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MAJOR RELEASE

Consumer Price Index, March 1993
 In March, the CPI year-to-year increase was 1.9%, down from the 2.3% increase reported in February.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MAJOR RELEASE

Consumer Price Index

March 1993

National Highlights

All-Items

The All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI, 1986 = 100) for Canada inched down 0.1% in March to-reach A major source of the decline was the outbreak of a grocery-chain price war in Western Canada that contributed to a 0.4% decrease in the Food component. The Clothing component, which rose by 0.3%, provided the largest upward pressure. The five other major components showed price. movements varying from -0.1 to 0.1%.

Between March 1992 and March 1993; the All-items excluding Food items index rose by 1.9%. This followed larger yearover-year increases in December (2.1%), January (2.0%) and February (2.3%). The All-items excluding Food index also rose by 1.9%, again less than the annual increases in December (2.1%), January (2.1%) and February (2.3%).

The seasonally adjusted All-items CPI declined by 0.1% between February and March, the first decline in almost a year. The compound annual rate of increase based on seasonally adjusted levels in the latest three-month period (December 1992 to March 1993) was 1.6%, about half as much as the rates observed in January and February 1993. A rate of 1.6% was last seen in September 1992.

Food

The Food component fell 0.4% between February and March. After four months of price advances, the Food Purchased from Stores component declined 0.6% in March. A 0.1% drop in the index for Food Purchased from Restaurants, due to promotional pricing by some chains was the first decline in this index since June 1987, when a tax change effectively lowered prices.

The largest monthly price declines for Food Purchased from Stores were in Edmonton (-14.2%) and Calgary (-9.5%), where the price wars were most intense. Other western cities were affected, but to a much lesser extent. Downward pressure came largely from fresh fruit, fresh meat and dairy products and eggs. The price declines for fresh fruit occurred in almost all cities and were related to good supply conditions and weaker consumer demand. Meat prices also decreased, though mainly in the cities experiencing price wars. Fresh vegetable prices showed major advances, related to the poor growing conditions in the southwestern United States and Mexico, but the overall increase was tempered by the declines in Edmonton and Calgary.

On a year-over-year basis, the Food index rose by 1.7%. While this 12-month change was still higher than the changes recorded for most of 1992, it was considerably lower than the 2.5% annual change seen in February. The index for Food Purchased from Restaurants was 1.4% higher than in March 1992.

This broke the string of 1.6% annual changes

registered in the last four months.

On a month-to-month basis, the All-items excluding Food index showed no change in March. Upward pressure came from the Clothing (0.3%), Recreation, Reading, and Education (0.1%), Transportation (0.1%) and Health and Personal Care (0.1%) component indexes. The Housing component remained unchanged from February, while Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages posted a 0.1% decrease.

The Clothing index rose 0.3% in March, primarily attributable to higher prices for Men's Wear (0.4%), Clothing Materials (1.0%) and Women's Wear (0.2%). Within Men's Wear, a sharp increase was recorded for jeans and a much smaller increase was recorded for footwear. Moderating these increases was a decrease for shirts. Price increases for women's sportswear. accessories and footwear moderated somewhat by price declines for hosiery and lingerie.

The Recreation, Reading and Education component moved up 0.1% in March, due largely to a 2.5% seasonal advance for travel tours following a jump of 9.2% in February. Higher fares to Florida destinations from all points in Canada, as well as rate increases to Mexico and South American destinations from Montreal, explained the March increase.

A 0.1% rise in the Transportation component was attributable to a 1.6% rise in public transportation prices, a result of higher air fares counterbalanced by a 0.2% drop in private transportation prices. Private transportation prices fell in response to a marked decline in gasoline prices, partially offset by rises in insurance premiums in Ontario and Manitoba - though some premiums were reduced in Quebec.

The Health and Personal Care component edged up 0.1%, reflecting price increases for disposable diapers and toothpaste, as well as some price decreases for various toiletries such as shampoo.

Although the Housing index showed no overall change in March, there were offsetting price movements among its components. Privately owned accommodation advanced 0.1% due to increases in homeowners' maintenance and repairs and increases in new house prices, moderated by lower mortgage interest charges. Rents rose 0.2% in March. Largely offsetting these increases were price decreases for household furnishings — more specifically, window coverings, towels and bedding.

The Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages component showed a decline in March, falling 0.1%. Slightly lower cigarette prices, due to competition, was the main cause of the decline in March.

Over the 12-month period from March 1992 to March 1993, the All-items excluding Food index increased by 1.9%. This increase was somewhat lower than the year-to-year increases of the previous three months, but it matched the 1992 annual average.

