

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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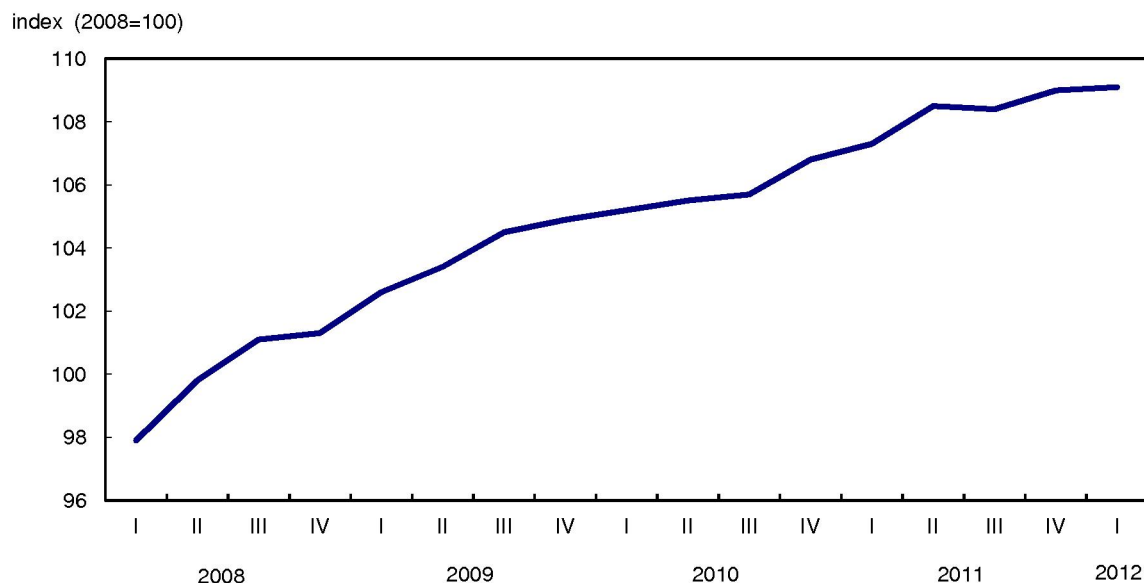
Canada

Releases

Retail Services Price Index, first quarter 2012

The Retail Services Price Index (RSPI) edged up 0.1% in the first quarter.

Chart 1
Retail Services Price Index



The largest margin increases in the first quarter were posted by general merchandise stores (+2.0%), miscellaneous stores (+1.9%) and building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (+1.4%).

Electronics and appliance stores (-4.5%) posted the largest margin decline in the first quarter. Margins for gasoline stations (-3.0%), health and personal care stores (-1.4%) and sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores (-1.4%) also fell during the quarter.

Margins for food and beverage stores rose 1.3% in the first quarter from the previous quarter. Compared with the same quarter in 2011, food and beverage store margins advanced 4.7%. Margins for food and beverage stores have been increasing since the second quarter of 2010.

The RSPI was up 1.7% from the first quarter of 2011. General merchandise stores (+5.3%) recorded the largest year-over-year margin increase in the first quarter. Margin advances were also posted by building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (+4.9%) and miscellaneous store retailers (+2.4%).

Year-over-year declines in retail margins were recorded by electronics and appliance stores (-3.8%), sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores (-3.5%), gasoline stations (-2.9%) and health and personal care stores (-2.8%). The first quarter of 2012 marks the sixth consecutive year-over-year margin decrease by electronics and appliance stores.

Note to readers

Data for the most recent quarter are subject to revision. The series are also subject to an annual revision with the release of second quarter data of the following reference year. The indexes are not seasonally adjusted.

The Retail Services Price Index (RSPI) is part of the Services Producer Price Index program at Statistics Canada. The RSPI is not a retail selling price index. The index represents the change in the price of the retail service. The price of the retail service is defined as the margin price, which is the difference between the average purchase price and the average selling price of the retail product being priced.

With this release, an additional CANSIM table is available that presents the RSPI as a quarterly index. The table that presents monthly data will continue to be updated with each release.

Table 1
Retail Services Price Index – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ¹	First quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2011 ^r	First quarter 2012 ^p	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012	First quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	%	(2008=100)			% change	
Retail Services Price Index	100.00	107.3	109.0	109.1	0.1	1.7
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	1.53	. ²	. ²	. ²	. ²	. ²
Furniture and home furnishings stores	3.33	105.1	103.7	103.2	-0.5	-1.8
Electronics and appliance stores	3.42	86.0	86.6	82.7	-4.5	-3.8
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	5.97	111.0	114.8	116.4	1.4	4.9
Food and beverage stores	21.81	110.6	114.3	115.8	1.3	4.7
Health and personal care stores	6.68	111.8	110.2	108.7	-1.4	-2.8
Gasoline stations	11.52	103.4	103.5	100.4	-3.0	-2.9
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	5.24	101.4	100.9	100.7	-0.2	-0.7
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	2.48	103.9	101.7	100.3	-1.4	-3.5
General merchandise stores	11.47	110.2	113.7	116.0	2.0	5.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	2.56	108.6	109.1	111.2	1.9	2.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

. not available for any reference period

1. The relative importance is based on the weight that each three-digit code of the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) contributes to the overall Retail Services Price Index. The total does not equal 100 as automobile dealers (NAICS 4411), other motor vehicle dealers (NAICS 4412) and non-store retailers (NAICS 454) were not surveyed.

