

## Consumer Price Index March 2020

Today Statistics Canada released information from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of March. The majority of prices reflected in this release were collected prior to the interventions due to COVID-19.

Statistics Canada indicates that in March 2020 the Yellowknife All-Items Consumer Price Index rose by 1.1% compared to one year ago. By comparison, the annual price increase was 0.9% for Canada, 0.9% for Edmonton, 2.7% for Whitehorse and 1.7% for Iqaluit.

**Table 1: All-Items Consumer Price Index (2002 = 100)**

	20-Mar	20-Feb	19-Mar	% Change from		12-Month Average		
				20-Feb	19-Mar	19-Apr	18-Apr	%
				20-Feb	19-Mar	20-Mar	19-Mar	Change
<b>Yellowknife</b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>141.2</b>	<b>138.5</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>139.5</b>	<b>137.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Canada	136.6	137.4	135.4	-0.6	0.9	136.6	133.9	2.0
Edmonton	144.3	145.5	143.0	-0.8	0.9	143.9	141.3	1.8
Whitehorse	135.1	135.9	131.6	-0.6	2.7	134.3	131.1	2.4
Iqaluit	132.7	132.4	130.5	0.2	1.7	132.0	129.8	1.7

Between March 2019 and March 2020, Yellowknife consumer prices increased for most major components with the exception of household operations & furnishings and health and personal care. Shelter and food experienced the largest increases, rising by 2.0% and 1.9% respectively, while energy products declined by 5.2% over the 12 month period. The annual decline in energy products was a result of decreases in gasoline (10.4) and fuel oil and other fuels (7.6) while electricity rose by 1.5%.

**Figure 1**  
**Annual Inflation Rate (Year Ending March 31)**  
**Canada & Yellowknife, 2000/01 to 2019/20**

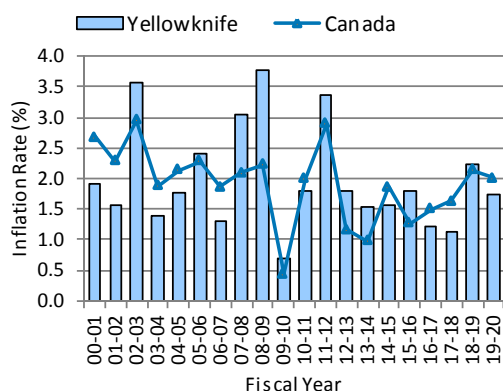


Figure 1 shows how prices change from one fiscal year to the next based on a 12-month average index (ending March 31). Governments tend to use this annual inflation rate to evaluate the prices of their goods and services.

The 2019/20 fiscal year inflation rate for Yellowknife was 1.8%, dropping from 2.2% the previous year. In comparison, the Canadian inflation rate decreased to 2.0% in 2019/20 from 2.1% in 2018/19.

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

	20-Mar	20-Feb	19-Mar	% Change from	
				20-Feb	19-Mar
All Items	140.0	141.2	138.5	-0.8	1.1
Food	148.8	148.2	146.0	0.4	1.9
Food from Stores	147.1	145.6	143.9	1.0	2.2
Food from Restaurants	153.3	155.4	151.6	-1.4	1.1
Shelter	162.7	163.3	159.5	-0.4	2.0
Water, Fuel & Electricity	206.4	210.2	211.2	-1.8	-2.3
Household Operations & Furnishings	113.5	112.9	114.6	0.5	-1.0
Household Operations	121.8	121.0	123.7	0.7	-1.5
Household Furnishings	95.2	95.1	95.0	0.1	0.2
Clothing & Footwear	109.8	109.5	107.9	0.3	1.8
Clothing	102.9	102.4	100.8	0.5	2.1
Footwear	93.0	94.2	96.9	-1.3	-4.0
Clothing Accessories & Jewellery	157.3	155.2	152.5	1.4	3.1
Clothing Material, Notions & Services	169.9	169.9	142.5	-	19.2
Transportation	138.2	143.7	138.0	-3.8	0.1
Private Transportation	133.5	139.2	135.4	-4.1	-1.4
Public Transportation	164.3	168.7	154.0	-2.6	6.7
Health & Personal Care	127.1	125.6	127.8	1.2	-0.5
Health Care	124.3	123.7	124.1	0.5	0.2
Personal Care	129.6	127.6	131.0	1.6	-1.1
Recreation, Education & Reading	110.1	110.9	108.3	-0.7	1.7
Recreation	105.9	106.6	103.8	-0.7	2.0
Education & Reading	133.8	135.4	134.1	-1.2	-0.2
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	182.9	182.9	180.4	-	1.4
Alcoholic Beverages	146.0	146.1	146.6	-0.1	-0.4
Tobacco Products & Smokers' Supplies	242.3	242.3	231.5	-	4.7
<b>ENERGY AND ITS COMPONENTS:</b>					
Energy	179.1	188.3	189.0	-4.9	-5.2
Electricity	202.4	202.4	199.4	-	1.5
Fuel Oil And Other Fuels	234.6	244.6	253.8	-4.1	-7.6
Natural Gas	..	..	..	..	..
Gasoline	128.7	146.0	143.7	-11.8	-10.4
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: May 20, 2020.