

Consumer Price Index, March 2026

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Monday, April 20, 2026

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 2.4% year over year in March, up from an increase of 1.8% in February.

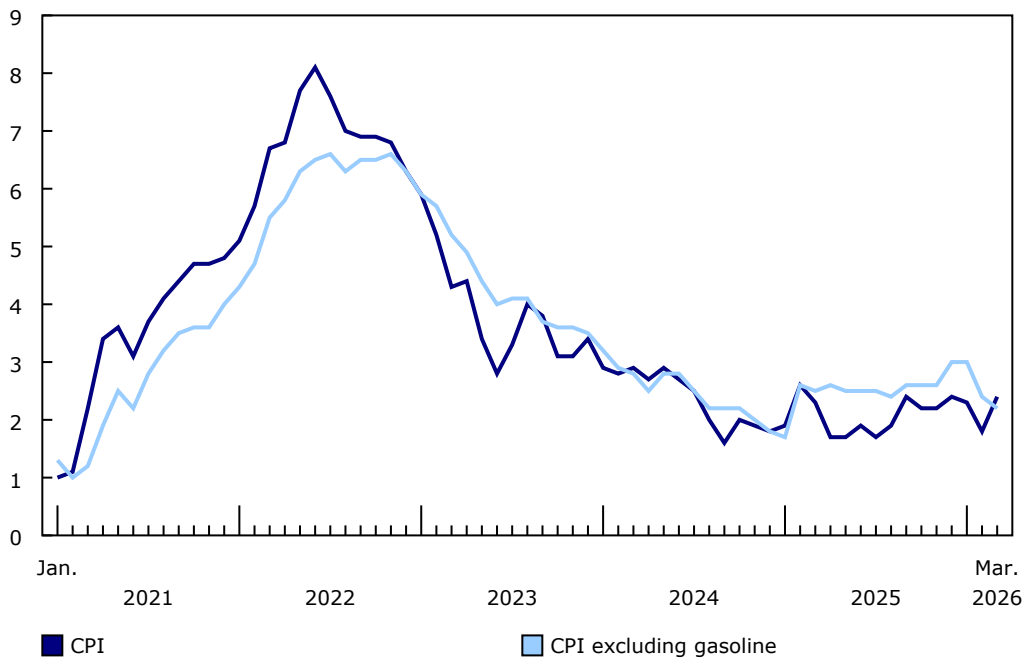
Driving faster price growth in headline inflation were higher prices for energy, especially gasoline, due to the conflict in the Middle East. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose at a slower pace year over year in March (+2.2%) compared with February (+2.4%).

There remained lingering base-year effects from the [GST/HST break](#) which ran from December 2024 to February 2025, resulting in downward pressure on headline inflation in March 2026.

The CPI was up 0.9% month over month in March. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI increased 0.5%.

