

The Daily

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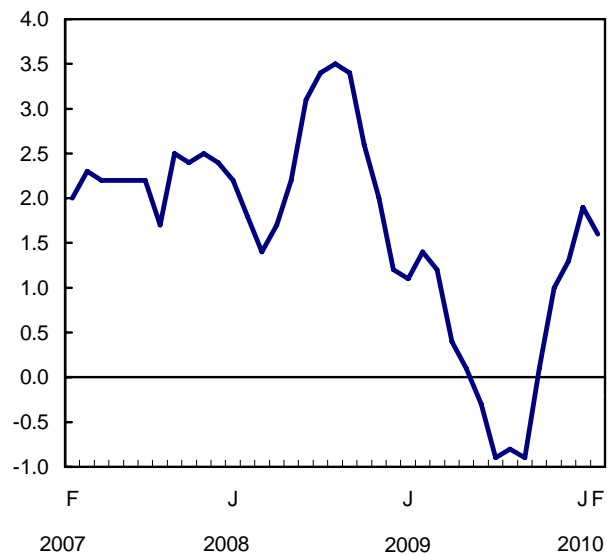
Consumer Price Index

February 2010

Consumer prices rose 1.6% in the 12 months to February, following a 1.9% increase in January.

The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index

12-month % change

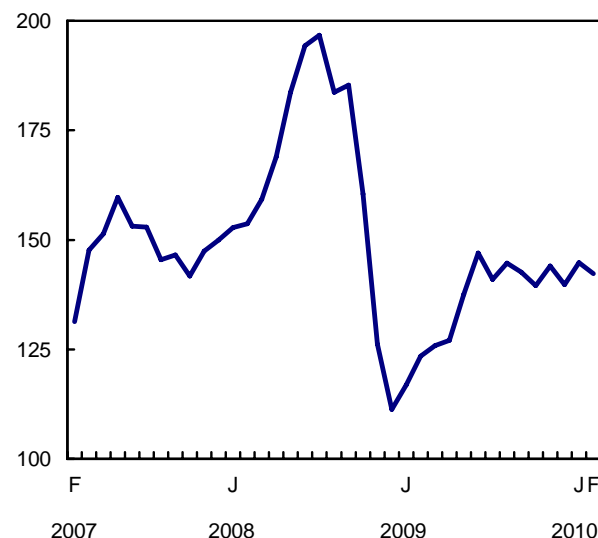


Gasoline prices exerted the most upward pressure on the all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for a fourth consecutive month. In February, prices at the pump were 15.3% higher than they were in February 2009. This follows a 23.9% rise in the 12 months to January.

Prices at the pump in February 2009 were considerably lower than they were in late 2009 and early 2010. However, gasoline prices have been relatively stable since July 2009.

Evolution of the gasoline price index since February 2007

index (2002=100)



Overall, energy prices rose 4.0% between February 2009 and February 2010, following an 8.2% increase in the 12 months to January.

Excluding energy, the CPI rose 1.3% in the 12 months to February, matching the increase in January.

Prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles put upward pressure on the CPI for a second consecutive month in February.

As well, prices for traveller accommodation rose 16.0% in February, affected by the Winter Olympics.

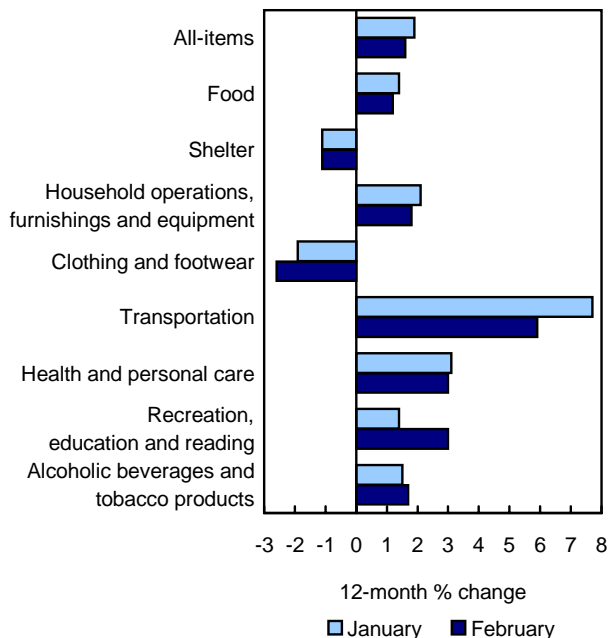
Seasonally adjusted monthly CPI increases

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.1% from January to February, after increasing 0.4% from December to January. February's increase was due mainly to a 1.8% rise in the recreation, education and reading component. Price increases for traveller accommodation largely accounted for the upward movement within this component.

