### **Scotiabank**

### **GLOBAL ECONOMICS**

#### **SCOTIA FLASH**

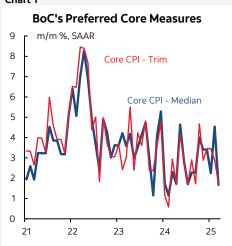
April 15, 2025

#### **Contributors**

#### **Derek Holt**

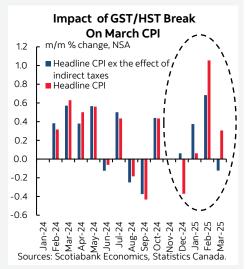
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#### Chart 1



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada

#### Chart 2



### Why the BoC Is Likely to Fade Canadian CPI

- BoC's preferred core inflation measures softened...
- ...against a still-hot trend
- The end of the GST/HST cut lifted CPI...
- ...but this was offset by possibly tighter margins, and weaker travel prices
- The BoC's move tomorrow is unlikely to over react to one print...
- ... as the focus remains on forward-looking risks to inflation

#### Canada CPI m/m %, March, NSA:

Actual: 0.3 / 2.3 Scotia: 0.7 / 2.7 Consensus: 0.7 / 2.7 Prior: 1.1/ 2.6

### Core inflation, March, m/m % SAAR:

Trimmed mean CPI: 1.7 Weighted median CPI: 1.7

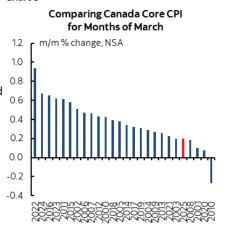
Canadian core inflation slowed in March. For a change, that is. I don't think the reading will impact the BoC's stance tomorrow for reasons offered below. Markets kind of leaned that way as well with pricing for the decision little changed and at just over a one-in-three chance of a cut. I argued both cases for a cut and a hold in my Global Week Ahead and we ever so slightly lean to a hold.

Key is that the BoC's two preferred measures of core inflation slowed to 1.7% m/m at a seasonally adjusted and annualized pace (SAAR). Chart 1. Traditional core CPI (ie: ex-food and energy) fell by -0.8% m/m SAAR.

That's the main reason why headline fell shy of everyone's expectations at 0.3% m/m NSA. The effects of the end of the GST/HST cut worked as expected by lifting CPI by 0.4% m/m NSA as shown by the spread between CPI and CPI excluding the effects of changes in indirect taxes (chart 2). But this was an unusually light month of March for seasonally unadjusted CPI (chart 3).

Why? Well, that's inherently speculative, but I think what may have happened is that retailers swung from crowding in some of the space vacated by the GST/HST cut when prices firmed excluding tax cut effects, to reducing margins when the tax hike kicked in last month. That may have been part of why clothing and footwear prices were flat in seasonally adjusted terms, but restaurant prices continued to rise.

#### Chart 3



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.

#### Chart 4

Canadian Core CPI Measures									
Month	Weighted Median	Trimmed Mean							
May-2024	4.6	4.1							
Jun-2024	2.9	2.9							
Jul-2024	1.7	1.7							
Aug-2024	2.3	2.9							
Sep-2024	2.3	1.7							
Oct-2024	4.0	4.7							
Nov-2024	3.4	2.9							
Dec-2024	3.4	3.5							
Jan-2025	2.2	3.4							
Feb-2025	4.5	2.9							
Mar-2025	1.7	1.7							
Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.									

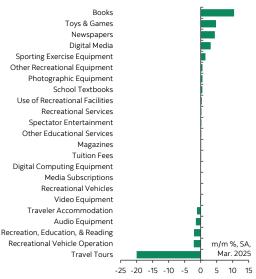
Ergo, we should look at trends. Enter chart 4. The BoC's preferred core readings have been rather warm throughout the past year with last month being a rare exception. It would be laughable if the BoC seized on one report.