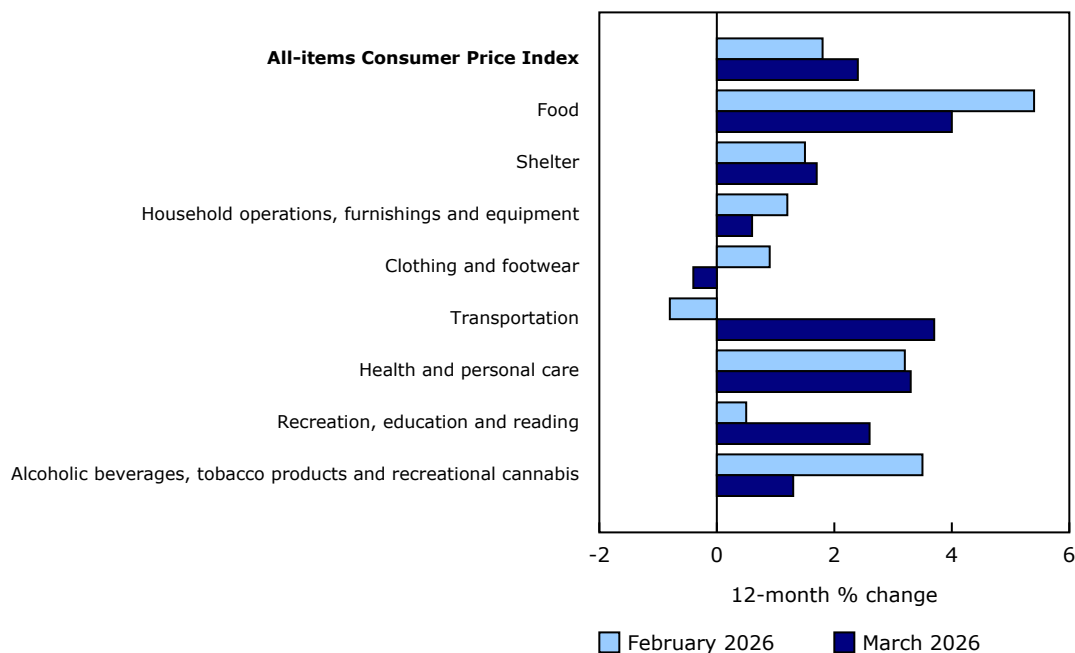
Chart 1
The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and CPI excluding gasoline

12-month % change



Source(s): Table [18-10-0004-01](#).

Chart 2
Higher prices in the transportation component contribute to faster growth in the all-items Consumer Price Index



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

Higher energy prices drive up inflation

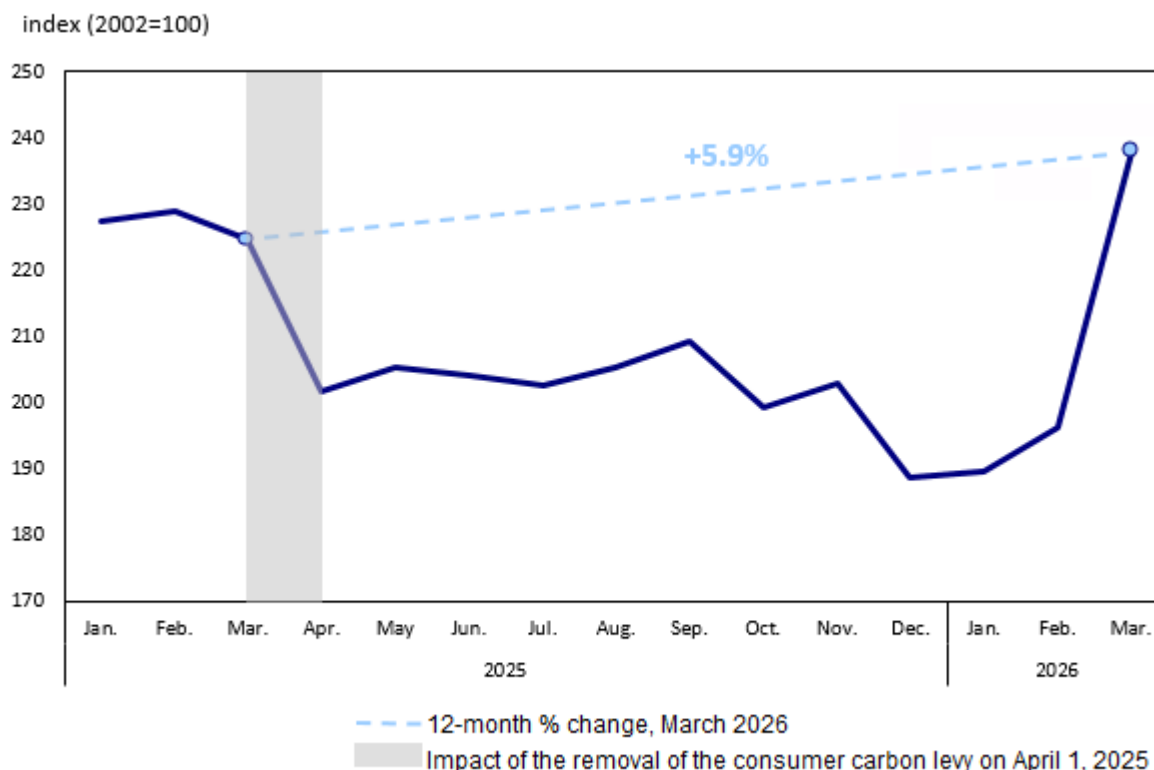
Energy prices rose 3.9% on a year-over-year basis in March, after decreasing 9.3% in February. On a monthly basis, energy prices rose 13.1% in March.

