

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Consumer Price Index, March 2010	2
Consumer prices rose 1.4% in the 12 months to March, following a 1.6% increase in February. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.1% from February to March.	
Retail trade, February 2010	7
Retail sales increased for a third consecutive month in February, rising 0.5%. Higher sales at new car dealers were the main contributor to the gain. In volume terms, retail sales increased 0.6%.	
Computer and peripherals price indexes, March 2010	10
Commercial Software Price Index, March 2010	10
Refined petroleum products, February 2010	10
Crude oil and natural gas production, February 2010	10
Foreign direct investment, 2009	10
Heritage institutions, 2008	11
New products and studies	12
Release dates: April 26 to April 30, 2010	13



Releases

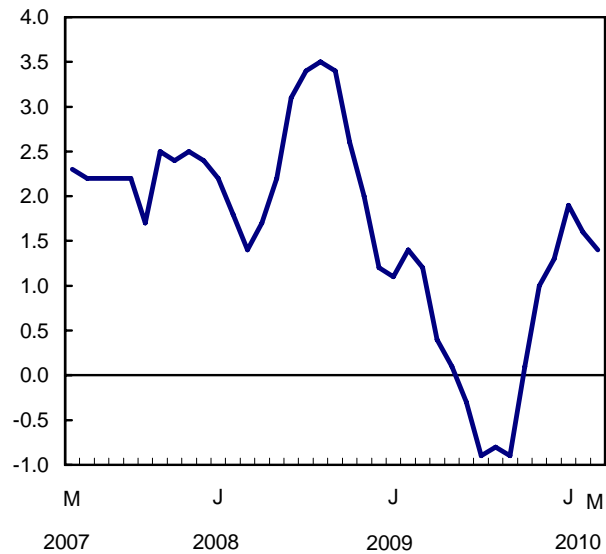
Consumer Price Index

March 2010

Consumer prices rose 1.4% in the 12 months to March, following a 1.6% increase in February.

The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index

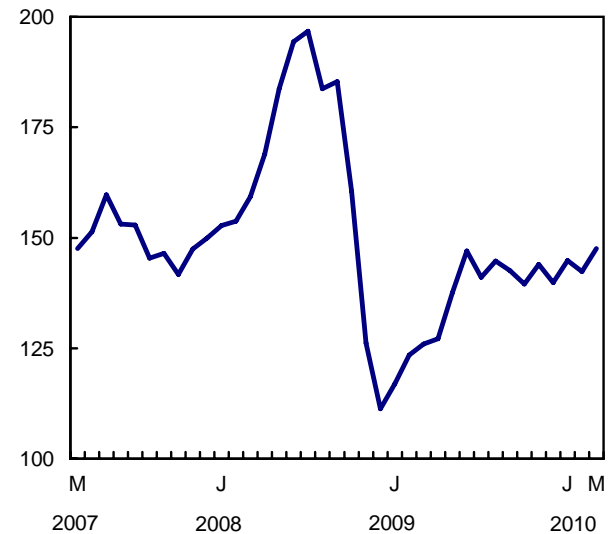
12-month % change



Gasoline prices exerted the most upward pressure on the all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the fifth consecutive month. In March, prices at the pump were 17.2% higher than they were in March 2009. This follows a 15.3% rise in the 12 months to February.

Evolution of the gasoline price index since March 2007

index (2002=100)



Energy prices rose 5.8% between March 2009 and March 2010, following a 4.0% increase in the 12 months to February.

Excluding energy, the CPI rose 1.0% in the 12 months to March, compared with a 1.3% increase in February.

Prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles put upward pressure on the CPI for the third consecutive month in March. Prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles rose 3.9%, following a 3.5% increase in February.