12-month change: Six of the eight CPI components rise

Overall, six of the eight major components of the CPI recorded price increases in the 12 months to February. The exceptions were the shelter component, and clothing and footwear.

Transportation continues to exert the most upward pressure on the Consumer Price Index



Prices in the transportation component continued to exert the strongest upward pressure on the all-items CPI, increasing 5.9% in February following a 7.7% rise in January.

In addition to higher gasoline prices, consumers paid 7.9% more for passenger vehicle insurance premiums. As well, prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles rose 3.5% in February, following a 3.1% increase in January. Car manufacturers continued to offer rebates to consumers, but to a lesser extent than they did at the same period a year earlier.

Prices in the recreation, education and reading component increased 3.0% in the 12 months to February. Consumers paid more for traveller accommodation, cablevision and satellite services and the purchase and operation of recreational vehicles. In contrast, prices fell for home entertainment equipment, parts and services and computer equipment and supplies.

Food prices advanced 1.2% in February following a 1.4% increase in January.

Upward pressure on the food index came mainly from prices for food purchased from restaurants (+2.6%). Price increases were also observed for dairy products and eggs (+1.4%). On the other hand, prices fell for fresh vegetables, fresh fruit and meat.

Prices for household operations, furnishings and equipment increased 1.8% in the 12 months to February. Upward pressure in this component came from prices for communications, other household goods and services, and child care and domestic services. Downward pressure came primarily from prices for furniture and household textiles and household appliances.

In the health and personal care component, prices rose 3.0% and were broad based. Prices for personal care increased 3.2%, while prices for medicinal and pharmaceutical products rose 1.9%.

Shelter costs declined 1.1% in the 12 months to February, mostly the result of declines in mortgage interest cost and natural gas prices.

The mortgage interest cost index, which measures the change in the interest portion of payments on outstanding mortgage debt, fell 5.8% in February, following a 5.5% decrease in January.

Upward pressure on the shelter component came from rent, cost of homeowners' maintenance and repairs, and fuel oil and other fuels.

Prices for clothing and footwear fell 2.6%. The strongest downward pressure in this component came from prices for women's and men's clothing. Prices for children's clothing also recorded a small decline in February.

Provinces: Slower price increases in most provinces

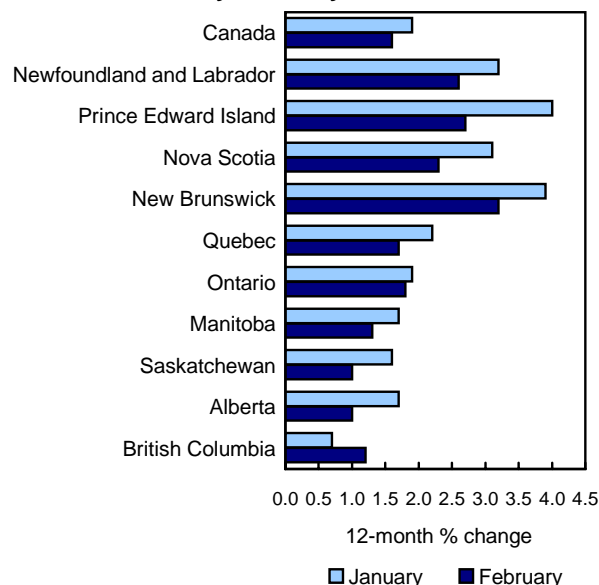
Growth in consumer prices slowed in all provinces except British Columbia between February 2009 and February 2010. In British Columbia, consumer prices rose 1.2%, compared with the 12-month increase of 0.7% in January.

As was the case in January, the largest year-over-year increases occurred in Atlantic Canada: New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia.

Higher price increases in Atlantic Canada were partly attributable to larger upward movements in gasoline prices.

