

Holding the Line on Spending

Budget 2015–2016 holds the line on spending by focusing on the core responsibilities of government and making structural changes that will make government work better and cost less.

Making thoughtful, strategic spending decisions and reductions

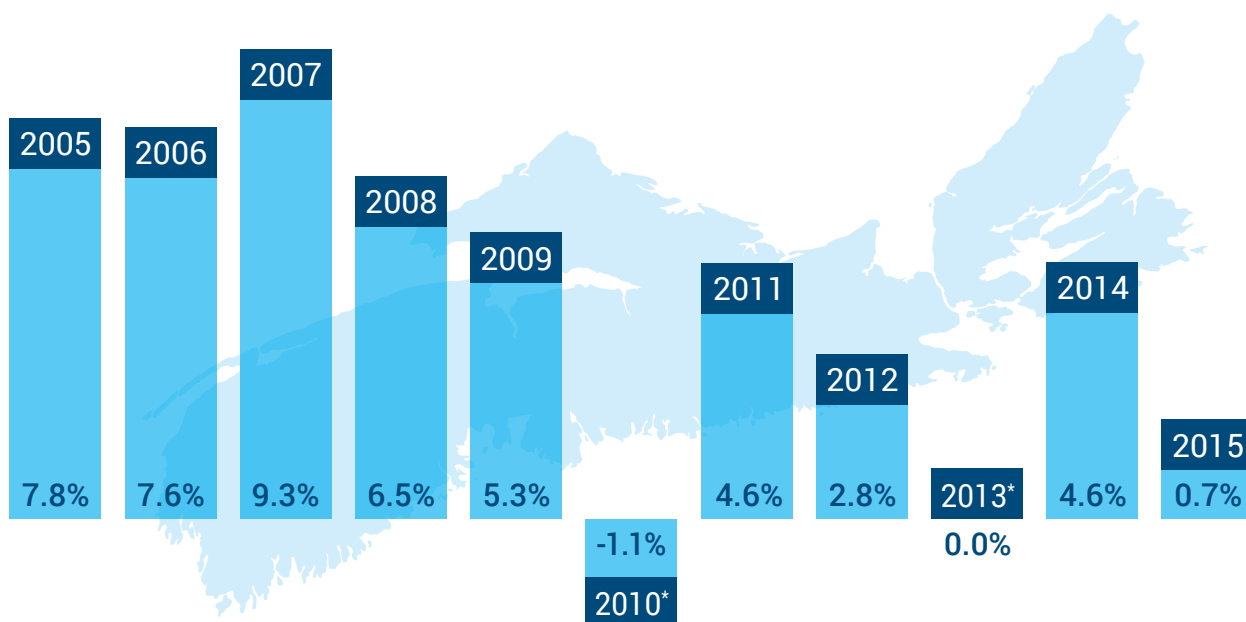
Overall departmental spending is up 0.7 per cent over 2014–2015. This takes into account public-sector wage increases, which were among the highest in Canada.

- Departmental spending is \$8.9 billion, 0.7 per cent more than last year, mainly due to labour costs

- The civil service will begin to be right-sized by reducing 320 full-time equivalent jobs as government restructures programs and services
- Program Review to date will save taxpayers \$119 million. Program Review has become a permanent initiative with future savings contributing to sustainable finances
- Spending at the Department of Health and Wellness will rise 0.8 per cent, the smallest increase in more than a decade
- Five departments have smaller budgets than last year
- Shared Services – streamlining procurement, information technology, telecommunications and some construction projects across government, school boards, Crown corporations and health care – continues to save government millions of dollars a year

Budget 2015–2016 | At A Glance

Holding The Line On Departmental Spending



* Note: In the years 2009 and 2012, government used significant funds to prepay future commitments, which resulted in lower spending in the following years, 2010 and 2013.

Focus on key areas

This budget moves money from things that are not optimal to areas where greater investment is needed—like education and support for our most vulnerable.

- Invest an additional \$20.4 million this year to renew, refocus and rebuild our education system. That will include investing in our post-secondary system through an increase to university funding grants (\$3.2 million), maintaining the Nova Scotia Student Bursary (\$24.8 million), having no-interest student loans (\$3.8 million), increasing apprenticeship (\$1.5 million) and offering more graduate scholarships and innovation funding (\$1.9 million)
- Protect our vulnerable citizens by increasing funding to Services for Persons with Disabilities (\$4.5 million), Senior Citizens' Assistance (\$1.5 million), Mental Health and Addictions (\$1 million), SchoolsPlus (\$0.5 million), Home Care (\$3.8 million) and maintaining current services in Employment Support and Income Assistance (\$2.6 million)