Energy

The Energy index dropped 0.7% in March. The sole cause for this decline was a 1.6% plunge in gasoline

prices. The prices of other energy-related products remained unchanged. Since March 1992, the Energy component has increased 3.2%.

Ail-Items excluding Food and Energy

The All-items excluding Food and Energy index rose 0.2% in March following increases of 0.3% in January and February. Since March 1992, the All-items excluding Food and Energy index has risen 1.9%. In the past 12 months, the year-over-year increases have varied between 1.6% and 2.3%.

Goods and Services

The Goods index declined 0.2% during March, caused entirely by a 0.5% drop in prices for Non-durable Goods. Both Durable and Semi-durable Goods posted no change in March. The Services index was up 0.2%, the same as in February.

Between March 1992 and March 1993, the Goods index rose 1.6%, falling back from a peak of 2.4% in February. The Non-durable component rose 2.1% and the Durable component rose 1.6%, while the Semi-durable component advanced by only 0.5%. Compared to March 1992, the Services index has increased 2.3%.

The Consumer Price Index and Major Components (Not Seasonally Adjusted), Canada (1986 = 100)

		Indexes	Percentage change March 1993 from		
	March 1993	February 1993	March 1992	February 1993	March 1992
All-items	129.9	130.0	127.5	-0.1	1.9
Food	122.4	122.9	120.4	-0.4	1.7
Housing	127.6	127.6	125.9	0.0	1.4
Clothing	131.6	131.2	130.6	0.3	0.8
Transportation	124.9	124.8	120.5	0.1	3.7
Health and personal care	133.7	133.6	129.4	0.1	3.3
Recreation, reading and education	134.1	133.9	131.7	0.1	1.8
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	171.0	171.1	167.4	-0.1	2.2
All-items excluding food	131.6	131.6	129.1	0.0	1.9
All-items excluding food and energy	132.5	132.3	130.0	0.2	1.9
Goods	125.6	125.9	123.6	-0.2	1.6
Services	135.2	134.9	132.2	0.2	2.3
Purchasing power of the consumer					
dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1986	77.0	76.9	78.4		
All-items (1981 = 100)	172.0				

City Highlights

Among the cities for which CPIs are published, the month-to-month change in the All-items indexes ranged from -1.5% in Edmonton, where the grocerystore price war had a pronounced effect, to 0.6% in Whitehorse. Six of the major cities posted price decreases in March, Toronto showed no change and 11 cities posted price increases.

Between March 1992 and March 1993, changes in city CPIs varied from a low of -0.1% in Halifax to a high of 3.6% in Vancouver. Halifax has posted the lowest increase for three straight months, whereas Vancouver has posted the highest for 13 straight months.

Main Contributors to Monthly Changes in the All-Items Index, by City

St. John's

Increased charges for personal care supplies, household operating expenses and owned accommodation were among the main contributors to the 0.1% rise in the All-items index. Higher prices for package holiday trips and a slight rise in the Food index (notably for beef, fresh vegetables, restaurant meals and soft drinks) also exerted an upward impact. Dampening these overall advances were lower prices for gasoline, decreased vehicle rental charges and a marginal decline in the Clothing index. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 1.4%.

Charlottetown/Summerside

Advances in the Clothing, Housing and Food indexes accounted for most of the 0.3% rise in the All-items index. Higher household operating expenses explained the rise in the Housing index, while price increases for fresh produce, beef and bakery products were responsible for the rise in the Food index. Further upward pressure came from increased charges relating to recreation, personal care supplies and eye care. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 1.6%.

Halifax

The All-items index rose 0.1%. Higher prices for food (notably for fresh vegetables, beef, cereal and bakery products and eggs) were recorded, along with increased recreation expenses and higher clothing

prices. Advances in charges for personal care supplies and eye care were also reported. A drop in the Transportation index had a notable moderating effect, and was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline and a decline in vehicle rental charges. The Housing index fell slightly, reflecting lower prices for household textiles and decreased charges for household operation. Since March 1992, the All-items index has declined 0.1%.

Saint John

A rise in the Food index (due mainly to higher prices for beef, fresh vegetables, prepared meats and dairy products), combined with price increases for clothing, personal care supplies and eye care services, were among the main contributors to the 0.2% rise in the All-items index. Higher prices for package holiday trips were also recorded. The Housing index fell, reflecting decreased charges for owned accommodation and lower prices for household textiles. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 0.8%.

