

**Consumer Price Index (2002=100)
March 2008**

CPI by Component	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	Mar'08 Index	%Change from Feb'08	% Change from Mar'07	Mar'08 Index	% Change from Feb'08	% Change from Mar'07
All-Items	114.5	0.5	2.3	112.6	0.4	1.4
Food	115.8	-0.3	1.1	112.6	-0.2	0.4
Shelter	123.3	0.7	7.6	120.1	0.4	4.1
Household Operations & Furnishings	105.1	0.5	1.1	104.1	0.0	0.9
Clothing & Footwear	99.1	1.8	-0.2	96.0	2.0	-1.5
Transportation	115.9	1.1	0.2	117.8	0.7	0.1
Health & Personal Care	107.7	0.5	1.2	107.9	0.2	1.4
Recreation, Education & Reading	104.9	0.4	0.5	101.3	0.5	0.4
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	138.5	0.4	2.9	126.6	-0.2	2.0
Products						
<i>Energy</i>	151.7	3.4	10.7	143.2	2.7	5.4
<i>All-items excluding Energy</i>	110.3	0.1	1.3	110.2	0.2	1.0

HIGHLIGHTS

Halifax Metro's March 2008 all-items CPI index of 113.9 (2002=100) increased 0.4 per cent from last month and increased 2.2 per cent over March 2007.

Nova Scotia's overall monthly price index increased 0.5 per cent in March 2008; it increased 2.3 per cent over March 2007.

Notable increases since last month:

- gasoline (4.9%); fuel oil and other fuels (+4.2%)
- reading material and other printed material (excluding textbooks) (+4.5%)
- bakery products (+3.7%)
- men's clothing (+3.2%)
- recreational equipment and services (excluding recreational vehicles) (+2.3%)

Offsetting declines included:

- fresh or frozen beef (-6.8%), fresh vegetables (-6.6%); non-alcoholic beverages (-3.2%); fresh or frozen pork (-1.7%)
- traveller accommodation (-4.5%)
- purchase and leasing of passenger vehicles (-0.9%)

Canada's all-items CPI, from February to March 2008, increased 0.4 per cent; Canadians paid 1.4 per cent more for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket than they did a year ago.

Since last month notable increases:

- fuel oil and other fuels (+8.6%)—lower inventories at the end of winter and higher crude oil prices; gasoline (+3.6%)—actually increased 12.4% in this same period last year
- women's clothing (+3.0%)—upward movement occurred as new spring collections introduced to market
- mortgage interest costs (+0.6)—increase from last month's rate declines during renewals and initiations

Notable dampening factors:

- traveller accommodation costs (-2.8%)
- purchase & leasing of passenger vehicles (-0.8%)—higher manufacturers incentives offered on some models

CPI for April 2008 will be released May 21, 2008

Source: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, CPI release day, Catalogue No. 11-001-XIE; *The Consumer Price Index*, Catalogue 62-001-XIE; *CANSIM* Tables 326-0020 and 326-0021