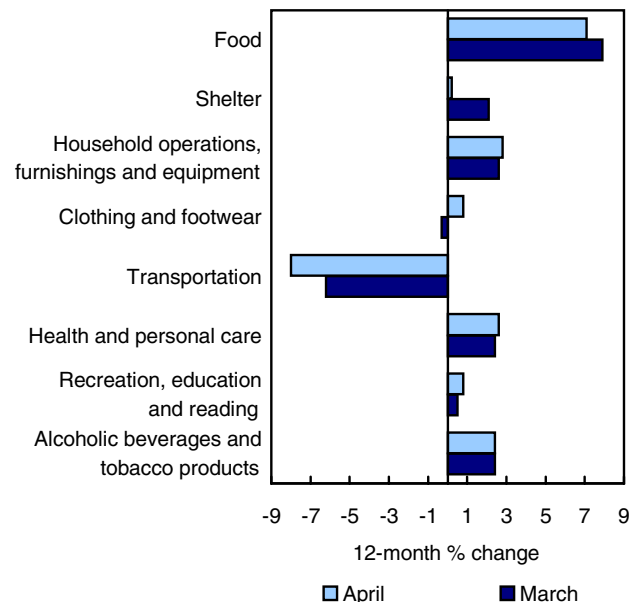
On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI fell 0.3% from March to April, after falling 0.2% from February to March. April's decline was due primarily to a 1.0% drop in the shelter price index. Tempering the fall was a 0.2% increase in prices for food.

Excluding food and energy, the seasonally adjusted monthly CPI posted no change from March to April, after increasing 0.1% in the previous period.

#### 12-month change: Food costs remain high but shelter costs slow and energy costs decline

Food costs continued to be pushed up primarily by the price of food purchased from stores, which rose 8.3%. This was slower than the 9.5% rise observed in March.

#### Drop in costs for transportation offsets rise in food costs, year over year



Prices increases for food were widespread in the 12 months to April. Large increases were recorded for fresh vegetables (+26.0%), fresh fruit (+16.8%), cereal products (+9.6%), beef (+9.0%) and chicken (+9.0%).

The slower pace of increase in shelter costs was due primarily to a drop in prices for natural gas and

to slowdowns in mortgage interest costs and electricity prices.

Natural gas prices fell 17.5% in the 12 months to April, following a 9.5% increase in March. Natural gas prices fell in most provinces, especially in Alberta and Ontario, where large drops largely accounted for the overall decrease.

The Mortgage Interest Cost Index, which measures the change in the interest portion of payments on outstanding mortgage debt, rose 3.2% in April compared with April last year. This was slower than the 4.2% rise posted in the 12 months to March. Advances in the Mortgage Interest Cost Index have been slowing since they reached a peak of 9.0% in June 2008, reflecting the downward trend in mortgage interest rates and housing prices.

Electricity prices slowed from a 12-month growth rate of 3.1% in March to 1.0% in April.

Also dampening the increase in costs for shelter were declines for homeowner's replacement costs and prices for fuel oil and other fuels.

Gasoline prices fell 24.7% from April 2008 to April 2009 following a 12-month decline of 21.0% in March. The 12-month decline in April was due more to high prices in 2008 than to recent developments. On a month-to-month basis, gasoline prices rose 1.0% from March to April.

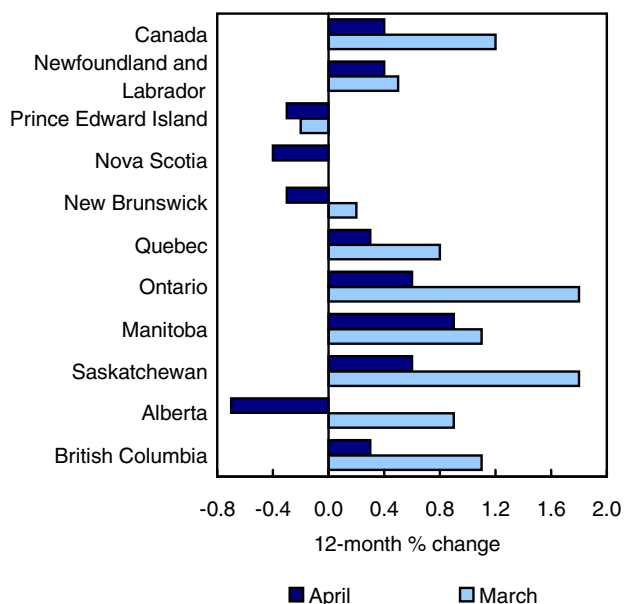
The cost of purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles fell 8.3% in April, following a 7.4% year-over-year drop in March.

An increase in passenger vehicle insurance premiums tempered the overall decline in costs for transportation.