Seasonally adjusted monthly CPI falls

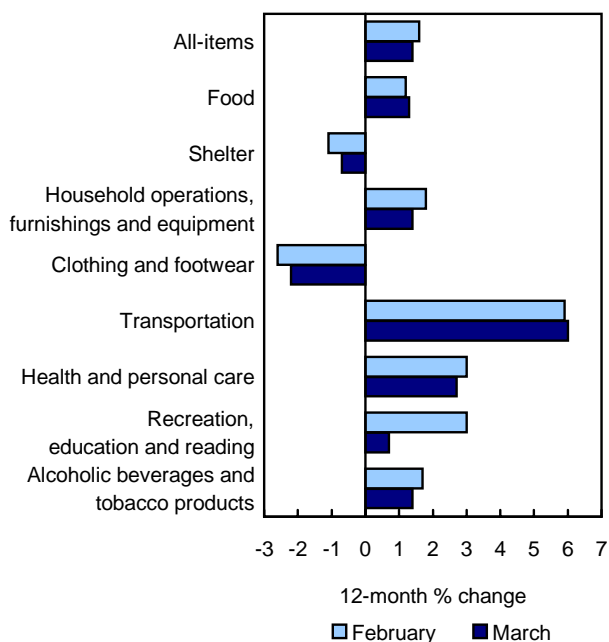
On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI fell 0.1% in March, after remaining unchanged from January to February. March's decline was due primarily to a 2.0% decrease in the recreation, education and reading component. Lower prices for traveller accommodation largely accounted for the downward movement within this component.

The decline in the seasonally adjusted monthly CPI in March was the first decrease since July 2009.

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 March. The exceptions were shelter, and clothing and footwear.

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



Transportation prices, which rose 6.0%, exerted the strongest upward pressure on the all-items CPI for the fifth consecutive month. In addition to higher gasoline and passenger vehicle prices, consumers paid 5.5% more for passenger vehicle insurance premiums in March than a year ago. The cost of inter-city transportation fell 9.6%.

Food prices advanced 1.3%, following a 1.2% increase in February. Upward pressure on the food index came mainly from prices for food purchased from restaurants (+2.6%). Price increases were also

observed for sugar and confectionery and non-alcoholic beverages. Prices fell for fresh vegetables, meat, and fresh fruit.

Prices for household operations, furnishings and equipment increased 1.4% in the 12 months to March. Upward pressure in this component came mostly from prices for communications, other household goods and services, and child care and domestic services.

In the health and personal care component, prices rose 2.7% and increases were broad-based. Prices for health care services increased 4.5%, while prices for personal care supplies and equipment rose 3.1%.

Prices in the recreation, education and reading component increased 0.7% in the 12 months to March. Consumers paid more for tuition fees and cablevision and satellite services.

Shelter costs fell 0.7%, mainly 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 6.0% in March, following a 5.8% decrease in February.

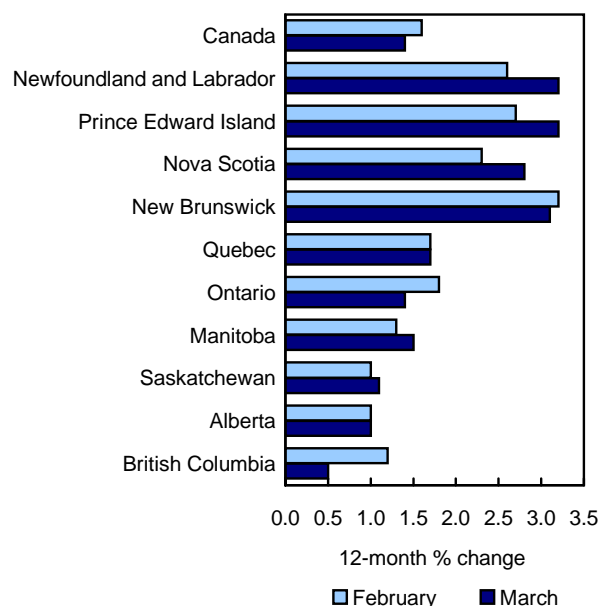
Prices for clothing and footwear declined 2.2%. The strongest downward pressure in this component came from lower prices for women's clothing and women's footwear. Prices for children's and men's clothing also declined.

12-month change: Consumer prices increase in all provinces

Consumer prices increased in all provinces in the 12 months to March. The most significant upward pressure on prices in all provinces came from gasoline prices.

As was the case in January and February, the largest year-over-year increases occurred in the four Atlantic provinces. Higher prices in Atlantic Canada were partly attributable to larger upward movements in gasoline. Gasoline price increases in Atlantic Canada ranged from 20.3% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 23.8% in Nova Scotia. As well, prices for fuel oil and other fuels advanced 20.7% nationally in the 12 months to March, the largest increase since October 2008.

Atlantic provinces post the highest price increases



In Ontario, prices rose 1.4%. This was due primarily to higher prices for gasoline, passenger vehicle insurance premiums, and the purchase of passenger vehicles. Downward pressure came mainly from lower prices for natural gas.

