

**Consumer Price Index (1992=100)
March 2006**

CPI by Component	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	Mar'06 Index	% Change from Feb'06	% Change from Mar'05	Mar'06 Index	% Change from Feb'06	% Change from Mar'05
All-Items	131.3	0.6	2.4	129.3	0.5	2.2
Food	131.2	-0.3	1.9	130.2	0.0	2.4
Shelter	133.4	-0.2	3.6	127.3	0.2	3.5
Household Operations & Furnishings	113.8	0.1	0.6	116.5	-0.1	0.7
Clothing & Footwear	111.9	6.7	-0.9	103.3	2.9	-2.5
Transportation	151.5	1.2	3.7	153.5	1.3	3.5
Health & Personal Care	118.2	0.6	0.9	121.9	0.2	1.6
Recreation, Education & Reading	131.6	0.2	1.2	126.6	0.6	-0.2
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	159.2	0.8	3.4	150.2	0.9	2.7
<i>Energy</i>	<i>169.6</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>168.5</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>7.4</i>
<i>All-items excluding Energy</i>	<i>126.7</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>126.2</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1.7</i>

HIGHLIGHTS

Halifax Metro's March 2006 all-items CPI index of 129.7 (1992=100) rose 0.5 per cent from last month and increased 2.2 per cent over March 2005.

Nova Scotia's overall monthly price index increased 0.6 per cent in March 2006; it increased 2.4 per cent over March 2005.

Notable increases:

- women's clothing (+15.7 per cent); footwear (+5.7 per cent)
- sugar & confectionery (+6.7 per cent); dairy products (+1.6 per cent)
- gasoline (+4.9 per cent)
- personal care supplies & equipment (+2.1 per cent)
- cigarettes (+1.2 per cent)

Notable decreases:

- fresh vegetables (-7.8 per cent); fresh or frozen pork (-6.8 per cent); non-alcoholic beverages (-3.2 per cent); fresh fruit (-2.9 per cent); fresh & frozen beef (-2.1 per cent)
- fuel oil and other fuel (-2.2 per cent)
- purchase & leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.4 per cent)

Canada's all-items CPI, from February to March 2006, increased 0.5 per cent; Canadians paid 2.2 per cent more for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket than they did a year ago.

Notable increases:

- gasoline (+5.2 per cent)—increased in all provinces except NL and PE, increases ranged from 2.3 per cent in NB to 8.1 per cent in MB
- women's clothing (+6.8 per cent)—introduction of summer collection is usual in March and leads to higher clothing prices

Notable decreases:

- vegetables (-6.5 per cent)—lower prices in particular for tomatoes; fresh fruit (-3.1 per cent)—mainly due to lower prices for oranges, and other fresh fruit imported from South & Central America
- purchase & leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.3 per cent)—many auto manufacturers offered higher financial incentives in March

CPI for April 2006 will be released May 18, 2006.