As well, prices for fuel oil and other fuels advanced 11.7% nationally in the 12 months to February, the largest increase since October 2008. These energy products are widely used in home heating in Atlantic Canada, while the rest of the country relies mostly on electricity and natural gas.

Slower price increases in all provinces except British Columbia, year over year



In Ontario, prices rose 1.8%. This was due primarily to higher prices for gasoline, passenger vehicle insurance, and the purchase of passenger vehicles. Downward pressure came mainly from the shelter and clothing and footwear indexes.

In Alberta, consumer prices went up 1.0%. Major contributors to higher prices were the cost of traveller accommodation and gasoline.

Prices in British Columbia increased mainly as a result of higher prices for traveller accommodation (+64.1%) and gasoline (+12.8%).

With the Winter Olympics, Canadians who travelled to Vancouver in February paid more for their hotel rooms compared with the same month a year earlier.

The recreation, education and reading index rose 7.4% in the 12 months to February, which was the largest contributor to the increase in the CPI for British

Columbia. On the other hand, cost of shelter was the most significant downward contributor in that province.

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

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 2.1% over the 12 months to February, following a 2.0% rise in January.

February's increase was due primarily to price increases for passenger vehicles, as well as for traveller accommodation affected by the Olympics.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index went up 0.3% in February, matching the increase in January.

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 *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The February 2010 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 89, no. 2 (62-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*. A paper copy is also available (\$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The March Consumer Price Index will be released on April 23.

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; cpd-info-dpc@statcan.gc.ca), Consumer Prices Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components, Canada (2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	February 2009	January 2010	February 2010	January to February 2010	February 2009 to February 2010
Unadjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	113.8	115.1	115.6	0.4	1.6
Food	17.04	121.2	122.3	122.7	0.3	1.2
Shelter	26.62	123.2	121.8	121.8	0.0	-1.1
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.10	106.4	107.9	108.3	0.4	1.8
Clothing and footwear	5.36	93.6	90.1	91.2	1.2	-2.6
Transportation	19.88	110.2	117.2	116.7	-0.4	5.9
Health and personal care	4.73	110.4	113.8	113.7	-0.1	3.0
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	101.1	101.1	104.1	3.0	3.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	129.2	131.1	131.4	0.2	1.7
All-items (1992=100)		135.4	137.0	137.6	0.4	1.6
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.78	107.3	108.4	108.5	0.1	1.1
Services	51.22	120.2	121.8	122.6	0.7	2.0
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	110.8	111.6	112.4	0.7	1.4
Energy	9.38	127.2	133.9	132.3	-1.2	4.0
Core CPI ³	82.71	112.8	114.4	115.2	0.7	2.1

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (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 website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm)

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

	Relative importance ¹	February 2009	January 2010	February 2010	January to February 2010	February 2009 to February 2010
Unadjusted						
					% change	
Canada	100.00²	113.8	115.1	115.6	0.4	1.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	113.4	116.5	116.3	-0.2	2.6
Prince Edward Island	0.35	115.7	118.7	118.8	0.1	2.7
Nova Scotia	2.56	114.3	116.9	116.9	0.0	2.3
New Brunswick	1.97	112.0	115.4	115.6	0.2	3.2
Québec	21.05	112.3	114.0	114.2	0.2	1.7
Ontario	41.22	113.1	114.5	115.1	0.5	1.8
Manitoba	3.06	113.1	114.3	114.6	0.3	1.3
Saskatchewan	2.64	116.5	117.5	117.7	0.2	1.0
Alberta	11.43	121.5	122.3	122.7	0.3	1.0
British Columbia	14.29	111.9	112.2	113.2	0.9	1.2
Whitehorse	0.06	113.7	113.9	114.4	0.4	0.6
Yellowknife	0.08	114.5	116.8	117.4	0.5	2.5
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	111.8	111.3	111.1	-0.2	-0.6

