

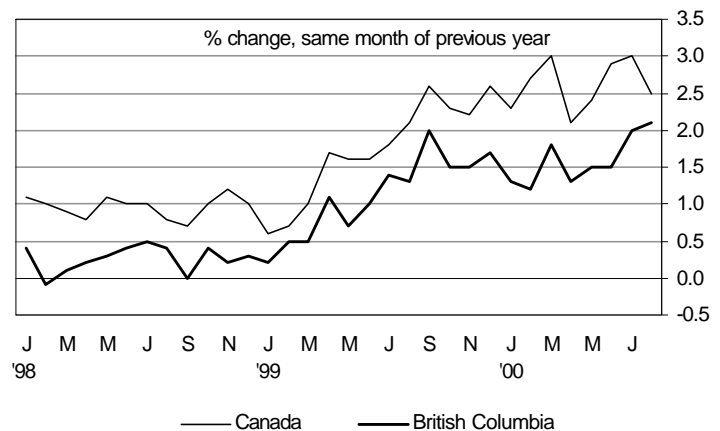
Consumer Price Index ♦ August 2000

Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, dropped 0.1% in August from July 2000. Four other provinces and Canada experienced deflation from the previous month, with Ontario posting the greatest decrease at -0.3%. The greatest increase was seen in Prince Edward Island at 0.4%. Canada's rate dropped by 0.2%.
- Compared to August 1999, BC's inflation rate, at 2.1%, was the lowest in the country. Prince Edward Island, at 4.9%, posted the greatest 12-month increase. Canada's rate rose 2.5% over the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Victoria continued to record the lowest 12-month increase (1.6%). Charlottetown posted the highest increase at 4.4%. Vancouver's rate rose 2.8% from the previous August.
- Compared to August 1999, consumers across the country continued to pay much higher prices for piped gas (47.7% in BC, 25.9% in Canada), fuel oil (22.4% in BC, 28.7% in Canada) and gasoline (23.8% in BC, 13.4% in Canada). Offsetting these increases in BC were lower prices for some food items, including non-alcoholic beverages (-10.1%), bakery and cereal products (-5.4%), and coffee and tea (-4.3%).
- BC's inflation rate, excluding energy, rose 0.7% compared to a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 1.7%.

	1992=100	Index	% Change From	
			July 2000	August 1999
Canada		113.9	-0.2	2.5
BC		114.1	-0.1	2.1
Vancouver		114.9	0.0	2.8
Victoria		113.6	-0.1	1.6

Closing the gap



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	112.4	2.5
BC	112.4	1.6
Vancouver	112.8	1.8
Victoria	112.2	1.5

Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the September Consumer Price Index on October 20, 2000.