

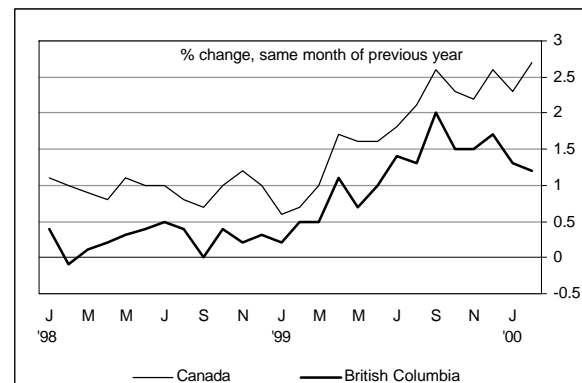
Consumer Price Index ◆ February 2000

Highlights

- British Columbia consumer prices edged up in February by 0.1% over January. Only Alberta saw no increase, while Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland all recorded the highest monthly price increases of 0.8%. On a twelve month basis, BC had the smallest increase at 1.2%, followed by Saskatchewan at 1.9%. All other provinces had increases in excess of 2.0%, with Newfoundland being the highest at 3.8%. The increase for Canada overall was 2.7%.
- Vancouver and Victoria continued to record the lowest annual inflation of all the metropolitan areas at 1.5% and 1.2%, respectively. Highest increases were felt in Saint John's at 3.5%, St. John at 3.4%, and Halifax and Toronto at 3.3%.
- Fuel oil and gasoline prices continued their rise in February. Home heating oil prices across Canada jumped 22.1% in the month of February and were up 63.6% from a year ago. In BC, home oil prices were up 3.0% in February and 25.8% from a year ago. Nation wide, gasoline prices rose 3.1% in February and 31.3% on an annual basis, while in BC gas prices actually declined 1.8% in the month but were 26.0% above levels of a year earlier. BC food prices declined by 0.9% in February and were 1.4% below levels of a year earlier.
- Shelter costs in BC crept up marginally in February by 0.1% and were only 0.3% above February 1999 levels. All-items excluding shelter rose 1.6% in the year. Across Canada, prices excluding shelter rose 2.6% during the same period.

	1992=100	% Change From	
	February 2000	January 2000	February 1999
Canada	112.0	0.5	2.7
BC	111.4	0.1	1.2
Vancouver	111.8	0.2	1.5
Victoria	111.3	0.2	1.2

BC rate lower in February



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 March 2000 Consumer Price Index on April 11, 2000.