

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, May 18, 2012

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### Consumer Price Index, April 2012

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Consumer prices rose 2.0% in the 12 months to April, following a 1.9% increase in March. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the Consumer Price Index increased 0.2% in April.

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## Releases

### Consumer Price Index, April 2012

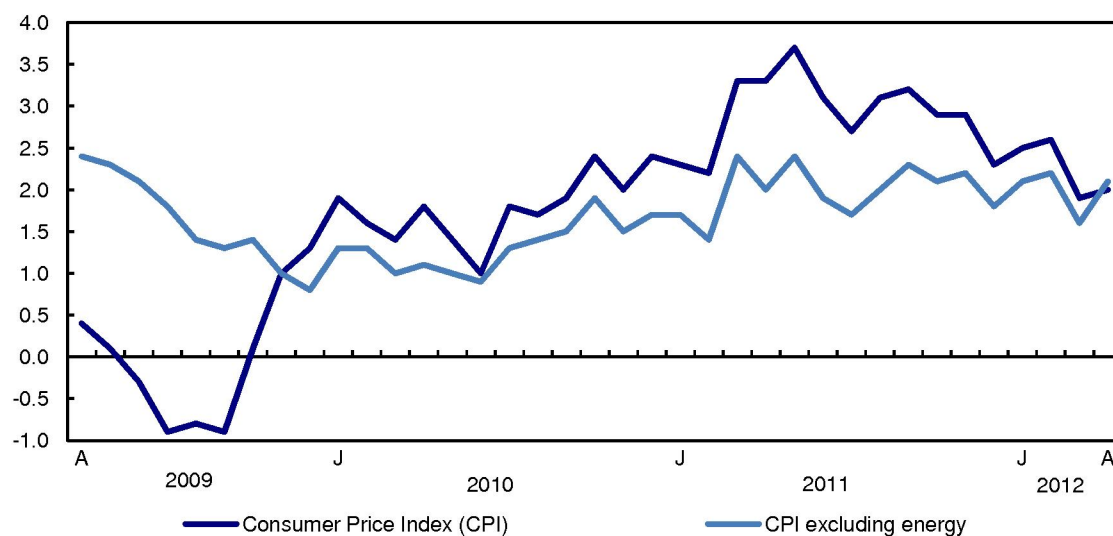
Consumer prices rose 2.0% in the 12 months to April, led by increases in transportation costs. This increase followed a 1.9% rise in March.

Energy prices increased 1.1% in the 12 months to April, following a 5.1% rise in March. The slower increase in April was largely attributable to smaller price gains for gasoline and electricity, as well as price declines for natural gas (-13.9%).