Prices in British Columbia rose 0.5% in March compared with the same month in 2009, after a 1.2% increase in February. The increase was due mainly to the upward pressure from gasoline prices and property taxes. Prices for traveller accommodation returned closer to the January level, prior to the Winter Olympics. Prices for traveller accommodation increased 2.8% in the 12-months to March, following a 64.1% increase in February.

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

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 1.7% over the 12 months to March, following a 2.1% rise in February. March's increase was due primarily to a rise in prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles, passenger vehicle insurance premiums, property taxes, and food purchased from restaurants.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index fell 0.3% in March, following a 0.4% increase in February.

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 March 2010 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 89, no. 3 (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 April Consumer Price Index will be released on May 21.

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	March 2009	February 2010	March 2010	February to March 2010	March 2009 to March 2010
Unadjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	114.0	115.6	115.6	0.0	1.4
Food	17.04	121.5	122.7	123.1	0.3	1.3
Shelter	26.62	122.6	121.8	121.7	-0.1	-0.7
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.10	106.8	108.3	108.3	0.0	1.4
Clothing and footwear	5.36	95.7	91.2	93.6	2.6	-2.2
Transportation	19.88	110.5	116.7	117.1	0.3	6.0
Health and personal care	4.73	110.5	113.7	113.5	-0.2	2.7
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	101.8	104.1	102.5	-1.5	0.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	129.7	131.4	131.5	0.1	1.4
All-items (1992=100)		135.7	137.6	137.7	0.1	1.5
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.78	107.6	108.5	109.0	0.5	1.3
Services	51.22	120.4	122.6	122.2	-0.3	1.5
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	111.1	112.4	112.1	-0.3	0.9
Energy	9.38	127.1	132.3	134.5	1.7	5.8
Core CPI ³	82.71	113.1	115.2	115.0	-0.2	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 (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, 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	March 2009	February 2010	March 2010	February to March 2010	March 2009 to March 2010
Unadjusted						
					% change	
Canada	100.00²	114.0	115.6	115.6	0.0	1.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	113.5	116.3	117.1	0.7	3.2
Prince Edward Island	0.35	115.6	118.8	119.3	0.4	3.2
Nova Scotia	2.56	114.5	116.9	117.7	0.7	2.8
New Brunswick	1.97	112.3	115.6	115.8	0.2	3.1
Quebec	21.05	112.6	114.2	114.5	0.3	1.7
Ontario	41.22	113.7	115.1	115.3	0.2	1.4
Manitoba	3.06	113.0	114.6	114.7	0.1	1.5
Saskatchewan	2.64	116.6	117.7	117.9	0.2	1.1
Alberta	11.43	120.9	122.7	122.1	-0.5	1.0
British Columbia	14.29	112.0	113.2	112.6	-0.5	0.5
Whitehorse	0.06	113.6	114.4	113.4	-0.9	-0.2
Yellowknife	0.08	114.3	117.4	116.9	-0.4	2.3
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	112.4	111.1	110.7	-0.4	-1.5

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	January 2010	February 2010	March 2010	January to February 2010	February to March 2010
Seasonally adjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	116.0	116.0	115.9	0.0	-0.1
Food	17.04	122.1	122.3	122.8	0.2	0.4
Shelter	26.62	121.8	121.8	121.7	0.0	-0.1
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.10	108.2	108.1	108.1	-0.1	0.0
Clothing and footwear	5.36	92.2	91.7	91.8	-0.5	0.1
Transportation	19.88	117.2	116.7	117.1	-0.4	0.3
Health and personal care	4.73	114.0	113.9	113.9	-0.1	0.0
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	103.6	105.5	103.4	1.8	-2.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	131.1	131.4	131.5	0.2	0.1
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	82.96	113.6	114.1	114.1	0.4	0.0
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	112.3	112.6	112.3	0.3	-0.3
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	113.6	113.9	113.7	0.3	-0.2
Core CPI ³	82.71	114.9	115.4	115.1	0.4	-0.3

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).

