

Cost of Living Increase – January 1, 2019

New Brunswick Teachers' Pension Plan

Determining annual cost of living increases under the New Brunswick Teachers' Pension Plan (NBTPP)

The NBTPP provides for an *Indexing Adjustment Benefit* (IAB, also known as “indexation”) each year (on January 1st) if there is a large enough surplus in the pension plan, up to a maximum Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 4.75% as follows:

- For active members, the pension benefits accumulated up to December 31, 2017 (including pre-conversion benefits earned up to July 1, 2014) will be adjusted based on 100% of the increase in the CPI.
- For retired members, deferred members and any surviving spouses or dependent children receiving a pension benefit under the NBTPP, pension benefits will be adjusted based on 75% of the increase in the CPI
- For retired or deferred members of the NBTPP who terminated during 2018, a blended rate is calculated based on the number of months the member was active and the number of months the member was retired

Example of blended rate for NBTPP retiree who terminated employment August 31, 2018

- $(100\% \times 1.88\%) \times 8/12 = 1.25\%$
- $(75\% \times 1.88\%) \times 4/12 = 0.47\%$
- Total indexation applied to the benefit accrued to Dec 31, 2017 = **1.72%**

Important information to understand

If the funding status of the NBTPP does not allow for indexing to be granted in a given year, the increases are carried forward to future years and may be paid if the funding status of the NBTPP allows for it at that time.

Cost of living increase for January 1, 2019: The Calculation

The January 1, 2019 cost of living adjustment (COLA) was calculated by comparing the average Consumer Price Index (CPI)* for the period of July 2017 to June 2018 with the average CPI for the period of July 2016 to June 2017, as follows:

Month Year	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018	June 2018	Avg.
CPI	130.4	130.5	130.8	130.9	131.3	130.8	131.7	132.5	132.9	133.3	133.4	133.6	131.84

Month Year	July 2016	Aug 2016	Sept 2016	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	June 2017	Avg.
CPI	128.9	128.7	128.8	129.1	128.6	128.4	129.5	129.7	129.9	130.4	130.5	130.4	129.41

Here's how the increase is calculated: $(131.84 - 129.41) / 129.41 = 1.88\%$

*CPI is an indicator of changes in consumer prices experienced by Canadians which is obtained by comparing, over time, the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by consumers. CPI figures are drawn from the Bank of Canada. They can be found at www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi/.