

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1992=100)
March 2005 Release

CPI by Component	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	Mar '05 Index	% Change from Feb '05	% Change from Mar '04	Mar '05 Index	% Change from Feb '05	% Change from Mar '04
All Items	128.2	0.6	2.6	126.5	0.6	2.3
Food	128.7	0.3	4.4	127.1	0.4	2.8
Shelter	128.8	0.6	3.8	123.0	0.3	3.4
Household Operations & Furnishings	113.1	0.3	0.1	115.7	0.2	0.3
Clothing & Footwear	112.9	3.8	0.4	106.0	2.9	0.7
Transportation	146.1	1.0	3.6	148.3	0.9	3.9
Health & Personal Care	117.1	0.0	0.8	120.0	0.3	1.4
Recreation, Education & Reading	130.0	0.2	-0.5	126.8	0.4	-0.4
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	153.9	0.1	4.4	146.3	0.8	3.5
<i>Energy</i>	<i>157.1</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>10.4</i>	<i>156.9</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>9.5</i>

HIGHLIGHTS

Cities

- Halifax Metro's March 2005 all-items CPI index of 126.9 (1992=100) rose 0.6% from last month and increased 2.3% over March 2004.

Nova Scotia

- Nova Scotia's overall monthly price index increased 0.6% in March; it increased 2.6% over March 2004.
- Notable increases from the previous month were recorded for:
 - men's clothing (+5.6%); footwear (+5.4%); women's clothing (+4.6%)
 - non-alcoholic beverages (+5.1%)
 - gasoline (+4.9%)
 - fuel oil and other fuel (+3.2%)
 - homeowners' maintenance & repairs (+2.3%)
- Since last month offsetting price declines of particular note included:
 - kitchen utensils, tableware & flatware (-4.8%)
 - fresh fruits (-2.8%); other cereal grains & cereal products (-1.5%); bakery products (-1.3%)
 - purchase & leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.6%)
 - recreational equipment & services (excl. vehicles) (-0.5%)

Canada

- From February 2005 to March, all-items CPI increased 0.6% in Canada; Canadians paid 2.3% more for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket than they did a year ago.
- Since last month higher prices contributing to the month-over-month increase included:
 - gasoline (+5.2%)—third straight monthly rise ranging from 1.5% in NL to 5.9% in Quebec.
 - women's clothing (+6.0%)—usual price increase seen in March when new summer collections are introduced.
 - travel tours (+5.0%)—normal increase in March as demand is at its highest; ranged from +8.2% in ON to -0.9% in BC.
- Offsetting price declines of note included:
 - purchase & leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.6)—increase in financial incentives offered by some auto vehicle manufacturers.
 - fresh fruit (-5.5%)—apples (-3.1%), oranges (-4.5%), bananas (-0.6%) and other fresh fruits (-7.7%).
 - traveller accommodation (-2.9%)—lower prices normal in March as winter activities end and vacationers await warmer weather to travel; decreases were observed by residents of every province except PE, NS and NB.