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (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 ¹	December 2009	January 2010	February 2010	December 2009 to January 2010	January to February 2010
Seasonally adjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	115.5	116.0	116.1	0.4	0.1
Food	17.04	121.9	122.1	122.3	0.2	0.2
Shelter	26.62	121.3	121.8	121.8	0.4	0.0
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.10	107.8	108.2	108.1	0.4	-0.1
Clothing and footwear	5.36	92.6	92.2	91.7	-0.4	-0.5
Transportation	19.88	115.5	117.2	116.7	1.5	-0.4
Health and personal care	4.73	113.4	114.0	114.0	0.5	0.0
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	103.7	103.6	105.5	-0.1	1.8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	131.2	131.1	131.4	-0.1	0.2
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	82.96	113.3	113.6	114.1	0.3	0.4
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	111.8	112.3	112.6	0.4	0.3
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	113.2	113.6	113.9	0.4	0.3
Core CPI ³	82.71	114.5	114.9	115.3	0.3	0.3

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Retail trade

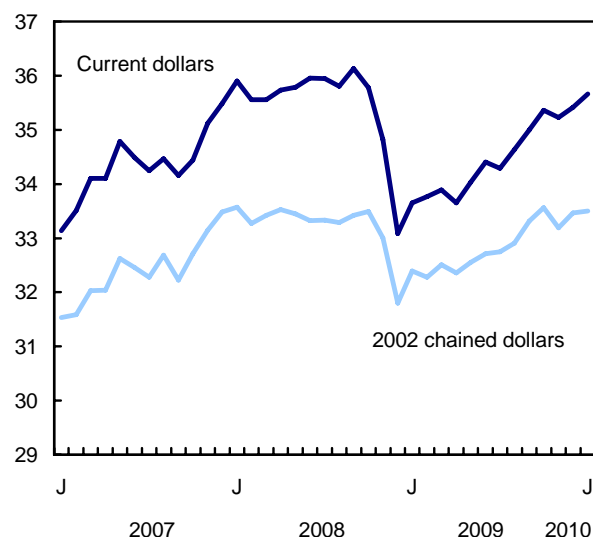
January 2010

Retail sales rose 0.7% in January to \$35.7 billion. Stores selling home improvement products were large contributors to the gain in January, the final month of the federal government's Home Renovation Tax Credit.

Retail sales in volume terms increased 0.1% in January. The large increase in prices, which impacted volumes, was driven by significantly higher prices at new car dealers and gasoline stations. Retail sales volumes have been following an upward trend since the beginning of 2009.

Retail sales rise in January

\$ billions



Sales increased in six of eight retail store sectors in January. The largest contributor to the overall increase was a 7.4% rise at building and outdoor home supplies stores, the highest monthly growth rate for this type of store since August 2003 when a power blackout hit Ontario. Within the sector, home centres and hardware stores saw sales rise 6.0% and specialized building material and garden stores sales increase 14.0%.

Sales at furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores rose 2.5%, mainly as a result of a 15.1% gain at home furnishings stores, particularly those selling floor coverings. January's growth at home furnishings stores was the highest since the beginning of the series in 1991.

Food and beverage stores registered a 1.9% rise in sales in January, led by a 2.0% increase at supermarkets. This gain more than offset the decrease observed in December. Sales at beer, wine and liquor

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted and are expressed in current dollars unless otherwise specified.

Total retail sales by volume are measured by deflating values in current dollars of the various trade groups using consumer price indexes. This retail sales in chained dollars series (2002) is a chain Fisher volume index with 2002 as the reference year.

Starting with the next release, estimates for the Monthly Retail Trade Survey will reflect a new sample. In addition, the presentation of results will change from the Trade Groups to the North American Industry Classification System (see concordance table).

Current tables 080-0014 to 080-0017 will be terminated and replaced by new CANSIM matrices 080-0020 and 080-0021. Estimates for February 2010 as well as estimates from January 2004 will be available in these new CANSIM tables in the next release.

stores (+2.2%) were up after three consecutive months of declines.

The 1.1% rise at miscellaneous retailers was led by a 3.3% gain at sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores.

After two months of large weather-related fluctuations, clothing and accessories stores saw their sales increase 0.5% in January. Sales rose 1.3% at shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores and 0.2% at clothing stores.

Sales declined 1.5% in the automotive sector in January. The value of sales at new car dealers (-2.3%) fell for a third consecutive month after following an upward trend for most of 2009. About 40% of the sales at new car dealers come from selling used vehicles, parts and service. Used and recreational motor vehicles and parts dealers (-6.0%) had lower sales after monthly gains for the previous eight months. Gasoline stations (+1.5%) registered higher sales driven solely by higher prices at the pump.