#### Chart 1

#### The 12-month change in the CPI and the CPI excluding energy

12-month % change

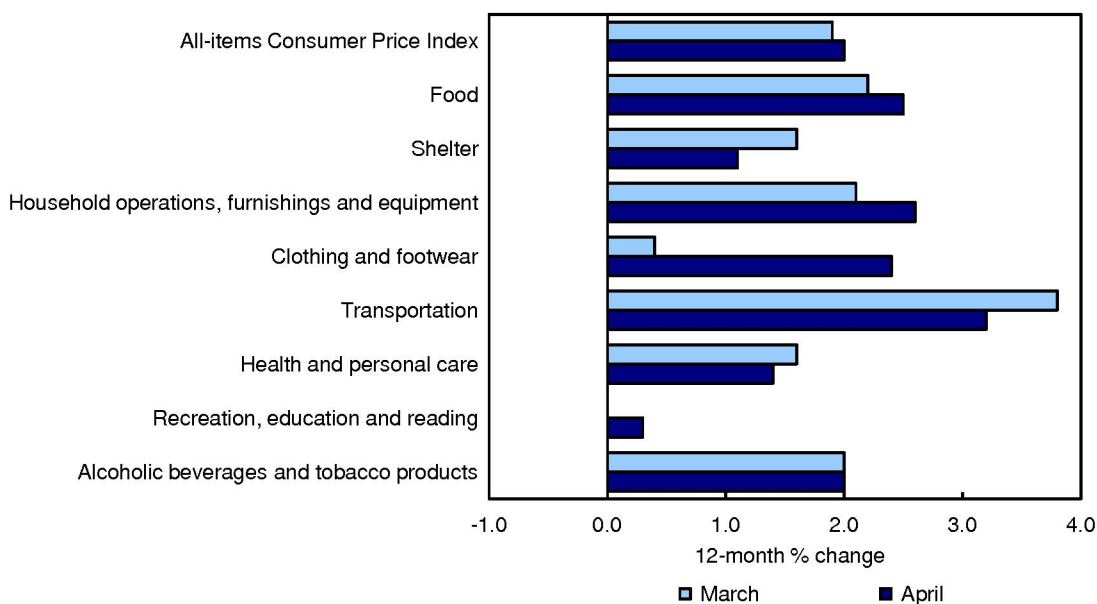


The Consumer Price Index (CPI) excluding energy rose 2.1% in the 12 months to April, following a 1.6% increase in March. The upward pressure on the All-items CPI coming from energy has eased over the last year. April marks the first month since October 2009 in which energy prices increased at a slower rate than the All-items CPI.

#### 12-month change

In April, prices rose year over year in all eight major components. Increases in transportation and food were major contributors to the 12-month change in the CPI.

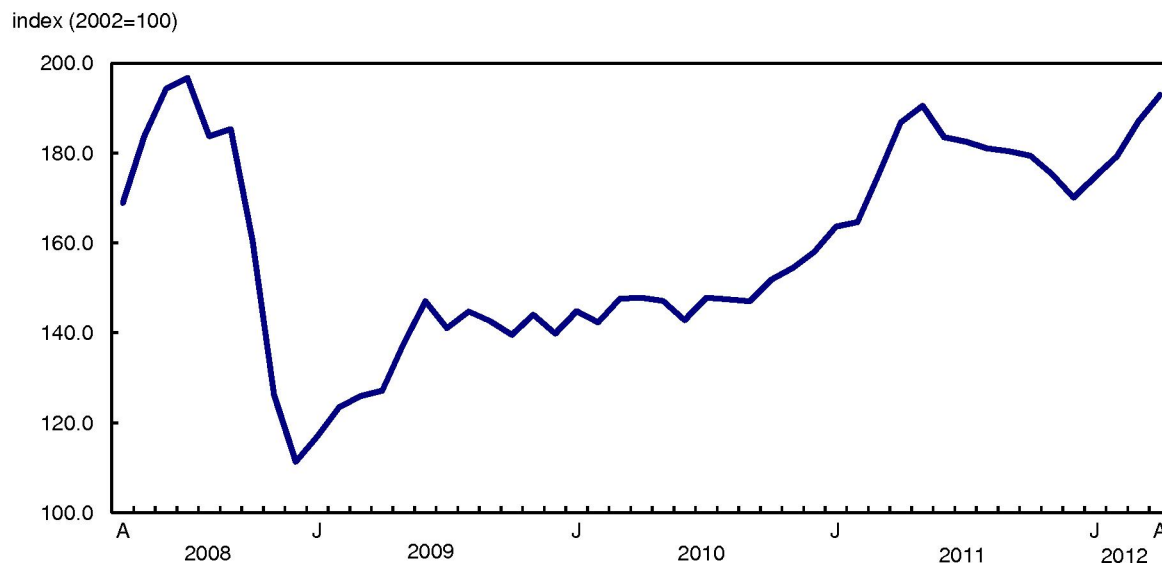
**Chart 2**  
**Prices rise in all eight major components**



Transportation costs increased 3.2% on a year-over-year basis in April. Prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles went up 3.4% while gasoline prices rose 3.3%. Year-over-year price gains were also recorded for passenger vehicle insurance premiums.

Gasoline prices have been rising in recent months, pushing April's gasoline index to its highest level since July 2008. Nevertheless, the year-over-year increase in gasoline prices in April 2012 was the smallest since September 2010, partly because of near-record prices in April 2011.

**Chart 3**  
**The gasoline index**



Prices for food rose 2.5% in April compared with the same month a year earlier. This rise followed a 2.2% year-over-year increase in March. Consumers paid 2.4% more for food purchased from stores in the 12 months to April and 2.8% more for food purchased from restaurants. Price increases were recorded for most food items, notably for meat and cereal products.