Another big reason for fading this is that the first round effects of trade wars was disinflationary as Canadians aborted travel plans particularly to the US. That's why the 10% weight on the recreation, reading and education category and its –2.1% m/m SA drop shaved about 0.2ppts off of total SA CPI. Chart 5 shows why; travel tour prices plunged by about 20% as Canadians boycotted travel due to a weak currency and as a protest against the Trump administration's slanderous treatment of Canada.

Expect more of this going forward. Chart 6 shows the tight correlation between the two-way travel spending balance and USDCAD movements over time. Canada was running a travel spending deficit of about 1% of nominal GDP about a decade ago (ie: spending more abroad than foreigners were spending in Canada) but this has since swung to a surplus of about 0.2% at the end of 2024 and with probably a bigger surplus when we get Q1 numbers.

And yet going forward, the BoC will be more concerned about trade war effects that could add to inflation risk such as tariffs on imports and supply chain effects relative to how trade wars create more disinflationary spare capacity. That uncertainty will continue to dominate the narrative.

# Chart 5 Breakdown of Monthly Changes within Recreation Education and Reading CPI Category



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, Haver

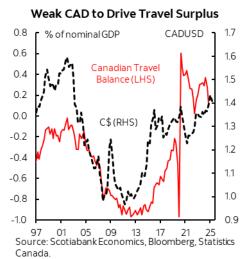
Across other details, note the wild volatility in services inflation (chart 7) and the firm price inflation for goods ex-food and energy (chart 8). These categories include tax changes.

Please see charts 9–17 for other components.

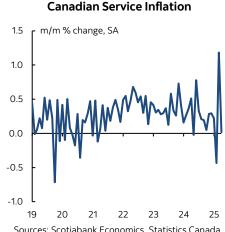
Charts 18–19 break down the CPI basket in y/y terms and in weighted contributions to the y/y change in CPI by component. Charts 20–21 do likewise for month-over-month prices.

Lastly, the accompanying table provides more details and micro charts.

### Chart 6

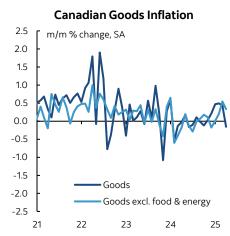


#### Chart 7



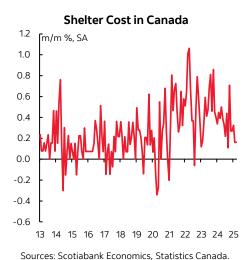
Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, Haver.

#### Chart 8

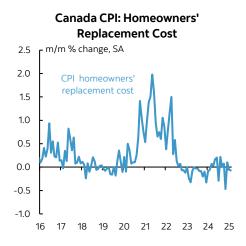


Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada, Haver.

#### Chart 9

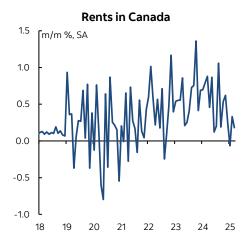


#### Chart 10



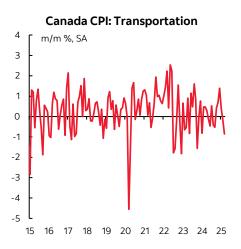
Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.

### Chart 11



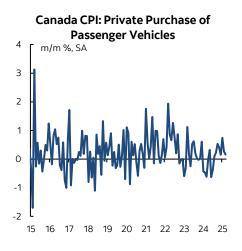
Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.

#### Chart 12



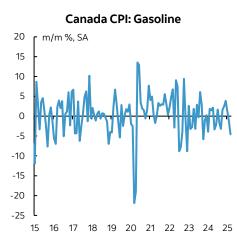
Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.

Chart 13



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.

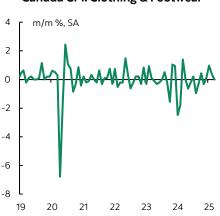
Chart 14



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.