Quebec City

Increased prices for clothing, gasoline and air travel largely explained the 0.2% rise in the All-items index. Further upward pressure came from higher prices for package holiday trips. Dampening these advances were declines in the Housing, Food and Health Care indexes. Within Housing, declines in household operating expenses and household textile prices were recorded. The drop in the Food index was mainly due to lower prices for fresh fruit, dairy products and cereal products. The Health Care index fell as a result of decreased charges for eye care services. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 1.7%.

Montreal

Higher prices for clothing, gasoline and air travel were among the main contributors to the 0.2% rise in the All-items index. The Food index also rose, reflecting higher prices for fresh vegetables, beef, pork and soft drinks. Price increases for package holiday trips also exerted a notable upward impact. The Housing index remained unchanged overall, as increased charges for owned accommodation were offset by decreased prices for household furnishings and equipment. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 2.0%.

Ottawa

The All-items index rose 0.3%. A rise in the Food index was a major contributor and was due mainly to higher prices for fresh vegetables, beef, sugar, poultry and soft drinks. Increased charges for personal care supplies and eye care had a notable upward impact, as did price increases for package holiday trips. Further upward pressure came from higher prices for clothing, increased vehicle insurance premiums and higher air fares. Partially offsetting these advances were lower prices for cigarettes and decreased housing charges. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 2.5%.

Toronto

No overall change was recorded in the All-items index, as advances in three of the seven major component indexes were completely offset by declines in the remaining four. Higher food prices (notably for fresh vegetables, cereal and bakery products, fish, pork, soft drinks and beef) exerted the greatest upward influence. Further upward pressure came from price increases for package holiday trips and personal care supplies. Among those factors exerting a downward impact were decreased charges for owned accommodation, lower prices for household furnishings and equipment, and a decline in clothing and gasoline prices. The costs of cigarettes and liquor purchased from stores also declined. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 1.7%.

Thunder Bay

The All-items index fell 0.1%, reflecting declines in the Housing, Food and Clothing indexes. Within the Housing component, decreased charges for owned accommodation were recorded, along with declines in household operating expenses and and lower prices for household furnishings. The drop in the Food index was mainly due to lower prices for pork, chicken, prepared meats, fresh fruit and soft drinks. Partially offsetting these declines were higher transportation charges (notably for air fares and vehicle insurance premiums) and increased charges for non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies. Prices for package holiday trips and cigarettes advanced, also. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 2.1%.

Winnipeg

The All-items index rose 0.2%, mainly reflecting advances in the Transportation and Housing indexes.

Within Transportation, higher prices were posted for vehicle insurance premiums, air fares and vehicle registration fees. The rise in the Housing index was due mainly to increased charges for owned accommodation and higher household operating expenses. Increased charges for personal care supplies, package holiday trips and alcoholic beverages were recorded as well. The Clothing index declined in March. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 3.0%.

Regina

The All-items index fell 0.3%. The major downward pressure came from the Transportation index, where lower prices for gasoline were recorded. The Housing index fell slightly, reflecting decreased charges for long-distance telephone calls and lower prices for household furnishings and equipment. The Food index also declined overall, as lower prices for fresh fruit, cereal and bakery products, pork, dairy products and eggs more than offset higher prices for fresh vegetables and beef. Partially offsetting these declines were higher prices for alcoholic beverages, personal care supplies, prescribed medicines and men's wear. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 2.6%.

Saskatoon

The All-items index fell 0.1%, reflecting declines in the Food, Transportation and Housing indexes. Within the Food component, lower prices were registered for cereal and bakery products, beef, fresh fruit, pork and prepared meats. The drop in the Transportation index was due to lower prices for gasoline, while the fall in the Housing index reflected decreased charges for long-distance telephone calls. Partially offsetting these declines were higher prices for alcoholic beverages, men's wear, recreation equipment and prescribed medicines. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 2.9%.

Edmonton

The All-items index fell 1.5%. The greatest downward impact came from a large decline (-9.7%) in the Food index, mainly attributable to price-war activities. Further downward pressure came from lower prices for cigarettes and personal care supplies and from lower household operating expenses. Higher prices for gasoline and increased air fares had an upward impact. Prices for men's wear rose as well. The All-items index stood at the same level in March 1993 as it did in March 1992.

Caigary

The All-items index fell 1.3%. A large drop (-6.0%) in the Food index, mainly reflecting price-war activities, had the greatest downward impact. A drop in the Housing index was recorded, largely due to declines in household operating expenses, household furnishings and equipment prices and in owned accommodation charges. Further downward pressure came from lower prices for gasoline. The All-items index stood at the same level in March 1993 as it did in March 1992.

