

**Consumer Price Index (1992=100)
March 2007**

CPI by Component	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	Mar'07 Index	% Change from Feb'07	% Change from Mar'06	Mar'07 Index	% Change from Feb'07	% Change from Mar'06
All-Items	134.0	0.8	2.1	132.3	0.8	2.3
Food	137.3	-0.6	4.6	135.0	-0.4	3.7
Shelter	134.3	0.4	0.7	131.3	0.5	3.1
Household Operations & Furnishings	115.5	-0.3	1.5	117.5	0.3	0.9
Clothing & Footwear	110.6	-0.3	-1.2	102.5	2.1	-0.8
Transportation	155.7	3.9	2.8	158.2	3.0	3.1
Health & Personal Care	120.5	0.7	1.9	122.9	-0.1	0.8
Recreation, Education & Reading	133.0	-0.2	1.1	127.4	0.7	0.6
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	166.3	0.5	4.5	153.4	-0.1	2.1
Products						
<i>Energy</i>	173.4	7.6	2.2	176.1	6.9	4.5
<i>All-items excluding Energy</i>	129.2	-0.2	2.0	128.9	0.3	2.1

HIGHLIGHTS

Halifax Metro's March 2007 all-items CPI index of 132.6 (1992=100) increased 0.7 per cent from last month and increased 2.2 per cent over March 2006.

Nova Scotia's overall monthly price index rose 0.8 per cent in March 2007; it increased 2.1 per cent over March 2006.

Since last month notable increases:

- gasoline (+14.7%); fuel oil and other fuel (+3.0%)
- footwear (+4.1%)
- fresh or frozen chicken (+4.1%)
- purchase & operation of recreational vehicles (+1.5%)
- cigarettes (+0.8%)

Notable declines since last month:

- sugar & confectionery (-5.3%); fresh vegetables (-4.6%); bakery products (-2.5%)
- household textiles (-5.3%)
- women's clothing (-3.5%)
- recreational equipment & services (excluding vehicles) (-2.2%)
- purchase & leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.4%)

Canada's all-items CPI, from February to March 2007, increased 0.8 per cent; Canadians paid 2.3 per cent more for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket than they did a year ago.

Since last month notable increases:

- gasoline (+12.5%)—surge in prices that drivers paid at the pumps resulting from geopolitical tensions and production losses
- women's clothing (+4.4%)—new summer lines introduced
- automotive vehicle insurance premiums (+2.3%)—mostly due to adjustments reflecting the fact that insurance premiums for a more recent automotive vehicle model are now tracked

Notable declines since last month:

- fresh fruit prices (-5.3%) and vegetable prices (-2.6%)—effects of West Coast freezing temperatures were not as pronounced as expected and supply was also available from other countries
- vehicle purchases and leases (-0.5%)—some manufacturers increased financial incentives that had been offered in previous months

Consumer Price Index – Upcoming Changes June 19, 2007

The CPI has three main purposes:

1. as a measure of inflation
2. as a statistical series deflator
3. as a tool for indexing various payments and transfers.

Major updates to CPI will be released by Statistics Canada June 19, 2007 (for reference period May 2007) that will reflect changes in the spending patterns of Canadians:

1. changes in the weights of various items in the basket of goods and services used to calculate the index to reflect:
 - a. patterns captured in the 2005 Survey of Household Spending (SHS)
 - b. changing trends, e.g., information technology, new electronic products, health care, etc.
2. change in the CPI base year from 1992=100 to 2002=100
 - c. base period 1992=100 will be retained for the all-items index
 - d. 1986=100 will be discontinued (conversion factor to be available on request)
3. New special aggregates
 - e. CPI all-items less gasoline
 - f. CPI all-items less housing, insurance and financial services

These changes will result in:

- New tables in CANSIM—available June 19, 2007 (table numbers yet to be announced)
- Content and format of two publications updated
 - Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index (Cat. No. 62-557)
 - Consumer Price Index (Cat. No. 62-001-XIB)
 - Consumer Price Index Reference Paper will be updated at a later date

CPI for April 2007 will be released May 17, 2007.