Sales up in seven provinces

Retail sales rose in seven provinces in January. The largest contributor to the national increase was Ontario, where sales rose 1.4% after slight declines in the previous two months.

The highest growth rate among the provinces in January was a 2.1% rise in Newfoundland and Labrador. January's rise offset declines in the previous two months.

The largest decline was a 1.2% decrease in New Brunswick. Monthly sales growth has been fluctuating since the second half of 2009.

It is possible to consult the tables of unadjusted data by [industry](#) and by [province and territory](#) from the *Tables by subject* module of our website.

For information on related indicators, refer to the [Latest statistics](#) page on our website.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The January 2010 issue of the publication *Retail Trade* (63-005-X, free) will be available shortly.

Data on retail trade for February will be released on April 23.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; toll-free 1-877-421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jake Purdy (613-951-0984), Distributive Trades Division.

Retail sales

	January 2009	October 2009 ^r	November 2009 ^r	December 2009 ^r	January 2010 ^p	December 2009 to January 2010	January 2009 to January 2010
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Automotive	10,280	11,554	11,547	11,640	11,464	-1.5	11.5
New car dealers	5,266	6,126	5,988	5,965	5,826	-2.3	10.6
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,549	1,598	1,608	1,627	1,530	-6.0	-1.3
Gasoline stations	3,464	3,830	3,952	4,048	4,108	1.5	18.6
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,412	2,430	2,444	2,459	2,520	2.5	4.5
Furniture stores	784	809	811	824	816	-0.9	4.1
Home furnishings stores	452	490	489	479	552	15.1	22.0
Computer and software stores	105	104	107	108	109	1.0	4.0
Home electronics and appliance stores	1,071	1,027	1,037	1,048	1,043	-0.4	-2.6
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	2,123	2,288	2,352	2,326	2,499	7.4	17.7
Home centres and hardware stores	1,708	1,883	1,915	1,903	2,017	6.0	18.1
Specialized building materials and garden stores	415	405	436	423	482	14.0	16.3
Food and beverage stores	8,270	8,233	8,261	8,202	8,357	1.9	1.0
Supermarkets	6,011	5,919	5,980	5,938	6,056	2.0	0.7
Convenience and specialty food stores	841	845	853	853	859	0.7	2.1
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,418	1,469	1,428	1,411	1,441	2.2	1.7
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,469	2,555	2,542	2,524	2,531	0.3	2.5
Clothing and accessories stores	1,964	1,977	1,902	1,951	1,960	0.5	-0.2
Clothing stores	1,506	1,509	1,471	1,493	1,496	0.2	-0.7
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	457	468	431	458	464	1.3	1.4
General merchandise stores	4,319	4,447	4,313	4,432	4,432	0.0	2.6
Miscellaneous retailers	1,814	1,877	1,870	1,879	1,900	1.1	4.8
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	905	939	898	927	957	3.3	5.7
Miscellaneous store retailers	909	938	971	952	943	-0.9	3.8
Total retail sales	33,651	35,360	35,230	35,412	35,662	0.7	6.0
Total excluding automotive sector	23,371	23,805	23,683	23,771	24,199	1.8	3.5
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,835	27,635	27,635	27,820	28,307	1.8	5.5
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	570	632	624	618	631	2.1	10.6
Prince Edward Island	140	145	148	148	151	1.6	7.8
Nova Scotia	970	1,049	1,058	1,051	1,055	0.4	8.8
New Brunswick	797	847	839	852	841	-1.2	5.6
Quebec	7,591	8,091	8,069	8,164	8,196	0.4	8.0
Ontario	11,986	12,667	12,601	12,583	12,759	1.4	6.5
Manitoba	1,203	1,279	1,276	1,284	1,286	0.2	6.9
Saskatchewan	1,154	1,188	1,176	1,184	1,181	-0.2	2.4
Alberta	4,730	4,686	4,675	4,763	4,799	0.7	1.5
British Columbia	4,387	4,642	4,627	4,635	4,634	0.0	5.6
Yukon	42	45	46	45	45	-0.9	6.2
Northwest Territories	56	62	60	58	57	-1.0	2.6
Nunavut	26	27	28	27	27	-1.5	4.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index