Vancouver

The All-items index fell 0.1%, as declines were recorded in four of the seven major component indexes. The greatest downward impact came from the Food index, where lower prices were recorded for beef, dairy products, fresh fruit, restaurant meals, chicken, cereal and bakery products, and soft drinks. Prices were also lower for gasoline, personal care supplies, eye care and alcoholic beverages. Largely offsetting these declines were higher housing charges, particularly for owned accommodation, household equipment, rented accommodation and basic telephone service. Higher clothing prices were also recorded. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 3.6%.

Victoria

The All-items index rose 0.1%. Higher food prices were recorded, particularly for fresh vegetables, soft drinks, cured meats, poultry and pork. Prices increased for clothing, personal care supplies and prescribed and non-prescribed medicines. The Housing index also rose, reflecting higher prices for household furnishings and equipment, increased

charges for rented accommodation, and higher prices for basic telephone service. Moderating these advances were price declines for gasoline, vehicle rentals and alcoholic beverages. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 3.2%.

Whitehorse

The All-items index rose 0.6%. Among the main contributors were higher food prices, most notably for soft drinks, cereal and bakery products, pork, fresh produce and beef. Advances in clothing prices and rented accommodation charges also had a considerable upward impact. Higher air fares were also recorded. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 1.0%.

Yeijowknife

The All-items index rose 0.2%. Increased housing charges (household operation, household textiles and fuel oil) were reported, along with advances in air fares and vehicle rental charges. The Food index was up, reflecting price increases for bakery products, restaurant meals, fresh vegetables, beef, cured meats and prepared meats. Further upward pressure came from higher prices for cigarettes, non-prescribed medicines and recreation equipment. Since March 1992, the All-items index has risen 1.4%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2201-2230.

The March 1993 issue of Consumer Price Index (62-001, \$9.30/\$93) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres
The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.¹

	All- items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transpor- tation	Health and Personal care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
St. John's								
March 1993 index	123.8	117.1	118.3	133.9	119.8	127.2	132.0	150.3
% change from February 1993	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	1.4	0.3	0.0
% change from March 1992	1.4	1.0	0.3	1.2	1.2	1.8	0.6	7.4
Charlottetown/Summerside								
March 1993 index	128.8	127.2	120.9	127.5	119.8	139.3	133.7	187.9
% change from February 1993	0.3	0.5	0.2	1.4	-0.2	0.3	0.4	0.0
% change from March 1992	1.6	2.3	1.2	1.1	1.6	4.0	1.4	0.9
Halifax				400.0	440.0	100.0	100.0	474.5
March 1993 index	126.4	128.6	118.9	129.8	119.2	130.6	129.0	171.5
% change from February 1993	0.1	0.4	-0.1	0.6	-0.4	0.8	0.6	0.0
% change from March 1992	-0.1	-0.3	-0.5	0.7	0.3	2.4	0.5	-0.4
Saint John	100 5	100.0	400.5	100.0	100.0	1000	407.0	1707
March 1993 index	126.5	126.2	120.5	130.9	120.3	132.6	127.6	172.7 0.0
% change from February 1993 % change from March 1992	0.2 0.8	0.4 2.0	-0.2 0.6	0.7 1.3	0.0 1.3	0.8 4.3	0.2 0.7	-4.6
•	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	4.0	0.7	4.0
Quebec City March 1993 index	129.1	119.0	127.3	137.7	118.6	135.3	137.5	168.7
% change from February 1993	0.2	-0.2	-0.1	1.1	0.3	-0.4	0.3	0.0
% change from March 1992	1.7	-0.5	1.1	1.9	3.9	3.3	3.2	1.5
Montreal								
March 1993 index	131.3	121.2	130.7	137.7	120.5	135.8	140.3	173.8
% change from February 1993	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1
% change from March 1992	2.0	0.6	1.9	1.7	3.1	4.4	2.6	1.8
Ottawa							•	
March 1993 index	130.1	125.0	127.6	131.2	125.4	138.6	133.8	165.1
% change from February 1993	0.3	1.2	-0.1	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.5	-0.7
% change from March 1992	2.5	7.0	1.6	0.9	2.0	4.8	1.7	0.9
Toronto	404.0	404.5	404.0	100.0	107.1	107.0	105.0	105 5
March 1993 index	131.6	124.5	131.0	130.0	127.1	137.3	135.2	165.5 -0.1
% change from February 1993 % change from March 1992	0.0 1.7	0.7 2.7	-0.2 0.8	-0.2 -0.1	-0.2 3.7	0.3 2.4	0.2 1.4	1.9
•	•••	,	0.0	•			•••	
Thunder Bay March 1993 index	129.1	121.9	126.2	132.0	125.7	130.0	133.1	170.1
% change from February 1993	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1
% change from March 1992	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.5	2.9	3.6	1.8	1.3
Winnipeg								
March 1993 index	129.6	126.4	124.5	131.9	127.2	132.3	135.4	165.8
% change from February 1993	0.2	-0.9	0.4	-0.2	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.2
% change from March 1992	3.0	2.0	1.1	1.5	8.2	4.4	4.2	2.3
Regina								
March 1993 index	129.3	129.0	119.6	131.5	129.7	143.1	131.4	175.1
% change from February 1993 % change from March 1992	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	-1.6 5.1	0.3 2.5	0.1	0.3 9.0
	2.6	2.1	1.1	1.4		2 5	1.6	