Shelter costs increased 1.1% in the 12 months to April, following a 1.6% rise in March. Prices declined for natural gas, while homeowners' replacement cost and rent increased.

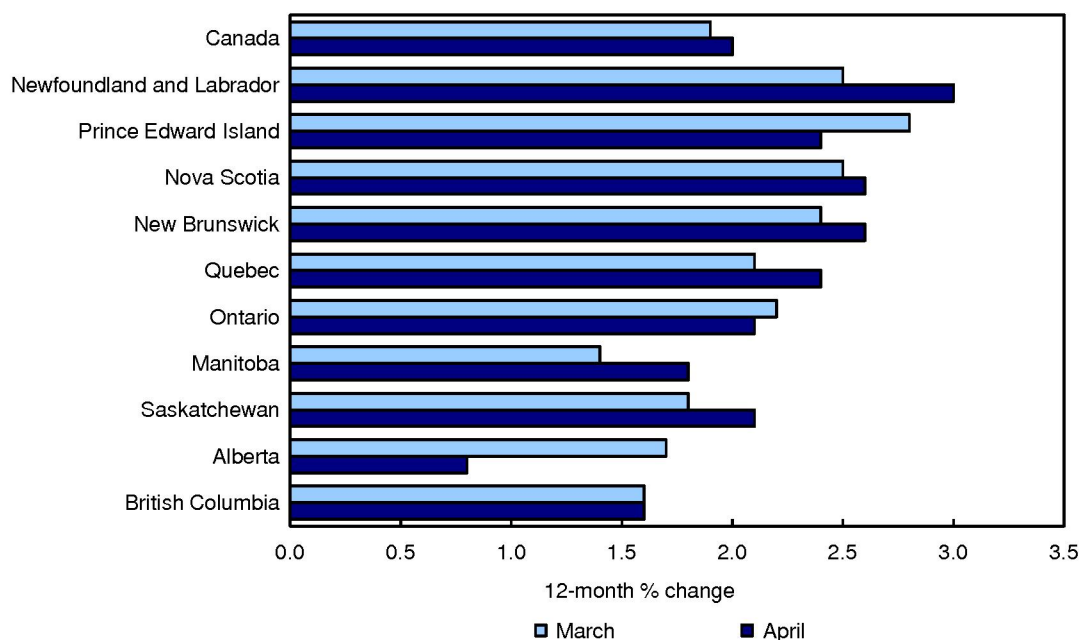
In April, prices for household operations, furnishings and equipment rose 2.6% compared with April 2011. Prices increased for communications services.

Clothing and footwear prices rose 2.4% on a year-over-year basis, as stores continued to offer new spring and summer wear.

## The provinces

In April, year-over-year price increases in the Atlantic provinces were among the highest in the country. Newfoundland and Labrador posted the largest increase at 3.0%, while Alberta posted the lowest.

**Chart 4**  
**The provinces**



In Alberta, consumer prices rose 0.8% in the 12 months to April, after increasing 1.7% in March. This slower rate of growth was largely attributable to price declines for electricity and natural gas.

Consumer prices rose 2.4% year over year in Quebec, 2.1% in Ontario, and 1.6% in British Columbia. Price increases for food purchased from stores, gasoline and the purchase of passenger vehicles were the main contributors to the increases in these provinces.

### Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index increases

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI increased 0.2% in April, matching the increase in March. Prices rose in five of the eight major components.

The seasonally adjusted index for transportation rose 0.4% in April, following a 0.3% increase the month before. The clothing and footwear index increased 1.1% in April, after decreasing 0.6% in March.

The indexes for shelter; household operations, furnishings and equipment; and health and personal care were unchanged.

### Bank of Canada's core index

The [Bank of Canada's core index](#) rose 2.1% in the 12 months to April, led by price increases for the purchase of passenger vehicles. This increase followed a 1.9% gain in the core index in March.

On a monthly basis, the seasonally adjusted core index increased 0.4% in April, after rising 0.1% the previous month.

### Note to readers

The special aggregate "Energy" includes: electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles.

The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the Consumer Price Index's most volatile components (fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies) as well as the effects of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components.