2. Automobile dealers (NAICS 4411) and other motor vehicle dealers (NAICS 4412) have not been surveyed and therefore data are not available at this time.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 332-0003 and 332-0007.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5135.

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).

Wholesale Services Price Index, first quarter 2012

The Wholesale Services Price Index (WSPI) rose 0.9% in the first quarter of 2012 compared with the fourth quarter of 2011.

Wholesale margins increases were recorded in four of the eight wholesale sectors. Machinery, equipment and supplies wholesalers (+3.4%) posted the largest first quarter margin increase following a relatively stable 2011. The increase in the first quarter was a result of higher selling prices, which led to margin advances in all four subsectors: farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment (+4.3%); construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies (+2.8%); computer and communications equipment and supplies (+7.5%); and other machinery, equipment and supplies (+1.0%).

Wholesalers of building material and supplies posted a margin decline of 1.9% in the first quarter compared with the previous quarter. The decline was mainly the result of margin decreases for wholesalers of electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies (-5.6%) and metal service centres (-2.8%).

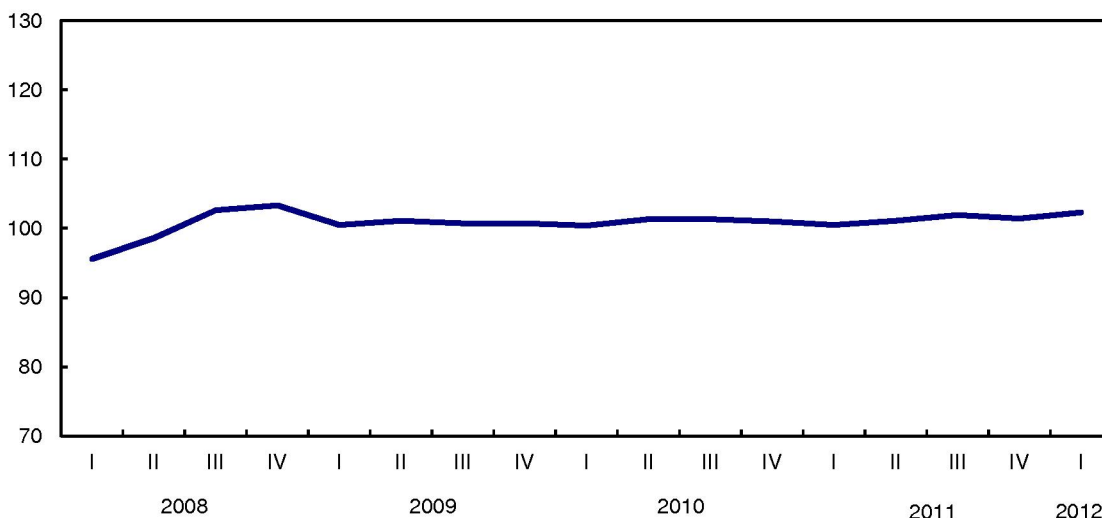
Year over year, the WSPI advanced 1.8% in the first quarter. The largest contributors to the year-over-year margin increase were wholesalers of miscellaneous products (+10.0%) and wholesalers of farm products (+6.6%). Wholesalers of machinery, equipment and supplies reported a 3.8% year-over-year margin increase.

Wholesalers of building material and supplies recorded a margin decline of 1.9% in the first quarter compared with the same quarter in 2011. Wholesalers of motor and vehicle parts (-0.2%) also posted a year-over-year decrease.

The petroleum products margin fell 0.6% in the first quarter, marking the fifth consecutive quarter of year-over-year margin declines in this sector.

Chart 1
Services Producer Price Index: Wholesale services

index (2008=100)



Note to readers

Data for the most recent quarter are subject to revision. The series are also subject to an annual revision with the release of second quarter data of the following reference year. The indexes are not seasonally adjusted.

The Wholesale Services Price Index (WSPI) is part of the Services Producer Price Index program at Statistics Canada. The WSPI is not a wholesale selling price index. The index represents the change in the price of the wholesale service. The price of the wholesale service is defined as the margin price, which is the difference between the average purchase price and the average selling price of the wholesale product being priced.

With this release, an additional CANSIM table is available that presents the WSPI as a quarterly index. The table that presents monthly data will continue to be updated with each release.

Table 1
Services Producer Price Index: Wholesale services – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ¹	First quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2011 ^r	First quarter 2012 ^p	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012	First quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	%	(2008=100)			% change	
Services Producer Price Index:						
Wholesale services	100.00	100.5	101.4	102.3	0.9	1.8
Farm products	2.58	84.5	90.3	90.1	-0.2	6.6
Petroleum products	4.94	69.2	68.7	68.8	0.1	-0.6
Food, beverage and tobacco	14.90	114.3	110.8	112.7	1.7	-1.4
Personal and household goods	16.60	101.4	102.8	102.2	-0.6	0.8
Motor vehicles and parts	9.92	108.4	108.3	108.2	-0.1	-0.2
Building material and supplies	13.88	96.4	96.4	94.6	-1.9	-1.9
Machinery, equipment and supplies	21.67	102.0	102.4	105.9	3.4	3.8
Miscellaneous	11.02	101.6	110.2	111.8	1.5	10.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. The relative importance is based on the weight that each three-digit code of the North American Industry Classification System contributes to the overall Wholesale Services Price Index. The total does not equal 100 as the Wholesale Agents and Brokers group was not surveyed and data are imputed.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 332-0006 and 332-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5106.

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).

New products and studies

New products

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