

Consumer Price Index



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Consumer Price Index (2002=100) Highlights

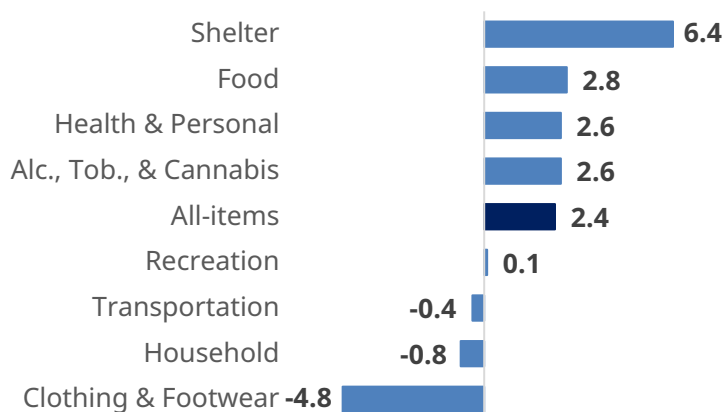
British Columbia's Consumer Price Index (CPI) in August 2024 was 2.4% higher (*unadjusted*) than in August 2023. Shelter (+6.4%) had the highest price increase, followed by food (+2.8%), health and personal care (+2.6%), alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis (+2.6%) while a small price increase was observed for recreation, education and reading (+0.1%). At the same time, prices decreased for clothing and footwear (-4.8%), household operations, furnishings, and equipment (-0.8%), and transportation (-0.4%). On a monthly basis, the CPI was down 0.1% from July 2024.

On a year-over-year basis, the cost of shelter went up in August as the cost of rented accommodation (+9.1%) and homeownership (+5.7%) both increased. For owned accommodation, the largest price increases were for property taxes and other special charges (+7.5%) and home and mortgage insurance (+6.5%). Within the shelter category, the cost of fuel oil and other fuels (-5.4%) and natural gas (-1.8%) decreased while the cost of water (+5.2%), and electricity (+3.7%) both increased.

Within the food category, the prices for meals purchased from restaurants (+2.8%) and food purchased from stores (+2.7%) both increased when compared to the previous year. Foods categories with the highest price increases included meat (+3.4%), other food products and non-alcoholic

Inflation by Category

% change, same month previous year



beverages (+3.4%), vegetables and vegetable preparations (+3.3%), dairy products and eggs (+3.2%), and fruit, fruit preparations and nuts (+3.0%). Fish, seafood, and other marine products was the only major food category to decrease in price (-2.3%).

British Columbians paid more for both health (+3.1%) and personal (+2.3%) care when compared to 12-months ago. Within these categories the largest price increases were for both health (+4.4%) and personal (+2.4%) care services. While personal care services include things like hairdressing, health care services include things like eye and dental care.

Compared to the previous year, British Columbians paid more for alcoholic beverages (+2.3%) and tobacco products and smokers' supplies (+4.1%). At the same time, the price of recreational cannabis, which is measured separately from tobacco products and smokers' supplies, remained unchanged compared to 12-months ago.

Regional Highlights

Canada's CPI was up 2.0% (*unadjusted*) in August 2024 when compared to August 2023. British Columbia (+2.4%) had the highest rate of inflation followed by Ontario (+2.1%) and Alberta (+2.0%). All other provinces had an inflation rate below 2.0%, led by New Brunswick (+1.8%), Quebec (+1.5%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.3%), Manitoba (+1.3%), Prince Edward Island (+1.2%), Nova Scotia (+1.2%), and Saskatchewan (+1.1%). Within British Columbia, consumer prices in Victoria increased by 2.4%, matching the provincial average, while the rate of increase in Vancouver (+2.2%) fell below the provincial average.

Latest 12-month Average Index

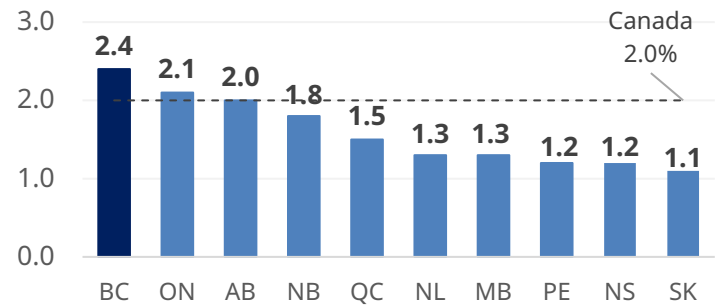
The latest 12-month average index is a moving average of the consumer price index. By nature of the calculation, averaging the index gives a better representation of price behaviour in the past year by mitigating the effects of unusual or temporary events.