**Table 1**  
**Consumer Price Index and major components, Canada – Not seasonally adjusted**

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	April 2011	March 2012	April 2012	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI)</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>119.8</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>122.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Food	15.99	126.9	130.0	130.1	0.1	2.5
Shelter	27.49	125.2	126.6	126.6	0.0	1.1
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.55	109.8	112.7	112.6	-0.1	2.6
Clothing and footwear	5.31	93.1	94.8	95.3	0.5	2.4
Transportation	20.60	127.2	129.5	131.3	1.4	3.2
Health and personal care	4.95	117.3	118.3	118.9	0.5	1.4
Recreation, education and reading	11.20	105.1	104.9	105.4	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	2.91	135.0	137.5	137.7	0.1	2.0
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
Core CPI <sup>3</sup>	82.15	117.2	119.2	119.7	0.4	2.1
All-items CPI excluding energy	89.92	116.7	118.7	119.1	0.3	2.1
Energy <sup>4</sup>	10.08	159.2	159.5	161.0	0.9	1.1
Gasoline	5.80	186.8	187.0	192.9	3.2	3.3
All-items CPI excluding food and energy	73.93	114.4	116.1	116.6	0.4	1.9
Goods	47.80	113.7	114.8	115.3	0.4	1.4
Services	52.20	125.9	128.6	129.1	0.4	2.5

1. 2009 CPI basket weights at April 2011 prices, Canada, effective May 2011. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 ([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% as a result of rounding.

3. The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the Consumer Price Index's most volatile components (fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies) as well as the effects of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components. For additional information on the core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website ([www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi)).

4. The special aggregate "Energy" includes: electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles.

**Table 2**  
**Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit – Not seasonally adjusted**

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	April 2011	March 2012	April 2012	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>119.8</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>122.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.29	121.5	123.9	125.2	1.0	3.0
Prince Edward Island	0.35	123.3	125.6	126.3	0.6	2.4
Nova Scotia	2.56	122.9	125.3	126.1	0.6	2.6
New Brunswick	2.06	120.0	122.3	123.1	0.7	2.6
Quebec	21.21	118.5	120.8	121.3	0.4	2.4
Ontario	39.85	119.9	122.0	122.4	0.3	2.1
Manitoba	3.16	118.3	119.5	120.4	0.8	1.8
Saskatchewan	2.90	121.6	123.6	124.2	0.5	2.1
Alberta	11.97	126.0	126.6	127.0	0.3	0.8
British Columbia	14.47	116.3	117.9	118.2	0.3	1.6
Whitehorse	0.08	117.3	120.1	120.7	0.5	2.9
Yellowknife	0.07	120.9	123.6	125.1	1.2	3.5
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	113.2	114.4	114.9	0.4	1.5

1. 2009 Consumer Price Index basket weights at April 2011 prices, effective May 2011. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 ([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% as a result of rounding.

**Table 3**  
**Consumer Price Index and major components – Seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>**

	Relative importance <sup>2</sup>	February 2012	March 2012	April 2012	February to March 2012	March to April 2012
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI)</b>	<b>100.00<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>121.5</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>122.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Food	15.99	130.2	129.8	129.9	-0.3	0.1
Shelter	27.49	126.9	126.6	126.6	-0.2	0.0
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.55	112.6	112.5	112.5	-0.1	0.0
Clothing and footwear	5.31	92.8	92.2	93.2	-0.6	1.1
Transportation	20.60	129.3	129.7	130.2	0.3	0.4
Health and personal care	4.95	118.7	118.7	118.7	0.0	0.0
Recreation, education and reading	11.20	105.2	105.6	105.8	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	2.91	136.6	137.5	137.7	0.7	0.1
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
Core CPI <sup>4</sup>	82.15	119.0	119.1	119.6	0.1	0.4
All-items CPI excluding food and energy <sup>5</sup>	73.93	115.9	116.1	116.5	0.2	0.3

1. Each month, the previous month's seasonally adjusted index is subject to revision. On an annual basis, the seasonally adjusted values for the last three years are revised with the January data release. Since these revisions can lead to changes in both the levels and movements of the indexes, users employing the CPI for indexation purposes are advised to use the unadjusted indexes.