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres – Concluded

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.1

	All- items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transpor- tation	Health and Personal care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
Saskatoon				* '	· ·			
March 1993 index	128.6	128.5	119.4	130.7	126.4	156.3	131.3	160.7
% change from February 1993	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4
% change from March 1992	2.9	2.1	0.3	1.6	7.4	3.7	3.3	7.3
Edmonton								
March 1993 index	126.0	108.6	122.7	129.0	125.9	131.3	133.2	181.4
% change from February 1993	-1.5	-9.7	-0.1	0.1	1.1	-0.7	0.0	-0.5
% change from March 1992	0.0	-9.3	0.7	0.1	4.4	3.5	2.1	1.6
Calgary								
March 1993 index	126.1	113.1	121.6	130.0	122.1	130.3	133.5	181.0
% change from February 1993	-1.3	-6.0	-0.5	0.1	-0.5	0.1	-0.1	0.0
% change from March 1992	0.0	-6.3	-0.1	0.3	2.7	4.2	2.5	1.7
Vancouver								
March 1993 index	130.9	129.9	124.8	126.3	135.5	126.3	132.5	165.6
% change from February 1993	-0.1	-1.1	0.6	0.6	-0.2	-0.8	0.1	-0.2
% change from March 1992	3.6	2.1	3.7	1.5	6.3	3.0	2.6	4.8
Victoria						•		
March 1993 index	129.4	129.6	121.6	128.1	133.4	127.7	132.0	164.0
% change from February 1993	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.5	-0.4	0.8	-0.2	-0.2
% change from March 1992	3.2	3.7	2.8	1.6	4.9	3.7	1.9	3.1
Whitehorse								
March 1993 index	124.7	119.2	123.7	132.6	117.0	124.8	124.9	149.8
% change from February 1993	0.6	1.3	0.4	1.9	0.3	-0.4	-0.2	0.0
% change from March 1992	1.0	0.4	1.2	1.8	3.1	-4.2	-0.8	0.9
Yellowknife								
March 1993 index	126.3	116.9	121.0	133.5	121.9	122.1	129.5	165.2
% change from February 1993	0.2	0.2	0.3	-0.4	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.1
% change from March 1992	1.4	-1.4	1.1	1.4	3.4	2.0	2.9	2.5

For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 23 of the July-September 1989 issue of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, \$17.25/\$69.00).

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns February 1993

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,381 million for February 1993, an increase of 1.4% over the \$1,362 million reported for February 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.

The February 1993 issue of Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns (63-011, \$6.10/\$61) will be available in about three weeks. See "How to Order Publications"

For more detailed information on this release, contact William Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services, Science and Technology Division.

Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products April 1, 1993

Preliminary data on the amount of frozen poultry products in cold storage at April 1, 1993 and revised figures for March 1, 1993 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Jean-Pierre Séguin (613-951-2550), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division.



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

The Dairy Review, February 1993. Catalogue number 23-001

(Canada: \$12.20/\$122; United States: US\$14.60/US\$146; Other Countries: US\$17.10/US\$171).

Pack of Apple and Apple Products, 1991. Catalogue number 32-241

(Canada: \$13; United States: US\$16; Other

Countries: US\$18).

The Labour Force, March 1993. Catalogue number 71-001

(Canada: \$17.90/\$179; United States: US\$21.50/US\$215; Other Countries: US\$25.10/US\$251).

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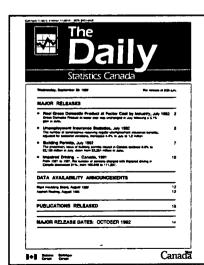
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