

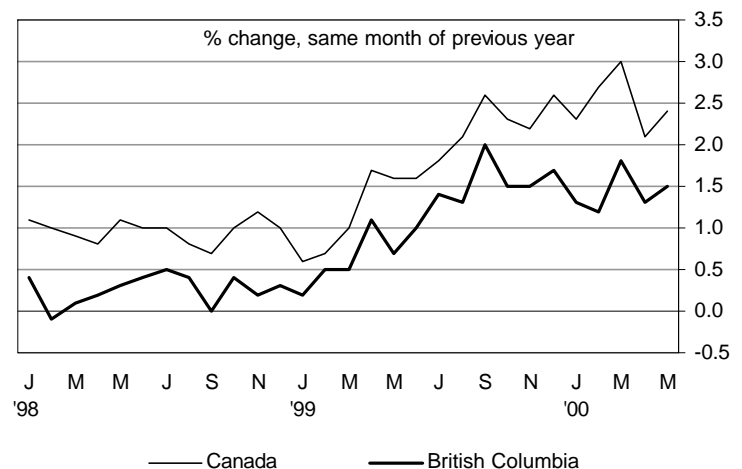
## Consumer Price Index ♦ May 2000

### Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, rose 0.4% in May over April 2000. Inflation rose in all the provinces except for Newfoundland, which experienced a 0.1% decline. The highest rate was recorded in Prince Edward Island at 0.7%. Canada's rate rose by 0.5%.
- Compared to May 1999, BC's inflation rate increased 1.5%, the lowest of all the provinces. Prince Edward Island, at 4.8%, posted the greatest 12-month increase. Canada's rate was 2.4% for the same period.
- Victoria recorded the lowest 12-month increase of all the metropolitan areas at 1.5%, followed by Vancouver, Quebec City and St. John's, all at 1.9%. Charlottetown posted the highest rate at 4.3%.
- High prices for home heating fuel and gasoline are the main contributors to the rise in inflation across the country. Home heating oil prices were up 35.5% nationally from a year ago, and up 27.2% in BC. Gasoline prices rose 20.8% in Canada and 19.1% in BC. Piped gas prices rose 14.0% nationally and 18.5% in BC. Offsetting these increases in BC were lower prices for many food items including fresh fruit (-11.2%), non-alcoholic beverages (-7.6%), bakery and other cereal products (-4.8%), and coffee and tea (-4.6). The cost of owned accommodation in BC fell 0.1% from a year ago.
- BC's inflation rate, excluding shelter, rose 1.7% compared to a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.1%.

	1992=100 Index	% Change From	
		April 2000	May 1999
Canada	113.0	0.5	2.4
BC	112.8	0.4	1.5
Vancouver	113.3	0.4	1.9
Victoria	112.7	0.4	1.5

### Inflation Rates Creep Up



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	111.7	2.3
BC	111.9	1.5
Vancouver	112.1	1.5
Victoria	111.8	1.4

#### Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the June 2000 Consumer Price Index on July 13, 2000.