newstats NWT Bureau of Statistics

Consumer Price Index
April 2020

During the past few months, COVID-19 has restricted the movement of people and forced many businesses to change their normal operations. This affected how Statistics Canada conducted the Consumer Price Index in April; in-person data collection was done remotely, supplemented with alternate data sources, and a higher level of data imputation occurred due to the reduced availability of some products and services.

Statistics Canada indicates that in April 2020 the Yellowknife All-Items Consumer Price Index fell by 0.4% compared to one year ago. By comparison, the annual price change was -0.2% for Canada, -0.3% for Edmonton, 1.1% for Whitehorse and 0.8% for Iqaluit.
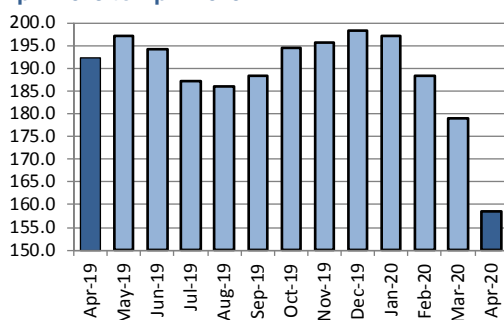
Table 1:   All-Items Consumer Price Index (2002 = 100)

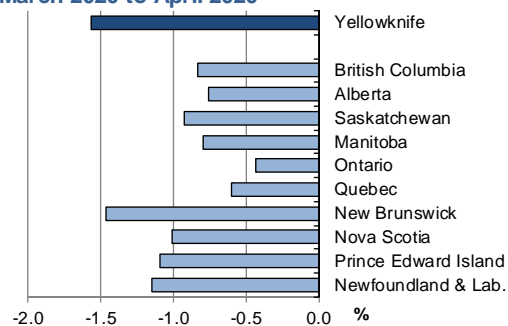| | | | | % Change from | | 12-Month Average | | |
| | | | | | | 19-May | 18-May | % |
	20-Apr	20-Mar	19-Apr	20-Mar	19-Apr	20-Apr	19-Apr	Change
Yellowknife	**137.8**	**140.0**	**138.4**	**-1.6**	**-0.4**	**139.5**	**137.3**	**1.6**
Canada	135.7	136.6	136.0	-0.7	-0.2	136.6	134.1	1.9
Edmonton	143.2	144.3	143.7	-0.8	-0.3	143.9	141.6	1.6
Whitehorse	133.6	135.1	132.2	-1.1	1.1	134.5	131.2	2.5
Iqaluit	132.4	132.7	131.3	-0.2	0.8	132.1	130.0	1.6

Between April 2019 and April 2020, Yellowknife consumer prices decreased for most major components. Energy products declined over the last 12 months, falling by 17.5, overall. Both gasoline and fuel oil & other fuels declined by over 25% while electricity increased by 1.5% over this period.

Since peaking in December 2019, month-over-month energy prices have steadily declined, most recently falling by 11.4% between March 2020 and April 2020. Seven of the eight major components also declined since March 2020, resulting in an overall monthly decline of 1.6% in Yellowknife. While the decline in the all-items index was not unique to Yellowknife, it was more pronounced than other areas of Canada.

**Yellowknife CPI - Energy
April 2019 to April 2020**

**Percentage Change in Prices - All Items
March 2020 to April 2020**

Government of Northwest Territories   Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

TABLE 2: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, APRIL 2020
SELECTED INDEXES, YELLOWKNIFE (2002 = 100)

	20-Apr	20-Mar	19-Apr	% Change from 20-Mar	% Change from 19-Apr
All Items	137.8	140.0	138.4	-1.6	-0.4
Food	145.0	148.8	144.5	-2.6	0.3
Food from Stores	141.2	147.1	142.0	-4.0	-0.6
Food from Restaurants	155.9	153.3	151.6	1.7	2.8
Shelter	159.7	162.7	159.7	-1.8	-
Water, Fuel & Electricity	189.7	206.4	210.6	-8.1	-9.9
Household Operations & Furnishings	113.0	113.5	114.7	-0.4	-1.5
Household Operations	120.5	121.8	124.2	-1.1	-3.0
Household Furnishings	96.4	95.2	94.3	1.3	2.2
Clothing & Footwear	107.3	109.8	108.2	-2.3	-0.8
Clothing	100.1	102.9	101.1	-2.7	-1.0
Footwear	91.8	93.0	97.1	-1.3	-5.5
Clothing Accessories & Jewellery	154.0	157.3	152.5	-2.1	1.0
Clothing Material, Notions & Services	169.9	169.9	142.5	-	19.2
Transportation	136.8	138.2	138.1	-1.0	-0.9
Private Transportation	130.8	133.5	135.2	-2.0	-3.3
Public Transportation	169.3	164.3	155.4	3.0	8.9
Health & Personal Care	124.0	127.1	124.4	-2.4	-0.3
Health Care	125.1	124.3	124.2	0.6	0.7
Personal Care	123.8	129.6	125.1	-4.5	-1.0
Recreation, Education & Reading	108.1	110.1	108.6	-1.8	-0.5
Recreation	103.6	105.9	104.2	-2.2	-0.6
Education & Reading	133.8	133.8	134.2	-	-0.3
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	183.4	182.9	180.5	0.3	1.6
Alcoholic Beverages	146.0	146.0	146.2	-	-0.1
Tobacco Products & Smokers' Supplies	244.3	242.3	232.8	0.8	4.9
ENERGY AND ITS COMPONENTS:					
Energy	158.6	179.1	192.2	-11.4	-17.5
Electricity	202.4	202.4	199.4	-	1.5
Fuel Oil And Other Fuels	185.6	234.6	252.4	-20.9	-26.5
Natural Gas	..	..	..	..	..
Gasoline	108.5	128.7	153.8	-15.7	-29.5
Fuel, Parts and Supplies for Rect'l Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..

Notes:
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 18-10-0004-01 Consumer Price Index, monthly, not seasonally adjusted.
CPI values for Yellowknife and Whitehorse include estimates of price changes for owned accommodation based on the price of rental accommodation. As a result, the all-items indexes published for these centres are not strictly comparable to those for Canada and Edmonton.

Next release of CPI: June 17, 2020.