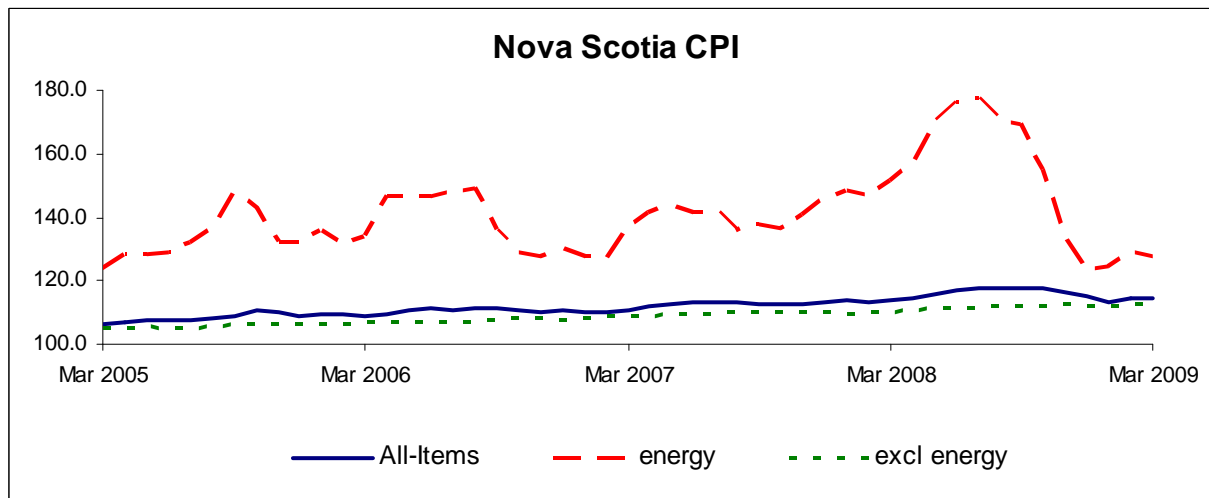


**Consumer Price Index (2002=100)
March 2009**

CPI by Component	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	Mar'09 Index	% Change from Feb'09	% Change from Mar'08	Mar'09 Index	% Change from Feb'09	% Change from Mar'08
All-Items	114.5	0.2	0.0	114.0	0.2	1.2
Food	125.7	0.2	8.5	121.5	0.2	7.9
Shelter	123.6	-0.4	0.2	122.6	-0.5	2.1
Household Operations & Furnishings	106.7	0.3	1.5	106.8	0.4	2.6
Clothing & Footwear	94.5	2.5	-4.6	95.7	2.2	-0.3
Transportation	105.6	-0.6	-8.9	110.5	0.3	-6.2
Health & Personal Care	110.2	1.1	2.3	110.5	0.1	2.4
Recreation, Education & Reading	104.2	0.8	-0.7	101.8	0.7	0.5
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco						
Products	141.6	0.0	2.2	129.7	0.4	2.4
<i>Energy</i>	127.5	-0.9	-16.0	127.1	-0.1	-11.2
<i>All-items excluding Energy</i>	112.8	0.3	2.3	113.0	0.3	2.5

Nova Scotia's overall monthly price index increased 0.2 per cent in March 2009 from February 2009; and was unchanged over March 2008. The main contributors to the monthly NS CPI movement: *Children's clothing (including infants)* (+8.1%); *Men's clothing* (+7.2%); *Fresh vegetables* (-5.2%); *Fuel oil and other fuels* (-4.4%); *Footwear* (-3.5%). The main contributors to the annual NS CPI movement: *Fresh Vegetables* (+27.4%); *Electricity* (+17.7%); *Household chemical products* (+15.7%); *Fuel oil and other fuels* (-30.6%); and *Gasoline* (-25.4%).

Halifax's overall monthly price index increased 0.2 per cent to 114.1 from February 2009; it increased 0.2 per cent over March 2008.



Changes in the **consumer price index** (CPI) on either a monthly, year-over-year or annual basis are often used as a measure for the rate of inflation (increases in prices). The CPI measures price change by comparing, through time, the cost of a fixed basket (approximately 600) of commodities. Since the basket contains commodities of unchanging or equivalent quantity and quality, the index reflects only pure price movements. Negative changes in CPI indicate deflation, or price decreases.

CPI for April 2009 will be released *May 20, 2009*.

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