2. 2009 CPI basket weights at April 2011 prices, Canada, effective May 2011. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 ([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% as a result of rounding.

4. The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the Consumer Price Index's most volatile components (fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies) as well as the effects of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components. For additional information on the core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website ([www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi)).

5. The special aggregate "Energy" includes: electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles.

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**Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0015 and 326-0020 to 326-0022.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.**

For a more detailed analysis, consult the publication *The Consumer Price Index*. The April 2012 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 91, no. 4 (62-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

More information about the concepts and use of the Consumer Price Index 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 Consumer Price Index for May will be released on June 22.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)).



## Apartment Building Construction Price Index, first quarter 2012

The composite price index for apartment building construction increased 0.8% in the first quarter compared with the previous quarter. The quarterly increase was mainly a result of continued strength in the residential construction market as well as higher construction material prices.

All of the seven census metropolitan areas (CMAs) surveyed reported quarterly increases varying from 0.4% to 1.7%. Calgary and Vancouver (both +1.7%) posted the largest increases, followed by Edmonton (+1.6%).

Year over year, the composite price index for apartment building construction was up 3.3%. Of the CMAs surveyed, Calgary and Edmonton (both +4.7%) recorded the largest year-over-year increases, while Halifax and Montréal (both +2.7%) recorded the smallest gains.

### Note to readers

*This release presents data that are not seasonally adjusted and the indexes published are subject to a one quarter revision period after dissemination of a given quarter's data.*

**Table 1**  
**Apartment Building Construction Price Index<sup>1</sup> – Not seasonally adjusted**

	Relative importance <sup>2</sup>	First quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2011	First quarter 2012	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012	First quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
<b>Composite index</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>138.5</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>143.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Halifax	2.2	134.2	136.8	137.8	0.7	2.7
Montréal	26.8	136.8	139.7	140.5	0.6	2.7
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part <sup>3</sup>	2.9	143.9	147.6	148.4	0.5	3.1
Toronto	40.8	139.6	143.0	143.6	0.4	2.9
Calgary	3.4	157.6	162.3	165.0	1.7	4.7
Edmonton	4.8	153.7	158.4	160.9	1.6	4.7
Vancouver	19.1	136.9	140.6	143.0	1.7	4.5

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

2. The relative importance is calculated using a price adjusted three-year average of the value of building permits for each CMA.

3. For the Ottawa–Gatineau metropolitan area, only Ontario contractors are surveyed for the Apartment Building Construction Price Index because of different provincial legislation and construction union contracts.

**Available without charge in CANSIM: table 327-0044.**

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

The first quarter 2012 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in July.

The apartment building construction price indexes for the second quarter will be released on August 17.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

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## Monthly Survey of Large Retailers, March 2012

Data for the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for March.

**Available without charge in CANSIM: table 080-0009.**

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

A [data table](#) is also available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)).

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## New products and studies

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### New products

**Canadian Economic Observer**, May 2012, Vol. 25, no. 5  
Catalogue number 11-010-X (HTML, free)

**Aviation: "Civil Aviation, Monthly Key Operating Statistics, Major Canadian Air Carriers"**, January to December 2011, Vol. 44, no. 1  
Catalogue number 51-004-X2012001 (HTML, free | PDF, free)

**The Consumer Price Index**, April 2012, Vol. 91, no. 4  
Catalogue number 62-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

**Wholesale Trade**, March 2012, Vol. 75, no. 3  
Catalogue number 63-008-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

**Canada's International Transactions in Securities**, March 2012, Vol. 78, no. 3  
Catalogue number 67-002-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

## Release dates: May 22 to 25, 2012

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
22	<b>Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile</b>	2010
23	<b>Retail trade</b>	March 2012
23	<b>Job vacancies</b>	February 2012
23	<b>Leading indicators</b>	April 2012
23	<b>Farm cash receipts</b>	First quarter 2012
24	<b>Employment Insurance</b>	March 2012
24	<b>Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises</b>	First quarter 2012
25	<b>Pension plans in Canada</b>	2011

See also the release dates for major economic indicators for the rest of the year.



### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-X.

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