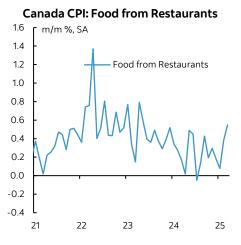
#### Chart 15

### Canada CPI: Clothing & Footwear



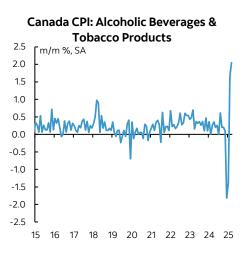
 $Sources: Scotiabank \ Economics, \ Statistics \ Canada.$ 

#### Chart 16



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada

#### Chart 17



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.



# March Detailed Category 12-Month Change in Canadian CPI



-10 -5

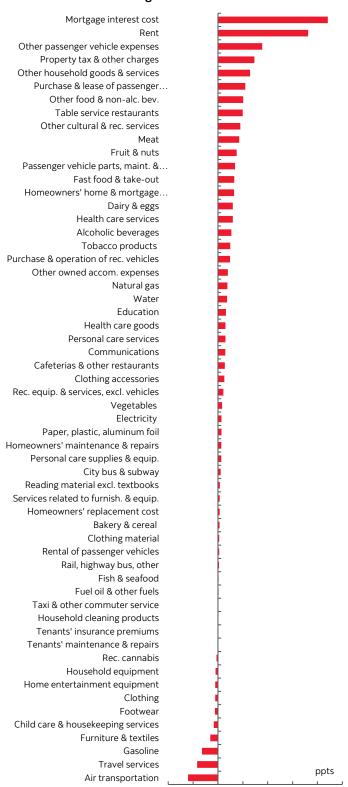
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Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.

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#### Chart 19

# March Detailed Category Contributions to 12-Month Change in Canadian CPI

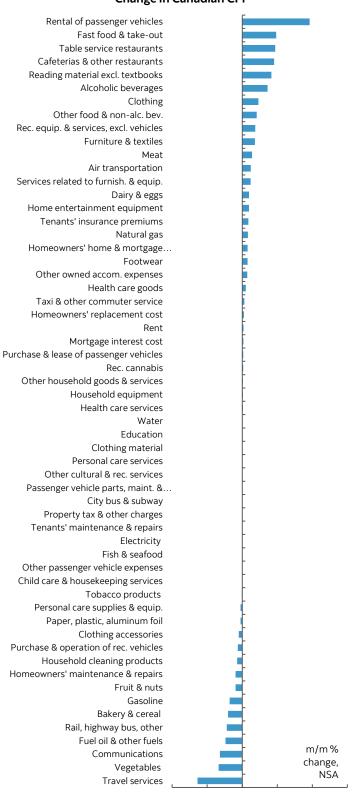


Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada

-0.20 -0.10 0.00 0.10 0.20 0.30 0.40 0.50



# March Detailed Category Monthly Change in Canadian CPI



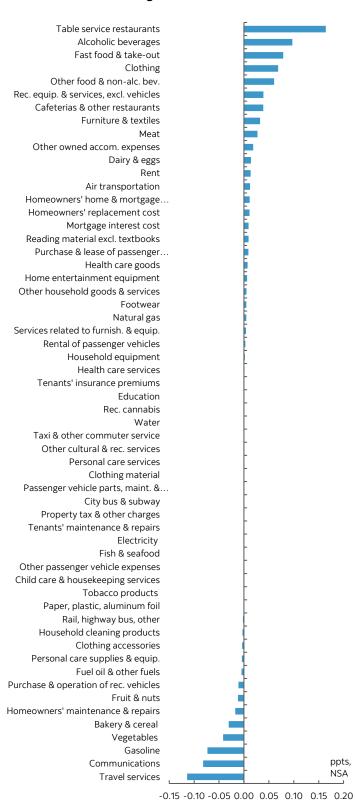
-10

Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.