### Year-over-year consumer prices slow in all provinces

Compared with March, growth in consumer prices slowed in all provinces in the 12 months to April, with the largest slowdowns in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

### Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan post largest slowdowns, year over year



In Alberta, the slowdown was due primarily to steeper declines in prices for natural gas, which fell 36.9% in the 12 months to April, larger than the 19.3% drop observed in March. Along with electricity prices, which declined 16.0% in April in Alberta after rising 0.5% in March, larger price drops for gasoline also contributed to the slowdown in Alberta.

In Ontario, consumer prices rose 0.6% in the 12 months to April, compared with the 12-month rate of growth of 1.8% in March. This slowdown was due primarily to a 12-month decline of 16.9% in prices for natural gas, following a 20.3% rise in March. Larger year-over-year price declines in April compared with March for gasoline also contributed to the slowdown.

While components responsible for the change in consumer prices varied considerably, rising food prices were the main upward contributor in all provinces. The main downward contributors were declines in the price of gasoline and passenger vehicles.

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**12-month change in the Bank of Canada's core index slows**

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 1.8% over the 12 months to April, down from the 2.0% rise in March.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index increased 0.2% from March to April, after posting no growth from February to March.

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-X, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

The April 2009 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 88, no. 4 (62-001-X, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-X, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The May 2009 Consumer Price Index will be released on June 18.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; [prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca)), Consumer Prices Division.

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## Consumer Price Index and major components, Canada<sup>1</sup> (2002=100)

	Relative importance <sup>2</sup>	April 2008	April 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	April 2008 to April 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>113.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Food	17.04	113.5	121.6	7.9	7.1
Shelter	26.62	121.2	121.4	2.1	0.2
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	104.4	107.3	2.6	2.8
Clothing and footwear	5.36	94.3	95.1	-0.3	0.8
Transportation	19.88	120.1	110.5	-6.2	-8.0
Health and personal care	4.73	108.3	111.1	2.4	2.6
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	101.6	102.4	0.5	0.8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.7	129.7	2.4	2.4
All-items (1992=100)		135.1	135.5	1.2	0.3
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
Goods	48.78	109.2	107.0	-0.5	-2.0
Services	51.22	117.7	120.7	2.8	2.5
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.9	111.2	1.4	1.2
Energy	9.38	150.2	123.9	-11.2	-17.5
Core CPI <sup>4</sup>	82.71	111.2	113.2	2.0	1.8

1. The month-to-month percentage changes are available from the monthly publication *The Consumer Price Index*.
2. 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.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm)).
3. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
4. 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 web site ([www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm)).

## Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit (2002=100)

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	April 2008	April 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	April 2008 to April 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>113.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	113.6	114.1	0.5	0.4
Prince Edward Island	0.35	116.7	116.4	-0.2	-0.3
Nova Scotia	2.56	115.5	115.0	0.0	-0.4
New Brunswick	1.97	112.8	112.5	0.2	-0.3
Québec	21.05	112.4	112.7	0.8	0.3
Ontario	41.22	112.5	113.2	1.8	0.6
Manitoba	3.06	112.7	113.7	1.1	0.9
Saskatchewan	2.64	115.4	116.1	1.8	0.6
Alberta	11.43	121.3	120.4	0.9	-0.7
British Columbia	14.29	111.8	112.1	1.1	0.3
Whitehorse	0.06	111.8	113.4	2.3	1.4
Yellowknife	0.08	114.9	115.3	0.9	0.3
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	109.0	113.5	3.9	4.1

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.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm)).
2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## Consumer Price Index and major components (2002=100)

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	February 2009	March 2009	April 2009	February to March 2009	March to April 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
					% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>114.3</b>	<b>114.1</b>	<b>113.8</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Food	17.04	120.8	121.3	121.5	0.4	0.2
Shelter	26.62	123.2	122.6	121.4	-0.5	-1.0
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	106.1	106.5	107.0	0.4	0.5
Clothing and footwear	5.36	93.9	94.0	94.5	0.1	0.5
Transportation	19.88	110.2	110.5	110.5	0.3	0.0
Health and personal care	4.73	110.6	110.7	110.9	0.1	0.2
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	102.3	102.6	102.8	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	129.2	129.7	129.7	0.4	0.0
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
All-items excluding food	82.96	112.3	112.5	112.3	0.2	-0.2
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	111.1	111.2	111.2	0.1	0.0
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	111.6	111.7	111.9	0.1	0.2
Core CPI <sup>3</sup>	82.71	113.0	113.0	113.2	0.0	0.2

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.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.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 web site ([www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm)).