Higher prices for gasoline were the primary driver of the year-over-year acceleration in the CPI, as consumers paid 5.9% more for gasoline in March than they did in the same month the previous year. Prices surged 21.2% on a monthly basis, the largest price increase for gasoline on record, due to the supply shock resulting from the conflict in the Middle East. However, this monthly effect was muted on a year-over-year basis due to the comparison with prices from March 2025, which included the since-removed consumer carbon levy. The removal of the consumer carbon levy will no longer impact the 12-month movement as of April 2026, and this will be reflected in next month's CPI release.

On a year-over-year basis, consumers paid more for fuel oil and other fuels (+26.1%) in March compared with February due to higher oil prices resulting from the conflict in the Middle East.

Moderating the acceleration in energy prices were lower prices for natural gas (-18.1%), which are largely dependent on North American supply and therefore more insulated from global price changes.

Infographic 1 – Gasoline prices surge in March



Prices rise for fresh vegetables year over year

Prices for food purchased from stores rose 4.4% on a yearly basis in March, after increasing 4.1% in February.

On a year-over-year basis, prices for fresh vegetables increased 7.8% in March, the largest increase since August 2023 (+8.7%), after rising 0.5% in February. Cucumbers, peppers and celery all had notable price growth in March, due in part to tighter supplies related to adverse growing conditions in producing countries.