-5

#### Chart 21

# March Detailed Category Contributions to Monthly Change in Canadian CPI



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada

Global Economics 5

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# **Scotiabank**...

April 15, 2025

Mar 2025				Weighted Contributions (ppts)*			5-Year Pre-Pandemic			10-Year Pre-Pandemic			
CA INFLATION COMPONENT BREAKDOWN	y/y % change	10-year trend (Jan 2019–Present)		m/m % change, SA**	Weights (%)	у/у	m/m	2015–2019 avg. y/y	Std. Dev.	Z-Score	2011–2019 avg. y/y	Std. Dev.	Z-Score
Food	3.2	~~~~~	, 1.7	1.9	16.69	0.53	0.29	2.1	1.7	0.6	2.2	1.5	0.7
Food, stores	3.2	~~~~	. 0.1		10.72	0.34	0.01	1.7	2.4	0.6	2.0	2.0	0.6
Meat	4.4 ~~^	many many many	1.4	1.2	1.94	0.09	0.03	2.5	3.6	0.5	3.4	3.6	0.3
Fish & seafood	0.7	many many	0.0	-0.1	0.37	0.00	0.00	2.9	1.4	-1.6	2.8	2.5	-0.8
Dairy products & eggs	4.0		1.0	0.0	1.47	0.06	0.01	0.2	1.5	2.5	0.6	1.5	2.3
Bakery & cereal products	0.4	~~~~	-2.0	-1.7	1.51	0.01	-0.03	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.2	2.3	-0.3
Fruit, fruit prep. & nuts	6.0	manner who were	-1.0	0.3	1.25	0.08	-0.01	1.8	4.4	1.0	2.0	3.5	1.1
Vegetables & vegetable prep.	1.3	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	-3.4	-0.4	1.25	0.02	-0.04	4.9	6.4	-0.6	3.6	5.8	-0.4
Other food & non-alcoholic beverages	3.5		, 2.1	0.0	2.93	0.10	0.06	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.3
Food purchased from restaurants	3.2		4.7	0.5	5.97	0.19	0.28	3.0	0.7	0.4	2.6	0.7	0.8
Table service restaurants	2.9 ~		4.7		3.49	0.10	0.16	2.9	0.6	0.0	2.6	0.6	0.4
Fast food & take-out	4.0		4.8		1.63	0.07	0.08	3.2	1.2	0.7	2.6	1.2	1.2
Cafeterias & other restaurants	3.2		4.6		0.85	0.03	0.04	3.0	0.6	0.4	2.6	0.7	0.8
Shelter	3.9 🖍		0.2	0.2	29.15	1.15	0.05	1.8	0.6	3.7	1.7	0.8	2.8
Rented accommodation	4.8	and an army	0.2	0.2	7.37	0.35	0.01	1.3	0.8	4.4	1.3	0.6	5.9
Rent	5.1		0.2		7.18	0.36	0.01	1.3	0.8	4.6	1.3	0.6	6.2
Tenants' insurance premiums	-1.2		0.9		0.12	0.00	0.00	1.1	1.6	-1.4	0.3	1.6	-0.9
Tenants' maintenance & repairs		~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	0.0		0.08	0.00	0.00	2.2	1.0	-4.8	2.6	2.2	-2.5
Owned accommodation	3.8		0.2		18.55	0.70	0.04	2.3	0.4	3.5	1.7	0.8	2.5
Mortgage interest cost	7.9		0.2	0.2	5.58	0.44	0.01	2.1	3.6	1.6	-0.1	3.6	2.2
Homeowners' replacement cost	0.1		0.2	0.2	4.61	0.01	0.01	1.9	1.7	-1.1	2.1	1.5	-1.4
