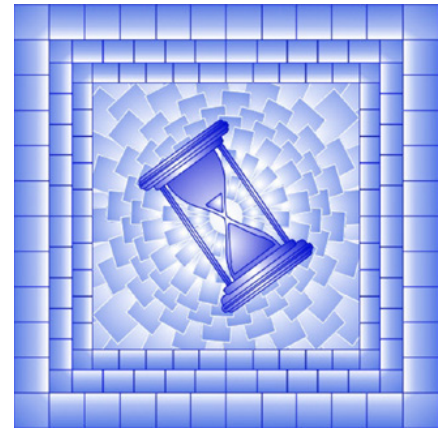


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# Technical Supplement for the September 2020 Consumer Price Index



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# Technical Supplement for the September 2020 Consumer Price Index

Beginning in April 2020, the collection and compilation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) have been impacted by measures designed to limit the spread of COVID-19, as in-person field collection was conducted remotely, and imputation strategies were required to address an increased number of temporary business closures and out-of-stock products. These strategies were implemented according to international guidelines, and following consultation with other national statistical organizations.

Where outlets remained temporarily closed, items were out of stock at a higher rate than usual or products and services remained unavailable for consumption, the imputation treatments for the September CPI were the same as those used in April through August.<sup>1</sup>

Tables reflecting product and outlet availability (Table 1), imputation donors for unavailable products and services (Table 2) and CPI sub-components with an out-of-stock rate above 30% (Table 3) have been updated to reflect September data.

**Table 1**  
**Consumer Price Index product and outlet availability, field, scanner and web scraped data collection modes, September 2020 and September 2019**

	Basket weight at link month (%)	Average rate of out of stock product offerings (%)		Average rate of temporarily closed outlets (%)		Average rate of prices received as scheduled (%)	
		September				2020	2019
		2020	2019	2020	2019		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>94.5</b>
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	16.48	9.4	1.7	0.4	0.0	90.2	98.3
Shelter	27.36	7.5	3.9	0.5	0.2	92.0	96.0
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	12.80	14.3	4.3	0.8	0.1	84.8	95.7
Clothing and footwear	5.17	13.5	20.7	4.1	0.4	82.4	79.0
Transportation	19.95	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Health and personal care	4.79	20.9	2.6	3.4	0.6	75.7	96.8
Recreation, education and reading	10.24	7.7	6.2	1.5	0.4	90.8	93.5
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.21	7.4	2.9	3.4	0.2	89.2	97.0

Source: Consumer Prices program.

1. Imputation treatments for the CPI in a given reference month are outlined in the technical supplements for [April](#), [May](#), [June](#), [July](#) and [August](#) 2020.

**Table 2**  
**Imputation donors for select products and services unavailable, or partially unavailable for consumption in July, August and September 2020<sup>1</sup>**

	Transportation	Recreation, education and reading		
	Air transportation	Recreational services	Travel tours	Spectator entertainment (excluding video and audio subscription services)
<b>July 2020</b>				
<b>Affected sub-component basket weight at link month (%)</b>	0.35	0.13	1.21	0.27
<b>Imputation donor</b>	Affected sub-components imputed from parent, air transportation	All-items	All-items	All-items
<b>Affected geography</b>	All	All	All	All
<b>August 2020</b>				
<b>Affected sub-component basket weight at link month (%)</b>	0.35	0.13	1.21	0.26
<b>Imputation donor</b>	Affected sub-components imputed from parent, air transportation	All-items	All-items	All-items
<b>Affected geography</b>	All	All	All	All
<b>September 2020</b>				
<b>Affected sub-component basket weight at link month (%)</b>	0.35	0.13	1.21	0.26
<b>Imputation donor</b>	Affected sub-components imputed from parent, air transportation	All-items	All-items	All-items
<b>Affected geography</b>	All	All	All	All

1. Imputation treatments for the CPI in a given reference month are outlined in the technical supplements for [April](#), [May](#), [June](#), [July](#) and [August](#) 2020.

Source: Consumer Prices program.

**Table 3**  
**CPI sub-components with an out-of-stock rate above 30%, September 2020**

Sub-component	Basket weight at link month (%)
Eye care goods	0.32
Non-prescribed medicines	0.46
Other fresh or frozen poultry	0.11

Source: Consumer Prices program.

Additional questions about how the CPI accounts for outlets remaining temporarily closed, items out of stock at a higher rate than usual, or products and services remaining unavailable for consumption due to COVID-19, can be directed to [statcan.cpddisseminatunite-dpcunitedediffusion.statcan@canada.ca](mailto:statcan.cpddisseminatunite-dpcunitedediffusion.statcan@canada.ca).