

## Consumer Price Index March 2021

Statistics Canada indicates that in March 2021 the Yellowknife All-Items Consumer Price Index fell by 0.1% compared to one year ago. By comparison, annual prices increased 2.2% for Canada, 1.7% for Edmonton and 1.1% for Whitehorse. Iqaluit decreased by 0.5% between March 2020 and March 2021.

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

	21-Mar	21-Feb	20-Mar	% Change from		12-Month Average		
				21-Feb	20-Mar	20-Apr	19-Apr	%
				21-Mar	20-Mar	21-Mar	20-Mar	Change
<b>Yellowknife</b>	<b>139.9</b>	<b>139.6</b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>138.6</b>	<b>139.5</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Canada	139.6	138.9	136.6	0.5	2.2	137.5	136.6	0.7
Edmonton	146.8	146.2	144.3	0.4	1.7	145.1	143.9	0.8
Whitehorse	136.6	136.4	135.1	0.1	1.1	134.7	134.3	0.3
Iqaluit	132.0	132.0	132.7	-	-0.5	131.3	132.0	-0.5

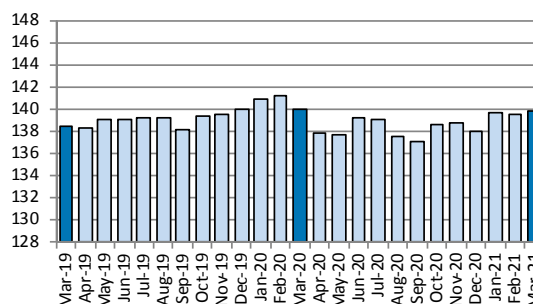
Between March 2020 and March 2021, Yellowknife consumer prices decreased in six of the eight major components. Recreation, education & reading saw the largest drop, falling by 3.0% over the previous 12 months. Food fell by 2.2%, largely a result of the 3.5% decrease in food from stores.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Yellowknife CPI was trending upward but a decline in prices during the spring of 2020 reversed much of the previous year's increase. Prices in Yellowknife have generally remained below pre-pandemic levels despite month-over-month fluctuations.

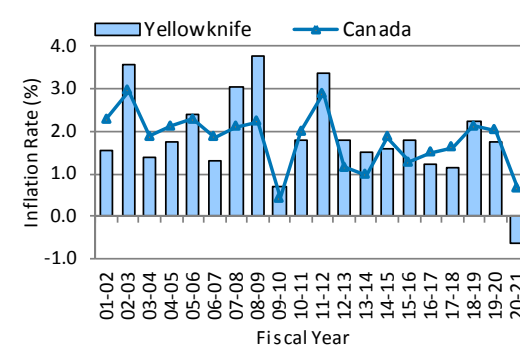
The annual inflation rate shows how prices change from one fiscal year to the next based on a 12-month average index (ending March 31). Governments tend to use this annual inflation rate to evaluate the prices of their goods and services. The anomalous circumstances of COVID suggest the 2020/21 inflation rate should be used with caution in any medium to long-term inflation outlooks.

The 2020/21 fiscal year inflation rate for Yellowknife was -0.6%, the first time the rate has been less than zero since 1997/98. In comparison, the Canadian inflation rate was 0.7% in 2020/21.

**CPI - All Items  
Yellowknife, March 2019 to March 2021**



**Annual Inflation Rate (Year Ending March 31)  
Canada & Yellowknife, 2001/02 to 2020/21**



**TABLE 2: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MARCH 2021**  
**SELECTED INDEXES, YELLOWKNIFE (2002 = 100)**

	21-Mar	21-Feb	20-Mar	% Change from	
				21-Feb	20-Mar
All Items	139.9	139.6	140.0	0.2	-0.1
Food	145.5	146.8	148.8	-0.9	-2.2
Food from Stores	141.9	143.6	147.1	-1.2	-3.5
Food from Restaurants	155.7	155.7	153.3	-	1.6
Shelter	163.5	162.5	162.7	0.6	0.5
Water, Fuel & Electricity	210.1	204.7	206.4	2.6	1.8
Household Operations & Furnishings	111.8	112.9	113.5	-1.0	-1.5
Household Operations	118.4	120.2	121.8	-1.5	-2.8
Household Furnishings	96.6	96.6	95.2	-	1.5
Clothing & Footwear	107.8	107.0	109.8	0.7	-1.8
Clothing	98.4	97.4	102.9	1.0	-4.4
Footwear	93.7	93.0	93.0	0.8	0.8
Clothing Accessories & Jewellery	171.1	171.3	157.3	-0.1	8.8
Clothing Material, Notions & Services	162.8	162.8	169.9	-	-4.2
Transportation	143.7	142.5	138.2	0.8	4.0
Private Transportation	139.4	139.9	133.5	-0.4	4.4
Public Transportation	168.3	158.7	164.3	6.0	2.4
Health & Personal Care	124.0	124.4	127.1	-0.3	-2.4
Health Care	124.1	123.5	124.3	0.5	-0.2
Personal Care	124.5	125.6	129.6	-0.9	-3.9
Recreation, Education & Reading	106.8	106.5	110.1	0.3	-3.0
Recreation	101.6	101.3	105.9	0.3	-4.1
Education & Reading	138.3	138.7	133.8	-0.3	3.4
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	181.1	181.1	182.9	-	-1.0
Alcoholic Beverages	146.0	146.0	146.0	-	-
Tobacco Products & Smokers' Supplies	253.4	253.5	242.3	-	4.6
<b>ENERGY AND ITS COMPONENTS:</b>					
Energy	187.8	181.2	179.1	3.6	4.9
Electricity	202.4	202.4	202.4	-	-
Fuel Oil And Other Fuels	236.9	222.6	234.6	6.4	1.0
Natural Gas	..	..	..	..	..
Gasoline	149.2	142.2	128.7	4.9	15.9
Fuel, Parts and Supplies for Rect'l Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..

Notes:

1. Source: Statistics Canada, Table 18-10-0004-01 Consumer Price Index, monthly, not seasonally adjusted.
2. 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.
3. COVID-19 has affected how Statistics Canada conducted the Consumer Price Index. Data collection was done remotely, supplemented by alternate data sources, and a higher level of data imputation occurred due to the reduced availability of some products and services.

Next release of CPI: May 19, 2021.