Property tax & other charges	6.0		0.0	0.4	2.43	0.15	0.00	2.4	0.6	6.4	2.8	0.7	4.6
Homeowners' home & mortgage insurance	4.3	1 mmm mm Dam	0.8	0.7	1.50	0.06	0.01	5.2	2.3	-0.4	4.5	2.6	-0.1
Homeowners' maintenance & repairs	0.7		-0.9	-1.0	1.85	0.01	-0.02	2.0	1.1	-1.1	2.0	1.4	-0.9
Other owned accomodation expenses	1.5		0.7	0.1	2.58	0.04	0.02	2.0	1.2	-0.4	2.4	2.0	-0.5
Water, fuel, & elec.	2.8		0.1	0.1	3.22	0.09	0.00	0.8	2.1	1.0	2.5	3.4	0.1
Electricity	0.8	~ ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	0.0	0.0	1.68	0.01	0.00	1.2	4.4	-0.1	2.5	3.8	-0.4
Water	4.9		0.1	0.5	0.74	0.04	0.00	3.7	0.9	1.3	4.9	1.4	0.0
Natural gas	6.4		0.8	0.8	0.59	0.04	0.00	-1.3	9.0	0.8	0.4	10.6	0.6
Fuel oil & other fuels	1.1		-2.4	-2.4	0.21	0.00	-0.01	-0.1	15.5	0.0	5.1	14.2	-0.3
Household operations, furniture & equipment	0.8 ~~		-0.3	-0.2	13.01	0.00	-0.04	1.2	1.0	-0.3	1.4	0.9	-0.7
Household ops.	1.7	washing of the second	-0.9	-0.2	8.74	0.15	-0.08	1.3	1.1	0.3	2.1	1.3	-0.3
Communications	1.1	The state of the state of	-3.2	-3.2	2.58	0.03	-0.08	0.0	2.8	0.4	1.5	2.9	-0.1
Child care & housekeeping services	-2.2		0.0	0.4	0.75	-0.02	0.00	3.4	1.4	-4.1	3.3	1.3	-4.2
Household cleaning products	-0.1	dan ita	-0.7	-0.3	0.73	0.00	0.00	1.3	1.4	-0.8	0.8	1.9	-4.2
Paper, plastic, aluminum foil	3.6	who will be a factor of	-0.7	0.9	0.42	0.00	0.00	2.2	2.2	0.6	2.0	2.0	0.8
Other household goods & services	2.8		0.1	0.9	4.61	0.01	0.00	1.8	0.5	2.1	2.4	1.1	0.8
Household furnishings & equip.	-0.9		0.9	0.2	4.01	-0.04	0.04	0.8	1.7	-1.0	0.1	1.6	-0.6
Furniture & textiles	14	and the same of th	1.8		1.79	-0.04	0.04	0.8	2.1	-1.0	-0.3	2.1	-0.6
Household equipment	حب 1.7- معبر و 0.5-	m . My	0.1	-0.2	1.79	-0.03	0.03	0.4	1.7	-0.9	-0.3	1.8	-0.7
Services related to furnishings & equipment	•		1.2	-0.2	0.35	0.01	0.00	2.4	1.7	-0.9	2.7	2.9	-0.3
<u> </u>	ر 2.0 سمر <b>0.2</b>	and then and themas	1.6	0.0	4.6	0.01	0.00	0.6	1.8	-0.2	0.3	2.9 <b>1.4</b>	-0.3 - <b>0.1</b>
Clothing & footwear		and and annual form	2.3	0.0	4.6 2.98	-0.01		0.6	1.2		-0.3		-0.1
Clothing	-0.4	Marsh Marsh	_				0.07		-	-0.5		2.1	
Footwear	-1.9	An and the same	0.8	-0.7	0.64	-0.01	0.00	0.4	1.2	-2.0	0.1	1.4	-1.4
Clothing accessories		manny min	-0.5		0.71	0.03	0.00	1.0	1.8	1.5	2.3	2.6	0.5
Clothing material	2.3 🗸	www trans	0.0		0.23	0.01	0.00	2.2	0.7	0.2	2.7	1.2	-0.3