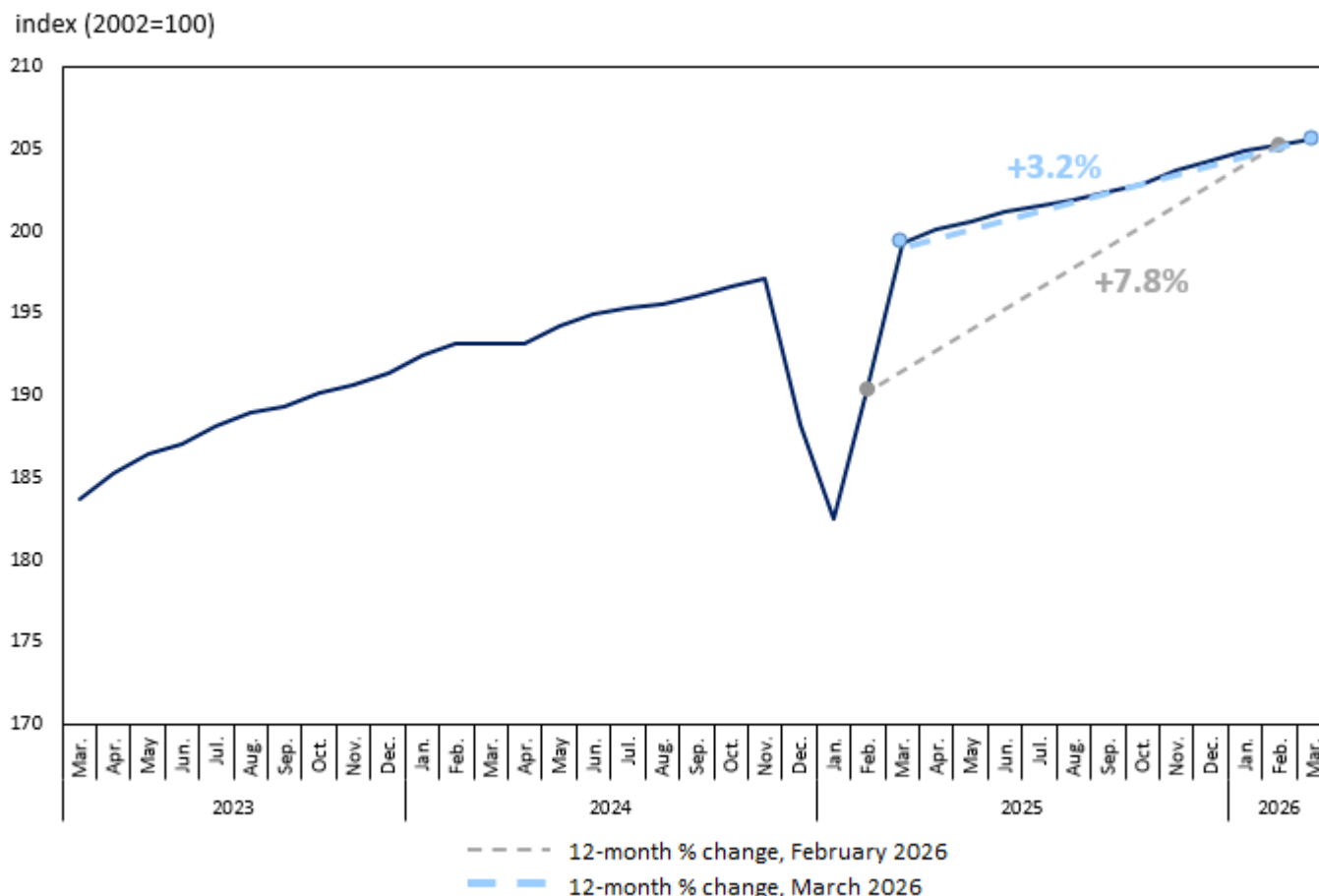
Slower price growth from the final base-year effect of the GST/HST break

Prices rose for consumers on a number of products and services in March 2025 with the full reintroduction of the GST/HST, following the temporary GST/HST break from December 2024 to February 2025. This increase fell out of the 12-month movement of the CPI in March 2026, putting downward pressure on the CPI.

Prices for food purchased from restaurants continued to grow year over year at a slower pace. After increasing 7.8% in February, prices rose 3.2% in March due to a base-year effect.

Slower growth for alcoholic beverages purchased from stores (+2.0%) and toys, games (excluding video games) and hobby supplies (+1.5%) also contributed to the downward pressure in March.

Infographic 2 – Slower price growth for food purchased from restaurants due to a base-year effect from the end of the GST/HST break



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

The GST/HST break

The prices included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) are final prices, inclusive of all excise and other taxes paid by consumers. In particular, prices include the Goods and Services Tax (GST), provincial retail sales taxes (PST) or the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), as well as any environmental, liquor and tobacco taxes if applicable. This means that the CPI can change as a result of changes in any of these taxes.

The GST/HST exemption began on December 14, 2024, and ended on February 15, 2025, affecting approximately 10% of the CPI basket.

Resulting base-year effect

The headline consumer inflation is measured as the percentage change between the CPI in the current month (March 2026) and the CPI in a base month or the same calendar month of the previous year (March 2025). A base-year effect refers to the impact that price movements from 12 months earlier have on the current month's headline consumer inflation. When a large 1-month upward price change in the base month stops influencing,

or falls out of, the 12-month price movement, this has a downward effect on headline CPI in the current month. Conversely, when a large 1-month downward price change in the base month falls out, this creates upward pressure on the current month's 12-month figure.

March 2026 will be the final month affected by a base-year effect due to the GST/HST break.

