

Increase in Cost of Core Needs in Edmonton (2010 – 2013)

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This document provides the most recently available information on changes in costs of essential core items over the past 3 years compared to the overall rate of inflation. Edmonton data is used when available. When data is unavailable for either metro Edmonton or the City of Edmonton, Alberta data is used.

Edmonton Data

Inflation: The change in the Consumer Price Index (all items) for metro Edmonton was 4.9% from March 2010 to March 2013, and 28.3% above the 2002 base year.

Rent: Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in metro Edmonton increased by 5.5% from \$1,015 in October 2009 to \$1,071 in October 2012. Most of the rent increase (3.6%) took place between October 2011 to October 2012 as vacancy rates dropped from 3.3% to 1.7% (Source: CMHC Rental Market Reports).

Food: The average weekly cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four in metro Edmonton increased by 8.7% from \$193.81 in March 2010 to \$210.74 in March 2013 (Source: <http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/app21/infopage?cat1=Statistics&cat2=Food%20%26%20Beverages>).

Utilities: The cost of water, heat and electricity in metro Edmonton increased by 7.3% between March 2010 and March 2013. Utility costs are now 77.4% higher than they were in 2002 (Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 326-0020).

Public Transit: The cost of an adult monthly bus pass in the City of Edmonton increased by 28% from \$75.25 in January 2010 to \$89.00 today. The cost of an individual fare increased by 20% from \$2.50 to \$3.20 in the same time frame (Source: <http://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/ets/fares-ets.aspx>).

Fuel: The cost of regular unleaded gasoline in Edmonton increased by 22.3% from 90.5 cents/litre in March 2010 to 110.7 cents/litre in March 2013 (Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 326-0009).

Alberta Data

For the items below, Edmonton specific data is not available so provincial data is used instead. All data below is from CANSIM Table 326-0020.

Inflation: The change in the Consumer Price Index (all items) for Alberta was 4.9% between March 2010 and March 2013, the same percentage increase as metro Edmonton. The Alberta inflation increase since 2002 is 28.1%, slightly lower than inflation in metro Edmonton since 2002.

Household Operations, Furnishings and Equipment: The cost of these items in Alberta increased by 5.1% between March 2010 and March 2013, and by 12.3% since 2002.

Clothing and Footwear: The cost in Alberta decreased by 1.6% between March 2010 and March 2013, and decreased by 3.9% since 2002 (due to cheap imports from countries like China and Bangladesh).

Health and Personal Care: The cost in Alberta increased by 6.2% between March 2010 and March 2013, and increased by 26.9% since 2002.

Recreation, Education and Reading: The cost in Alberta decreased by 0.3% from \$105.30 between March 2010 and March 2013, and increased by 5.0% since 2002.

Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Products: The cost in Alberta has gone up 3.4% between March 2010 and March 2013, and increased by 39.3% since 2002.