## **Scotiabank**...

April 15, 2025

Mar 2025  CA INFLATION COMPONENT BREAKDOWN						Weighted Contributions (ppts)*			5-Year Pre-Pandemic			10-Year Pre-Pandemic		
	y/y % change	10-year trend Pandemic (Jan 2019–Pro	trend m/ esent) change,	/m % NSA	m/m % change, SA**	Weights (%)	у/у	m/m	2015–2019 avg. y/y	Std. Dev.	Z-Score	2011–2019 avg. y/y	Std. Dev.	Z-Score
Transportation	1.2	manner and a second	~~~	-0.3	-0.9	16.9	0.21	-0.05	1.7	3.1	-0.2	2.3	3.0	-0.4
Private trans.	2.0	many many many	~~~	-0.3		15.3	0.31	-0.05	1.3	3.2	0.2	2.2	3.2	0.0
Purchase, lease, rental of passenger vehicles	2.0	megan and an amount	~~~	0.2		5.76	0.12	0.01	2.3	1.5	-0.2	1.9	1.6	0.1
Purchase & lease of passenger vehicles	<u>1.9</u>	merchanten man man man man man man man man man ma	~~	0.2		<u>5.73</u>	<u>0.11</u>	<u>0.01</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>-0.3</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>1.6</u>	0.0
Rental of passenger vehicles	<u>17.3</u>	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		9.6	<u>9.5</u>	<u>0.03</u>	0.01	0.00	<u>1.4</u>	<u>5.2</u>	<u>3.1</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>4.1</u>	<u>3.9</u>
Operation of passenger vehicles	2.0	many many	~~~	-0.7		9.52	0.19	-0.07	0.7	5.7	0.2	2.4	5.4	-0.1
<u>Gasoline</u>	<u>-1.6</u>	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	~~~	<u>-1.8</u>	<u>-4.6</u>	<u>4.09</u>	<u>-0.06</u>	<u>-0.07</u>	<u>-0.6</u>	<u>13.5</u>	<u>-0.1</u>	<u>3.0</u>	12.2	<u>-0.4</u>
Passenger vehicle parts, maintenance & repairs	<u>2.7</u>		~~~	0.0	<u>0.3</u>	<u>2.50</u>	0.07	0.00	<u>1.9</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>1.6</u>	0.8	<u>1.4</u>
Other passenger vehicle expenses	<u>6.1</u> -			0.0	0.0	<u>2.93</u>	<u>0.18</u>	0.00	<u>2.4</u>	<u>2.2</u>	<u>1.7</u>	<u>2.6</u>	2.0	<u>1.8</u>
Public trans.	-6.6	many when my when	~~~	0.7		1.62	-0.11	0.01	4.8	3.9	-3.0	3.4	3.7	-2.7
Local & commuter transportation	2.6	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	***	0.1	0.4	0.43	0.01	0.00	1.5	0.5	2.3	2.2	1.2	0.3
City bus & subway	3.5	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		0.0		0.31	0.01	0.00	2.1	0.7	1.9	2.8	1.4	0.5
Taxi & other commuter service	0.2	~~		0.3		0.12	0.00	0.00	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.9	1.2	-0.6
Inter-city transportation	-10.4			0.9	-2.9	1.08	-0.11	0.01	6.2	5.7	-2.9	3.9	5.8	-2.4
<u>Air transportation</u>	-12.0			1.2		1.00	-0.12	0.01	6.5	6.2	-3.0	4.0	6.4	-2.5
Rail, highway bus, other	4.6	more afternament	~~~	-2.2		0.09	0.00	0.00	2.7	1.8	1.1	2.0	4.2	0.6
Health & personal care	2.5		~~	0.1	0.3	5.23	0.1	0.00	1.4	0.4	2.8	1.3	0.9	1.4
