

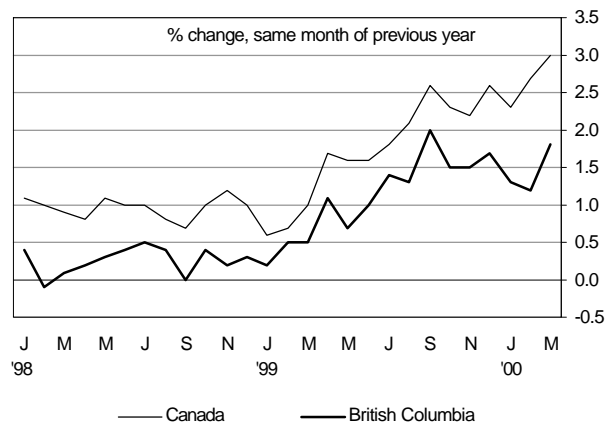
Consumer Price Index ◆ March 2000

Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, rose 0.8% in March over February 2000, the highest month-to-month increase in BC since July of 1995 when a 0.7% monthly increase was posted.
- Compared to March 1999, BC's inflation rate increased 1.8%, the lowest of all the provinces. Nova Scotia, at 4.4%, posted the greatest 12-month increase, followed by New Brunswick at 4.2%. Canada's rate was 3.0% for the same period.
- Victoria recorded the lowest 12-month increase of all the metropolitan areas at 1.8%, followed by Vancouver and Quebec City, both at 2.2%. Saint John posted the highest rate at 4.3%, followed by Halifax at 3.9%.
- Continuing high prices for fuel oil and gasoline are the major contributors to the rise in inflation across the country. Home heating oil prices were up a staggering 59.8% nationally from a year ago, while BC experienced a 35.7% increase. Gasoline prices rose higher in BC over the year (40.2%) than in Canada overall (38.0%). Offsetting these huge increases in BC were lower prices for food purchased from stores (-2.2%), beer purchased from stores (-4.1%) and owned accommodation (-0.9).
- Shelter costs in BC continue to rise slowly, increasing 0.2% from last month and 0.6% from March 1999 levels. BC's inflation rate, excluding shelter, rose 2.3% in March compared to a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 3.0%.

	1992=100 Index	% Change From	
		February 2000	March 1999
Canada	112.8	0.7	3.0
BC	112.3	0.8	1.8
Vancouver	112.8	0.9	2.2
Victoria	112.2	0.8	1.8

Inflation Rates Show Sharp Rise



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	111.2	2.2
BC	111.6	1.4
Vancouver	111.8	1.3
Victoria	111.5	1.3

Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the April 2000 Consumer Price Index on May 18, 2000.