

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1992=100)
February 2006 Release

CPI by Component	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	Feb'06 Index	% Change from Jan'06	% Change from Feb'05	Feb'06 Index	% Change from Jan'06	% Change from Feb'05
All Items	130.5	-0.3	2.4	128.6	-0.2	2.2
Food	131.6	0.2	2.6	130.2	-0.2	2.8
Shelter	133.7	0.2	4.5	127.1	-0.1	3.7
Household Operations & Furnishings	113.7	0.3	0.8	116.6	0.2	1.0
Clothing & Footwear	104.9	0.5	-3.6	100.4	1.4	-2.5
Transportation	149.7	-2.2	3.5	151.5	-1.8	3.1
Health & Personal Care	117.5	-0.4	0.3	121.7	0.3	1.7
Recreation, Education & Reading	131.4	0.5	1.3	125.9	0.6	-0.3
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	157.9	0.1	2.7	148.9	0.4	2.5
Energy	166.9	-3.2	9.6	164.7	-4.2	8.1

HIGHLIGHTS

Cities

- Halifax Metro's February 2006 all-items CPI index of 129.0 (1992=100) declined 0.2 per cent from last month and increased 2.3 per cent over February 2005.

Nova Scotia

- Nova Scotia's overall monthly price index decreased 0.3 per cent in February; it increased 2.4 per cent over February 2005.
- Notable declines from the previous month were recorded for:
 - gasoline (-7.0 per cent)
 - fresh vegetables (-5.2 per cent); non-alcoholic beverages (-2.4 per cent)
 - footwear (-1.7 per cent)
 - furniture (-1.5 per cent)
 - personal care supplies & equipment (-1.3 per cent)
 - purchase & leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.4 per cent)
- Since last month offsetting price increases of particular note included:
 - household textiles (+9.1 per cent)
 - sugar & confectionery (+6.2 per cent); processed meat (+3.3 per cent); bakery products (+1.8 per cent)
 - men's clothing (+4.7 per cent)

Canada

- From January to February 2006, all-items CPI decreased 0.2 per cent in Canada; Canadians paid 2.2 per cent more for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket than they did a year ago.
- Since last month lower prices contributing to the month-over-month decrease included:
 - gasoline (-6.8 per cent)—all provinces recorded declines, ranging from 0.1 per cent in NL to 9.5 per cent in ON; crude oil prices fell through first half of month and slowly crept upwards towards end of month and were reflected at the pumps.
 - natural gas (-5.5 per cent)—a 31.4 per cent decline in AB was the main reason for the national decline.
 - fresh vegetables (-6.8 per cent) and fresh fruit (-3.8 per cent)—a decline is normal for February.
- Offsetting price increases of note included:
 - travel tours (+8.1 per cent)—usual trend as winter holiday season is in high gear in February.
 - men's clothing (+3.4 per cent)—end of season sales were winding down.