Health care	3.4		~~~	0.4		2.56	0.1	0.01	1.3	0.6	3.7	1.1	0.8	2.9
Health care goods	2.1	and the same of the same of	~~~	0.5	0.6	1.44	0.0	0.01	0.5	0.7	2.3	-0.1	1.1	2.0
Health care services	5.3	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	<b>~</b> ~	0.1	0.4	1.12	0.1	0.00	2.5	0.6	5.0	2.9	0.8	3.1
Personal Care	1.7	and the same and t	-m	-0.2		2.67	0.0	-0.01	1.5	0.5	0.3	1.5	1.2	0.2
Personal care supplies & equipment	0.7	many many and the same	~~~	-0.2	0.0	1.84	0.0	0.00	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.5	1.6	0.1
Personal care services	3.6	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		0.0	0.3	0.83	0.0	0.00	2.9	0.7	1.0	2.7	1.4	0.6
Recreation, education & reading	0.9	ment of the second	~~~	-0.8	-2.1	10.27	0.1	-0.08	1.7	8.0	-1.1	1.3	0.9	-0.5
Recreation	0.6	more thank and make the		0.97		8.22	0.05	-0.08	1.4	1.0	-0.7	0.6	1.2	0.0
Recreational equipment & services, excl. vehicles	1.0		~~~	1.9	0.7	2.10	0.0	0.04	-0.8	1.6	1.2	-2.2	2.0	1.6
Purchase & operation of recreational vehicles	2.8	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		-0.6	0.0	1.77	0.0	-0.01	2.6	1.8	0.1	1.9	2.0	0.4
Home entertainment equipment	-1.6	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	~~~	1.0	-1.0	0.66	0.0	0.01	-3.8	2.0	1.1	-4.9	2.2	1.5
Travel services	-4.7	Annum had an amount	vun	-6.4	-9.2	1.79	-0.1	-0.11	0.8	2.9	-1.9	0.4	2.8	-1.8
Other cultural & rec. services	4.7		ham	0.0	0.4	1.91	0.1	0.00	3.5	1.1	1.1	3.4	1.4	1.0
Educ. & reading	1.9		~~~	0.44		2.05	0.04	0.01	2.5	1.4	-0.4	3.0	1.1	-0.9
Education	1.7		_	0.1	0.1	1.83	0.0	0.00	2.4	1.4	-0.5	3.0	1.2	-1.0
Reading material excl. textbooks	3.5	warmen by a market	$\sim$	4.2	2.3	0.22	0.0	0.01	3.8	2.8	-0.1	3.2	2.9	0.1
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco & rec. cannabis	2.4		~~~	2.3	2.0	4.20	0.1	0.10	3.2	1.2	-0.6	2.7	1.3	-0.2
Alcoholic beverages	2.0			3.61		2.69	0.05	0.10	1.7	0.5	0.5	1.4	0.7	0.9
Alc. beverages served in licensed establishments	3.1		~~~	2.9	0.3	0.77	0.0	0.02	1.8	0.6	2.1	2.0	0.7	1.6
Alc. beverages purchased from stores	1.6		~~~~	3.8	0.3	1.92	0.0	0.07	1.7	0.7	-0.2	1.1	1.1	0.4
Tobacco products	4.5	manne manne	~~~	0.06		1.11	0.05	0.00	5.6	2.1	-0.6	4.8	2.8	-0.1
Cigarettes	4.5	mann in	~~	-0.1		0.94	0.0	0.00	5.6	2.1	-0.5	4.8	2.8	-0.1
Other tobacco products & supplies	3.5	momme	m_~	-0.2		0.16	0.0	0.00	5.6	2.0	-1.0	4.9	2.6	-0.5
Rec. cannabis	-1.1	~~~~		0.14		0.50	-0.01	0.00						

<sup>\*</sup>Number may not add due to rounding

\*\* Only available for components that are tracked on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Sources: Scotiabank Economics, Statistics Canada.

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