Explore the Consumer Price Index tools

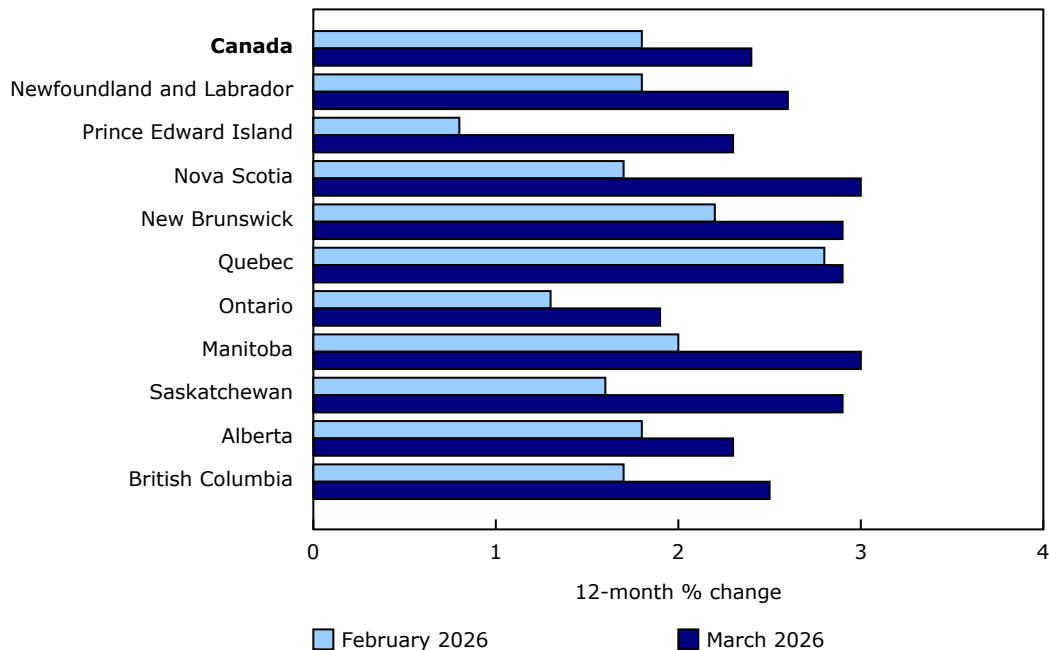
Check out the [Personal Inflation Calculator](#). This interactive calculator allows you to enter dollar amounts in the common expense categories to produce a personalized inflation rate, which you can compare with the official measure of inflation for the average Canadian household—the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Browse the [Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#) to access current ([Latest Snapshot of the CPI](#)) and historical ([Price trends: 1914 to today](#)) CPI data in a customizable visual format.

Regional highlights

Year over year, prices rose at a faster pace in all provinces in March compared with February. Prices in Quebec accelerated the least, ticking up from a 2.8% increase in February to a 2.9% increase in March, due to slower growth in rent prices.

Chart 3
The Consumer Price Index increases at a faster pace in all provinces



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

Note to readers

Visit the [Consumer Price Index portal](#) to find all Consumer Price Index (CPI) data, publications, interactive tools and announcements highlighting new products and upcoming changes to the CPI in one convenient location.

Real-time data tables

Real-time data table [18-10-0259-01](#) will be updated on May 4. For more information, consult the document, "[Real-time data tables.](#)"

Next release

The Consumer Price Index for April will be released on Tuesday, May 19.