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Retail trade

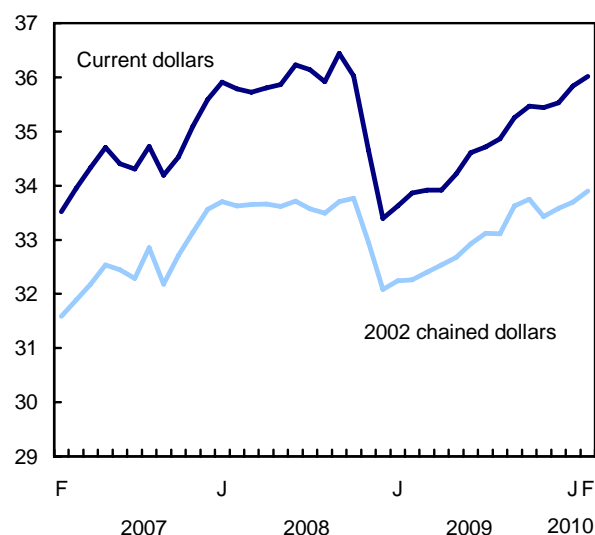
February 2010

Retail sales increased for a third consecutive month in February, rising 0.5% in current dollars to \$36.0 billion. Higher sales at new car dealers were the main contributor to the gain.

Sales in volume terms increased 0.6% in February. Retail sales volumes have been following an upward trend since the beginning of 2009.

Retail sales rise in February

\$ billions



Sales increased in 7 of 11 retail subsectors in February. The largest contributor to the overall increase was a 2.9% gain at motor vehicle and parts dealers, where sales rose for the first time since October. Within the subsector, sales rose 3.8% at new car dealers following three consecutive monthly declines. This reflects higher sales of both passenger cars and trucks according to the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey. Sales rose 0.8% at automotive parts, accessories and tire stores. Sales were lower for a third consecutive month at both used car dealers (-1.8%) and other motor vehicle dealers (-0.9%). Other motor vehicle dealers sell vehicles such as motor homes, motorcycles, boats and snowmobiles.

The clothing and clothing accessories stores subsector (+4.3%) saw their sales increase in February for a third consecutive month. Sales rose 5.5% at clothing stores and 1.1% at jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores, while they fell 0.7% at shoe stores. Higher clothing sales also contributed to a 1.0% gain in the general merchandise stores subsector.

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.

Data published this month are based on an updated sample. The new level of estimates has led to a time series revision back to January 2004. These revisions also incorporate 2009 annual revisions as well as some other historical revisions.

In addition, the presentation of results makes direct use of the North American Industry Classification System instead of its trade group variant (see concordance table).

The old tables 080-0014 to 080-0017 were replaced by CANSIM tables 080-0020 and 080-0021. Data for February 2010 as well as data from January 2004 are now available in these new CANSIM tables. In order to allow users to adapt to these new series, access to the new CANSIM tables will be free until June 30, 2010.

Sales in the food and beverage stores subsector rose 0.5% in February, led by a 3.7% increase at beer, wine and liquor stores. This reflects higher sales of alcoholic beverages across the country in the month of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Sales at supermarkets and other grocery stores edged down 0.1%.

Sales at gasoline stations (+0.5%) rose for a 10th consecutive month.

Retail sales were dampened by declines at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (-7.6%) and furniture and home furnishing stores (-3.5%). These declines did not offset the large gains reported in January, which was the final month of the federal government's Home Renovation Tax Credit.

Sales up in nine provinces

Retail sales rose in nine provinces in February. The largest contributor to the increase was Alberta, where sales rose 1.0%, reflecting strong sales at new car dealers.

New Brunswick had the highest growth rate among the provinces in February with a 2.5% rise in sales, followed by Nova Scotia (+1.7%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.5%) and Manitoba (+1.4%). Sales growth in these provinces was heavily influenced by higher sales at new car dealers.

Retail sales edged up 0.1% in British Columbia in February, where the 2010 Winter Olympic Games were held. Strong sales were reported at clothing stores and beer, wine and liquor stores. This was offset by lower sales at new car dealers and furniture stores.

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 080-0020 and 080-0021.

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

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

Data on retail trade for March will be released on May 21.

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 W. Purdy (613-951-0984), Distributive Trades Division.

