

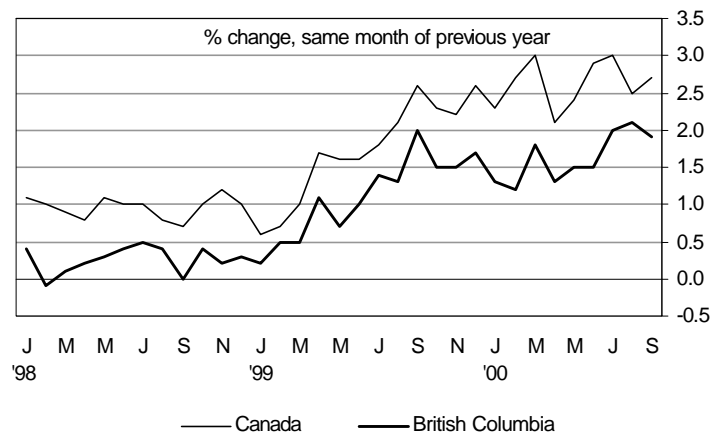
Consumer Price Index ♦ September 2000

Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, rose 0.2% in September from August 2000. This was the lowest of all the provinces, and was shared with Newfoundland. The greatest increase was recorded in Nova Scotia at 0.9%. Canada's rate rose 0.4%.
- Compared to September 1999, BC's inflation rate continued to be the lowest in the country, at 1.9%. Prince Edward Island, at 4.3%, posted the greatest 12-month increase. Canada's rate rose 2.7% over the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Victoria continued to record the lowest 12-month increase (1.7%). Calgary posted the greatest increase at 4.1%. Vancouver's rate rose 2.4% from the previous September.
- Energy prices show no signs of decreasing as consumers across the country continued to pay much higher prices than a year ago. Major increases were recorded in the price of piped gas (37.0% in BC, 24.5% in Canada), fuel oil (35.5% in BC, 44.5% in Canada) and gasoline (22.1% in BC, 17.7% in Canada). Offsetting these increases in BC were lower prices for some food items, including fresh fruit (-7.9%), non-alcoholic beverages (-5.2%), coffee and tea (-4.4%), bakery and cereal products (-3.9%), and fish and other seafood (-2.6%).
- BC's inflation rate, excluding energy, rose 0.6% compared to a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 1.5%.

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		September 2000	August 2000	September 2000	September 1999
Canada		114.4	0.4	2.7	
BC		114.3	0.2	1.9	
Vancouver		115.1	0.2	2.4	
Victoria		113.9	0.3	1.7	

BC trend shows drop



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	112.7	2.5
BC	112.6	1.6
Vancouver	113.0	1.9
Victoria	112.4	1.5

Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the October Consumer Price Index on November 21, 2000.