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

	Relative importance ^{1,2}	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026	February to March 2026	March 2025 to March 2026
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	100.00	163.5	165.9	167.4	0.9	2.4
Food	16.91	193.8	200.8	201.5	0.3	4.0
Shelter	29.41	187.0	189.5	190.1	0.3	1.7
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	13.25	131.3	133.3	132.1	-0.9	0.6
Clothing and footwear	4.38	94.4	93.7	94.0	0.3	-0.4
Transportation	16.90	173.1	172.2	179.5	4.2	3.7
Gasoline	3.23	224.7	196.3	238.0	21.2	5.9
Health and personal care	5.05	152.0	156.7	157.0	0.2	3.3
Recreation, education and reading	10.12	128.6	130.2	132.0	1.4	2.6
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.99	199.7	202.0	202.2	0.1	1.3
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	83.09	158.0	159.6	161.2	1.0	2.0
All-items excluding food and energy	77.26	153.7	156.4	156.6	0.1	1.9
All-items excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smokers' supplies and recreational cannabis	96.01	162.4	164.7	166.3	1.0	2.4
All-items excluding energy	94.17	160.3	163.7	164.0	0.2	2.3
All-items excluding gasoline	96.77	161.3	164.5	164.9	0.2	2.2
Energy ³	5.83	204.0	187.3	211.9	13.1	3.9
Goods	44.45	146.1	146.4	149.2	1.9	2.1
Durable goods	12.75	105.1	106.3	106.5	0.2	1.3
Semi-durable goods	7.11	103.9	103.0	103.2	0.2	-0.7
Non-durable goods	24.59	184.8	185.0	190.9	3.2	3.3
Services	55.55	180.6	185.0	185.2	0.1	2.5

1. 2024 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at April 2025 prices, Canada, effective with the May 2025 CPI.

2. Figures may not add up to 100% as a result of rounding.

3. The special aggregate "energy" comprises electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and accessories for recreational vehicles.

Source(s): Tables [18-10-0004-01](#) and [18-10-0007-01](#).

Table 2
Consumer Price Index for the provinces and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ^{1,2}	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026	February to March 2026	March 2025 to March 2026
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
Canada	100.00	163.5	165.9	167.4	0.9	2.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	163.6	165.5	167.8	1.4	2.6
Prince Edward Island	0.36	167.7	168.4	171.5	1.8	2.3
Nova Scotia	2.45	167.4	169.2	172.4	1.9	3.0
New Brunswick	1.88	162.8	165.5	167.6	1.3	2.9
Quebec	20.66	159.7	163.1	164.3	0.7	2.9
Ontario	40.20	165.1	166.7	168.2	0.9	1.9
Manitoba	3.17	163.8	167.1	168.7	1.0	3.0
Saskatchewan	2.75	165.2	167.8	170.0	1.3	2.9
Alberta	12.30	172.0	174.4	175.9	0.9	2.3
British Columbia	14.78	157.8	160.3	161.7	0.9	2.5
Whitehorse	0.08	162.0	166.6	168.0	0.8	3.7
Yellowknife	0.07	163.5	164.9	166.3	0.8	1.7
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	145.1	145.8	146.0	0.1	0.6

1. 2024 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at April 2025 prices, effective with the May 2025 CPI.

2. Figures may not add up to 100% as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Tables [18-10-0004-01](#) and [18-10-0007-01](#).

Table 3
Consumer Price Index, major components and special aggregates – Seasonally adjusted¹

	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	January to February 2026	February to March 2026
	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	166.2	166.5	167.3	0.2	0.5
Food	200.0	200.5	201.3	0.3	0.4
Shelter	189.6	189.5	190.1	-0.1	0.3
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	134.1	133.3	132.8	-0.6	-0.4
Clothing and footwear	94.2	94.3	93.6	0.1	-0.7
Transportation	172.0	173.9	178.0	1.1	2.4
Health and personal care	157.0	157.3	157.8	0.2	0.3
Recreation, education and reading	129.6	130.9	131.2	1.0	0.2
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	201.7	202.0	202.0	0.1	0.0
Special aggregates					
All-items excluding food	159.8	160.3	161.2	0.3	0.6
All-items excluding food and energy ²	156.6	156.8	156.8	0.1	0.0

1. A seasonally adjusted series is one from which seasonal movements have been eliminated. 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 release of January data. Users employing Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for indexation purposes are advised to use the unadjusted indexes. For more information on the availability and uses of seasonally adjusted CPI data, please see the "Definitions, data sources and methods" section of survey ([2301](#)).