Retail sales by industry

	February 2009	January 2010 ^r	February 2010 ^p	January to February 2010	February 2009 to February 2010
Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions			% change	
Total retail trade	33,864	35,837	36,014	0.5	6.4
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	27,000	28,329	28,289	-0.1	4.8
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	23,597	24,414	24,355	-0.2	3.2
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	6,864	7,508	7,725	2.9	12.5
New car dealers	5,324	5,949	6,176	3.8	16.0
Used car dealers	451	490	481	-1.8	6.8
Other motor vehicle dealers	620	556	551	-0.9	-11.1
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	469	513	516	0.8	10.2
Furniture and home furnishing stores	1,176	1,307	1,261	-3.5	7.2
Furniture stores	769	836	838	0.2	8.9
Home furnishings stores	407	471	423	-10.2	4.0
Electronics and appliance stores	1,145	1,128	1,118	-0.8	-2.3
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	2,236	2,577	2,381	-7.6	6.5
Food and beverage stores	8,404	8,501	8,545	0.5	1.7
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,020	6,033	6,029	-0.1	0.1
Convenience stores	553	589	578	-1.9	4.5
Specialty food stores	370	383	387	1.2	4.8
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,461	1,496	1,551	3.7	6.2
Health and personal care stores	2,493	2,573	2,603	1.2	4.4
Gasoline stations	3,403	3,915	3,934	0.5	15.6
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	1,941	1,980	2,066	4.3	6.4
Clothing stores	1,511	1,537	1,621	5.5	7.3
Shoe stores	225	233	232	-0.7	2.9
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	205	210	213	1.1	3.9
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	917	953	935	-1.9	1.9
General merchandise stores	4,307	4,441	4,485	1.0	4.1
Miscellaneous store retailers	979	954	962	0.8	-1.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Retail sales by province and territory

	February 2009	January 2010 ^r	February 2010 ^p	January to February 2010	February 2009 to February 2010
Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions			% change	
Canada	33,864	35,837	36,014	0.5	6.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	573	615	624	1.5	8.8
Prince Edward Island	135	147	148	0.5	9.5
Nova Scotia	970	1,037	1,055	1.7	8.8
New Brunswick	809	873	895	2.5	10.6
Quebec	7,624	8,154	8,187	0.4	7.4
Ontario	12,126	12,640	12,657	0.1	4.4
Manitoba	1,210	1,290	1,307	1.4	8.0
Saskatchewan	1,192	1,226	1,225	0.0	2.8
Alberta	4,664	4,889	4,940	1.0	5.9
British Columbia	4,438	4,838	4,844	0.1	9.1
Yukon	42	45	45	0.9	8.1
Northwest Territories	55	57	59	4.3	7.4
Nunavut	26	27	28	4.1	6.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

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



Computer and peripherals price indexes

March 2010

From February to March, the price index for commercial computers decreased 1.1% and the index for consumer computers declined 2.5%.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices decreased 1.9% in March compared with a month earlier, while printer prices increased 2.0%.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0004 and 331-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.

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

Commercial Software Price Index

March 2010

The Commercial Software Price Index (CSPI) decreased 1.2% in March from the previous month.

Year over year, the CSPI decreased by 8.5%.

Note: The Commercial Software Price Index is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

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. ■

Refined petroleum products

February 2010 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for February. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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

Crude oil and natural gas production

February 2010 (preliminary)

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

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 dissemination officer (613-951-9497; toll-free 1-866-873-8789; energ@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Foreign direct investment

2009

Data on the foreign direct investment by industry and region are now available for 2009.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0038 and 376-0052 to 376-0054.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1537.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; infobalance@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release please contact Christian Lajule (613-951-2062; christian.lajule@statcan.gc.ca) or Mukesh Ralhan (613-951-9038; mukesh.ralhan@statcan.gc.ca), Balance of Payments Division. ■

Heritage institutions

2008

The 2008 edition of *Service Bulletin: Heritage Institutions*, which contains industry highlights along with financial data including revenues, expenses, and operating profit margins, is now available.

The publication *Service Bulletin: Heritage Institutions, 2008* (87F0002X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3107.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-801-3282; 613-951-4612; servicesind@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

New products and studies

Aviation, January to December 2009, Vol. 42, no. 2
Catalogue number 51-004-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

The Consumer Price Index, March 2010, Vol. 89, no. 3
Catalogue number 62-001-X (PDF, free;
 Print \$12/\$111; HTML, free)

Heritage Institutions, 2008
Catalogue number 87F0002X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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Release dates: April 26 to April 30, 2010

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
26	Principal field crop areas	March 2010
29	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	February 2010
30	Gross domestic product by industry	February 2010
30	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	March 2010