Third quarter 2009

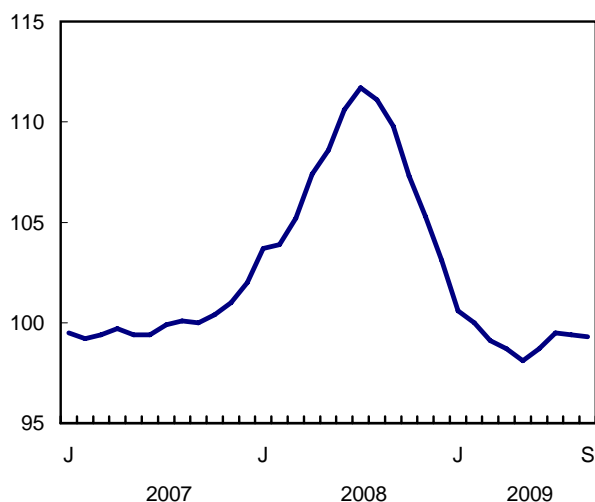
First-ever data are now available from the new For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index.

The For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index increased 0.9% in the third quarter, compared with the second quarter.

The specialized freight trucking component rose 1.1%, while the general freight trucking component advanced 0.8%.

For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index: Truck transportation

index (2007=100)



On a year-over-year basis, the index declined 10.4% in the third quarter compared with the third quarter of 2008. The decline was mostly due to a sharp decrease in diesel fuel prices in 2009.

With this release, monthly data are also available from January 2007. From January 2007 to September 2009, the index reached a peak in July 2008 and fell to its lowest point in May 2009. Fluctuations in fuel prices were the main contributors to these movements.

Note: The For-Hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index is part of the Services Producer Price Index program at Statistics Canada. This is a monthly index which is disseminated on a quarterly basis. The monthly index measures changes over time in prices for the for-hire motor carrier freight services provided by general and specialized freight trucking companies. The data collected are used to estimate a price index for the truck transportation services sector. The index can be joined with other business service indexes to provide better estimates of real output and productivity, and to monitor inflation in the services sector. Indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 332-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5136.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-951-4550; 613-951-4550; fax: 613-951-3117; ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division.

Services Producer Price Index: For-hire motor carrier freight services

	Relative importance ¹	Third quarter 2008	Second quarter 2009	Third quarter 2009 ^P	Second quarter to third quarter 2009	Third quarter 2008 to third quarter 2009
		(2007=100)			% change	
Truck transportation	100.00	110.9	98.5	99.4	0.9	-10.4
General freight trucking	57.87	111.0	97.9	98.7	0.8	-11.1
General freight trucking, local	23.65	111.7	96.0	97.1	1.1	-13.1
General freight trucking, long distance	76.35	110.8	98.5	99.2	0.7	-10.5
Specialized freight trucking	42.13	110.6	99.3	100.4	1.1	-9.2
Used household and office goods moving	8.09	109.1	105.1	108.5	3.2	-0.5
Specialized freight (except used goods) trucking, local	37.63	107.1	98.2	99.3	1.1	-7.3
Specialized freight (except used goods) trucking, long distance	54.28	113.3	99.2	99.9	0.7	-11.8

^P preliminary

1. The relative importance of the General freight trucking and Specialized freight trucking main categories is based on their contributions to the overall For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index. The relative importance of the subcategories is based on their contributions to the main categories.

Primary iron and steel

January 2010

Data on primary iron and steel are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The January 2010 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-X, free) will soon be available.

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. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

January 2010

Data on the production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The January 2010 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-X, free) will soon be available.

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. ■

Impact of H1N1 and seasonal flu on hours worked

January 2010

Data on the impact of H1N1 and seasonal flu on hours worked for January, collected in the Labour Force Survey, are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Air fare

2008

Fare Basis Survey data are now available for 2008. The survey covers Air Canada, Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners, Air Transat and WestJet.

Available on CANSIM: table 401-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2708.

Quarterly data tables are also available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

The air fare data will appear in the publication *Aviation: Service Bulletin*, Vol. 42, no. 3 (51-004-X, free), which will soon be available.

For more information, to order data tables, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

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The Daily, March 19, 2010

Release dates: March 22 to 26, 2010

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
23	Canadian Health Measures Survey	2007 to 2009
23	Leading indicators	February 2010
23	Health Reports	March 2010
24	Employment Insurance	January, 2010
25	Robbery	2008