2. The special aggregate "energy" comprises electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and accessories for recreational vehicles.

Source(s): Table [18-10-0006-01](#).

Table 4
Consumer Price Index (CPI) statistics, measures of core inflation – Bank of Canada definitions, Canada^{1,2}

	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
	year-over-year % change					
CPI-common ^{3,5}	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.6
CPI-median ^{4,6}	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.3
CPI-trim ^{4,7}	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.2
	index (January 1989=100)					
CPI-median ^{4,6}	221.1	221.4	221.5	221.8	222.1	222.6
CPI-trim ^{4,7}	217.4	217.7	217.8	218.0	218.1	218.5

1. For more information on these measures of core inflation, please consult the [methodology](#) and [general information](#) documents found in the "Definitions, data sources and methods" section of survey [\(2301\)](#).
2. The Bank of Canada's measures of core inflation, CPI-common, CPI-median and CPI-trim are subject to revision. In the case of CPI-median and CPI-trim, this results from the fact that these measures are based on seasonally adjusted price index series. In the case of CPI-common, revisions are due to the statistical technique used, as the factor model is estimated over all available historical data. Table 18-10-0259-01 contains the historical release data for these three measures and will be updated every month.
3. This measure is based on the CPI series adjusted to remove the effect of changes in indirect taxes.
4. This measure is based on CPI series that have been treated to remove the effect of changes in indirect taxes and that have been seasonally adjusted.
5. CPI-common is a measure of core inflation that tracks common price changes across categories in the CPI basket.
6. CPI-median is a measure of core inflation corresponding to the price change located at the 50th percentile (in terms of CPI basket weights) of the distribution of price changes in a given month.
7. CPI-trim is a measure of core inflation that excludes CPI components whose rates of change in a given month are located in the tails of the distribution of price changes.

Source(s): Table [18-10-0256-01](#).

Table 5
Main contributors to the 12-month and 1-month change in the Consumer Price Index

March 2025 to March 2026	
	% change
Main contributors to the 12-month change	
Main upward contributors	
Rent	4.2
Gasoline	5.9
Food purchased from restaurants	3.2
Purchase of passenger vehicles	2.9
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	7.0
Main downward contributors	
Natural gas	-18.1
Homeowners' replacement cost	-2.1
Other owned accommodation expenses	-2.7
Women's clothing	-2.7
Furniture	-2.8
February to March 2026	
	% change
Main contributors to the 1-month change, not seasonally adjusted	
Main upward contributors	
Gasoline	21.2
Travel tours	5.8
Fuel oil and other fuels	21.5
Fuel, parts and accessories for recreational vehicles	18.0
Air transportation	4.9
Main downward contributors	
Telephone services	-6.1
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	-1.0
Furniture	-1.5
Sugar and confectionery	-3.2
Mortgage interest cost	-0.2

Source(s): Table [18-10-0004-01](#).

Available tables: [18-10-0001-01](#), [18-10-0004-01](#), [18-10-0006-01](#) and [18-10-0256-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2301](#).

The "[Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#)" is available on the Statistics Canada website.

More information on the concepts and use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is available in *The Canadian Consumer Price Index Reference Paper* ([62-553-X](#)).

For information on the history of the CPI in Canada, consult the publication *Exploring the first century of Canada's Consumer Price Index* ([62-604-X](#)).

Two videos, "[An Overview of Canada's Consumer Price Index \(CPI\)](#)" and "[The Consumer Price Index \(CPI\) and Your Experience of Price Change](#)," are available on Statistics Canada's YouTube channel.

The podcast "[Eh Sayers Episode 18 - Why Food Inflation Is Such A Hard Nut To Crack](#)" is also available.

Find out [answers to the most common questions](#) posed about the CPI in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).