As of August 2024, the 12-month average price index for all-items in British Columbia was 154.0, a 2.9% increase when compared to the previous 12-month average. Energy had an average price index of 212.8 (-2.4%) while the average food price index climbed to 180.9 (+4.0%). Within British Columbia's census metropolitan areas (CMAs), the latest 12-month average price index increased in both Vancouver to 156.9 (+3.0%) and Victoria to 150.8 (+2.7%).

Note: Statistics Canada will release the September 2024 Consumer Price Index on October 15, 2024.

Inflation by Province

% change, same month previous year

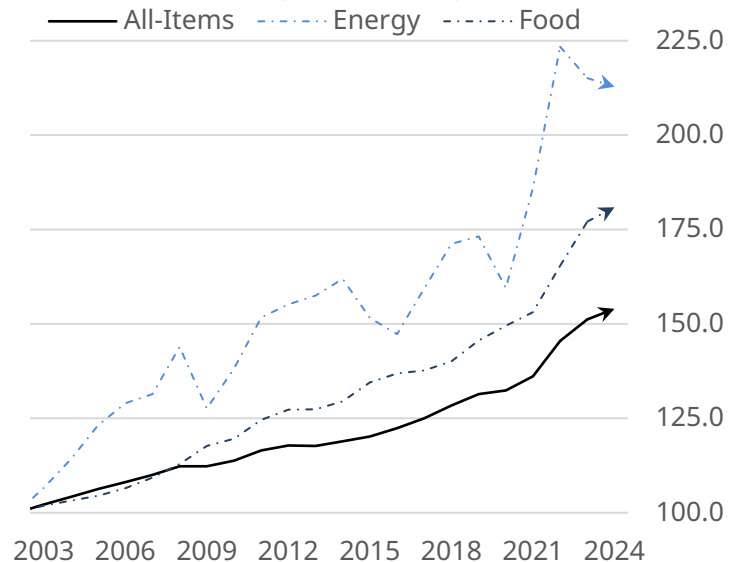


Latest 12-month Average Index

	2002=100	Index ¹	% Change ²
Canada		159.9	2.9
B.C.		154.0	2.9
Energy		212.8	-2.4
Food		180.9	4.0
Vancouver		156.9	3.0
Victoria		150.8	2.7

Annual Average Index

2024 is the 12-month average index as of Aug 2024



¹ Average of the indices of the most recent 12 months. December figures are annual averages published by Statistics Canada.

² Percent change from the previous 12-month average.

Terms and Definitions

Base effect

The 12-month variation in the CPI is calculated by comparing the current month's index with the index for the same month of the previous year. The 12-month change is represented by the difference in the indices of the reference months. Thus, the 12-month variation can decrease from one month to the next merely because the base serving as the point of comparison increased.

12-Month Percent Changes

Also referred to as "year-over-year", 12-month percent changes compare indices for a given month to indices for the same month of the previous year. As they compare two points in time, they are influenced by unusual or temporary events that can affect either of the two months. Their calculation does not include any of the intervening monthly indices.

Annual Average Index

Annual average indices are calculated by averaging index levels over the 12 months of the calendar year. These data should not be confused with the 12-month change in the CPI. By the nature of the calculation, averaging indices over the calendar year gives a better representation of price behaviour over the whole year and is closer to the concept of an average price. The use of annual average is considered the preferred option for indexation purposes.

Latest 12-Month Average Index

The latest 12-month average index (ending in the current month) is a 12-month moving average of the indices of the most recent 12 months. It is calculated like the annual average index. Hence, in theory, the December 12-month average index would be equal to the annual average index for the calendar year. However, in practice, when BC Stats makes these calculations from published data, the December 12-month average index may differ from Statistics Canada's published annual average index due to rounding.

Additional Information

CPI uses a base period of 2002 for most items/categories. Recreational cannabis has a base period of December 2018. More information about the concepts and use of the CPI is available online in the Statistics Canada publication [The Canadian Consumer Price Index Reference Paper](#) (catalogue 62-553-X).

In September 2024, Statistics Canada updated their methodology and data sources for the cellular services price index. More information on the enhance approach can be found here: [Updated Methodology for the Compilation of the Cellular Services Price Index](#).

For more information, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/BCStatsRequests.

Prepared by: BC Stats, September 2024