## Leading indicators

April 2009

The rate of decline of the smoothed version of the leading indicator slowed from 1.5% in March to 1.1% in April. Both financial components increased in the month, as the money supply expanded steadily while the stock market turned up. The unsmoothed version of the index rose 0.5%, after seven straight declines.

The indicators of household demand continued to descend. The drop in the housing index eased to 1.2%, the smallest decline in seven months, as existing home sales firmed. Sales of durable goods continued to retrench. A levelling off of services employment originated more in personal than business services.

The manufacturing indicators fell less rapidly than the month before. New orders slowed to a 7.3% decrease. Lower inventories helped moderate the rate of decline in the ratio of shipments to inventories. Export

demand benefited from a slower contraction of the US economy. The leading indicator for the United States eased to a 0.3% drop, its smallest loss in six months.

A more detailed analysis of the components is available online.

**Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.**

This release will be reprinted in the May 2009 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 22, no. 5 (11-010-X, free). For more information on the economy, consult the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; [ceo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:ceo@statcan.gc.ca)), Current Economic Analysis Group.

## Leading indicators

	November 2008	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009	April 2009	Last month of data available % change
<b>Composite leading indicator (1992=100)</b>	<b>226.8</b>	<b>224.6</b>	<b>222.0</b>	<b>218.8</b>	<b>215.6</b>	<b>213.3</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Housing index (1992=100) <sup>1</sup>	123.1	117.7	109.5	101.2	97.2	96.0	-1.2
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,948	2,945	2,932	2,924	2,920	2,918	-0.1
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	11,630	10,709	9,694	8,968	8,759	8,770	0.1
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>2</sup>	178,768	181,862	185,068	187,636	189,702	191,343	0.9
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) <sup>3</sup>	122.5	121.7	121.1	120.6	120.1	119.7	-0.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average workweek (hours)	37.6	37.1	36.9	36.7	36.4	36.2	-0.5
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	27,822	28,822	27,801	26,560	23,762	22,029	-7.3
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.76	1.75	1.73	1.69	1.64	1.60	-0.04 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	2,959	2,963	2,966	2,939	2,915	2,879	-1.2
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	9,637	9,635	9,587	9,368	9,325	9,199	-1.4
<b>Unsmoothed composite leading indicator</b>	<b>221.8</b>	<b>218.4</b>	<b>217.1</b>	<b>211.2</b>	<b>209.4</b>	<b>210.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>

1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.

5. Difference from previous month.

## Apartment Building Construction Price Index

First quarter 2009

The composite price index for apartment building construction stood at 138.2 (2002=100) in the first quarter, down 4.7% from the previous quarter. The quarterly decrease was mostly the result of declines in construction material prices and competitive conditions,

due to a weaker building construction market, most notably in Western Canada.

Among the seven census metropolitan areas (CMAs) surveyed, Vancouver (-10.5%) recorded the largest quarterly decrease while Montréal, which reported no change, was the only CMA not to register a decrease.

Year-over-year, the composite price index for apartment building construction was down 2.3%. Decreases were recorded in Vancouver (-11.6%),

Edmonton (-6.4%) and Calgary (-0.1%), while Montréal (+4.4%) recorded the largest increase.

**Note:** In the fourth quarter of 2008, the building model used to calculate the Apartment Building Construction Price Index was replaced with an updated model. Also, the base year was changed to 2002=100.

The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in six CMAs (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ottawa part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Besides each of the CMA indexes and the composite index, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical). These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade-group contractors who report on

the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

**Available on CANSIM: table 327-0044.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.**

The first quarter 2009 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in July.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-3117; [prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca)), Producer Prices Division.

### Apartment Building Construction Price Index<sup>1</sup> (2002=100)

	First quarter 2009	First quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009 % change	Fourth quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009
<b>Composite index</b>	<b>138.2</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-4.7</b>
Halifax	130.1	3.6	-0.5
Montréal	131.8	4.4	0.0
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ottawa part	136.2	3.3	-1.1
Toronto	138.7	2.9	-1.8
Calgary	165.7	-0.1	-4.4
Edmonton	152.4	-6.4	-7.3
Vancouver	139.4	-11.6	-10.5

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

### Crude oil and natural gas production

March 2009 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for March.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Dissemination Section (613-951-9497; toll free 1-866-873-8789; [energ@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.gc.ca)), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

### Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

March 2009

Data for the monthly survey of large retailers are now available for March.

**Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.**

A data table is also available in the *Summary tables* module online.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ashley Ker (613-951-2252), Distributive Trades Division. ■



## New products

**The Consumer Price Index**, April 2009, Vol. 88, no. 4  
**Catalogue number 62-001-X** (PDF, free;  
Print \$12/\$111; HTML, free)

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

**Health Reports**, Vol. 20, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 82-003-X** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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