

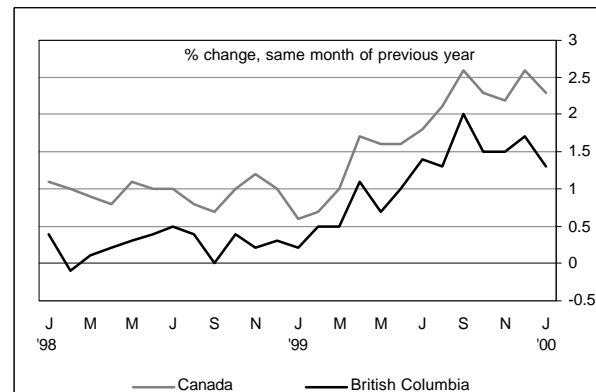
Consumer Price Index ♦ January 2000

Highlights

- British Columbia, along with most of the other provinces, saw a decline in consumer prices in January. BC was tied with Alberta and Prince Edward Island with a 0.3% drop in prices from December; New Brunswick led the pack with a 0.4% decrease. Looking at the percentage change over twelve months, British Columbia continued to record the lowest rate among the provinces at 1.3%. The national inflation rate was 2.3%.
- Vancouver and Victoria again recorded the lowest annual inflation of all the metropolitan areas at 1.3% and 1.1%, respectively. At the metropolitan level, the highest increases were in the Atlantic region, with Saint John at 3.3% and St. John's and Halifax at 3.2%.
- Fuel prices continue to be the push behind inflation. Gasoline prices in BC increased 32.3% since January 1999, followed by fuel oil at 21.4% and piped gas at 18.4%. Price declines were registered for fresh fruit, down 10.7%, coffee and tea, down 7.7%, fresh vegetables, down 5.2% and alcoholic beverages purchased from stores, down 3.6%.
- Shelter costs in the province were at the same level as they had been in January 1999 and showed only a 0.3% increase from last month. BC's inflation rate, excluding the shelter component, rose 1.7% in January compared with a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.3%.

	1992=100 January 2000	% Change From	
		December 1999	January 1999
Canada	111.4	-0.1	2.3
BC	111.3	-0.3	1.3
Vancouver	111.6	-0.2	1.3
Victoria	111.1	-0.4	1.1

rates down in January



1992=100	Annual Index 1999	Annual Index 1998	Annual % Change
Canada	110.5	108.6	1.7
BC	111.2	110.0	1.1
Vancouver	111.4	110.4	0.9
Victoria	111.1	110.0	1.0

Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the February 2000 Consumer Price Index on March 15, 2000.