

Consumer Price Index



BCStats

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Consumer Price Index (2002=100)

Highlights

British Columbia's consumer price index (CPI) in May 2022 was 8.1% higher (*unadjusted*) than in May 2021. On a monthly basis, the CPI was up 1.3% from April 2022. The year-over-year inflation rate in May 2022 was 6.8% with food and energy excluded from the index.

The cost of food climbed 7.8% from May of 2021. The prices for meals purchased from restaurants (+5.5%) and groceries purchased from stores (+8.6%) both increased when compared to the previous year. Within the food category, there was a year-over-year increase in price for all items. The largest increases in price were for bakery & other cereal products (+10.1%), meat (+9.7%), and fresh vegetables (+8.1%).

On a year-over-year basis, the cost of shelter went up (+8.4%) in May as the cost of homeownership (+9.4%) and renting (+5.5%) increased. Within the shelter category, the cost of fuel oil and other fuel (+59.0%), piped gas (+18.3%), and electricity (+1.0%) all increased.

The overall cost of clothing and footwear in May was up slightly (+0.8%) when compared to the same month in 2021. While the price of clothing decreased (-0.9%), the price of footwear (+0.2%) increased.

The transportation index increased 14.8% in May from the same month in 2021. As the price for gasoline (+42.0%) climbed, the cost of private (+15.4%) and

public (+3.8%) transportation rose in the past 12 months. In May, public transportation passengers paid more to travel within (+1.8%) and between (+7.0%) cities.

Compared to a year ago, consumers paid more for recreation, education and reading (+7.5%), household operations and furnishings (+6.1%), alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+5.4%), and health and personal care (3.0%). While all items within these categories had price increases, the most significant included household furnishings (+9.6%), recreation (+9.1%), and alcoholic beverages (+7.2%).

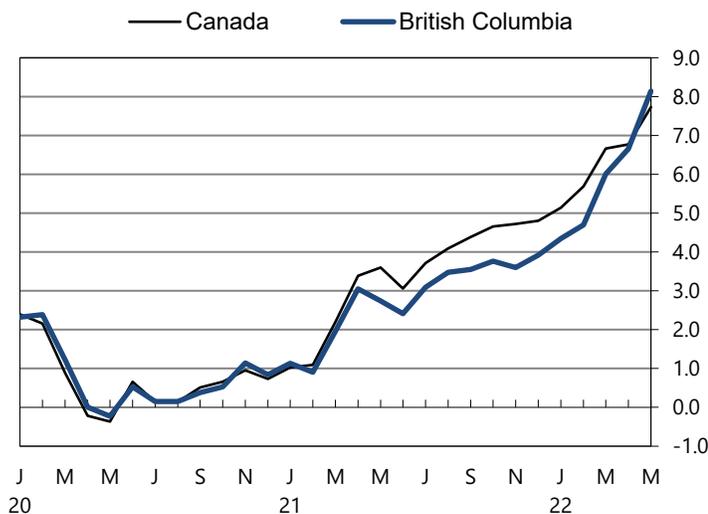
At the city level, consumer prices increased in Vancouver (+8.2%) and Victoria (+8.2%) compared to May 2021.

Canada's CPI was up 7.7% (*unadjusted*) in May, with the largest increase in the rate of inflation in Prince Edward Island (+11.1%), followed by Nova Scotia (+8.8%), New Brunswick (+8.8%), and Manitoba (+8.7%). At 8.1%, British Columbia had the sixth lowest rate of inflation when compared to other provinces.

2002=100	All-Items Index May 2022	% Change from	
		April 2022	May 2021
Canada	151.9	1.4	7.7
B.C.	146.1	1.3	8.1
Vancouver	148.5	1.2	8.2
Victoria	143.8	1.5	8.2
Canada-X ¹	147.3	0.8	6.1
B.C. (excluding energy)	140.9	0.9	6.9

¹ Defined by the Bank of Canada as the All-Items Index excluding the eight most volatile components (fruit, vegetables, gasoline, fuel oil, natural gas, mortgage interest, inter-city transportation and tobacco products). Also excluded is the effect of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components.

B.C. and Canada Inflation Trend (% change, same month of previous year)



2002=100	Latest 12-month Average Index (ending in May 2022)	Latest 12-month Average % Change	Annual (Calendar Yr) Average % Change
Canada	145.3	5.1	3.4
B.C.	139.5	4.5	2.8
Vancouver	141.9	4.4	2.7
Victoria	137.0	4.2	2.5

Did You Know?

In June 2022, the basket of goods and services used in the calculation of the CPI was updated. The new basket weights, based on 2021 expenditure data, are reflected in the May 2022 CPI release.

With the new basket weights introducing used vehicle prices, two new series have been published: purchase of new passenger vehicles and purchase of used passenger vehicles. Both price index series are available starting April 2022 and are published at the national level. (See additional information below).

Note: Statistics Canada will release the June Consumer Price Index on July 20, 2022.

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 indexes 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.

Source: Statistics Canada

12-Month Percent Changes

Also referred to as "year-over-year", 12-month percent changes compare indexes for a given month to indexes for the same month of the previous's 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 indexes.

Source: Statistics Canada

Annual Average Index

Annual average indexes 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 indexes 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 averages is considered the preferred option for indexation purposes.

Source: Statistics Canada

Latest 12-Month Average Index

The latest 12-month average index (ending in the current month) is a 12-month moving average of the indexes 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.

Source: Statistics Canada

Additional information

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).

With the release of the May 2022 CPI, Statistics Canada updated the basket of goods & services used in the calculation of the Index. For more information, please see the document entitled "[An Analysis of the 2021 Consumer Price Index Basket Update](#)".

Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2022