

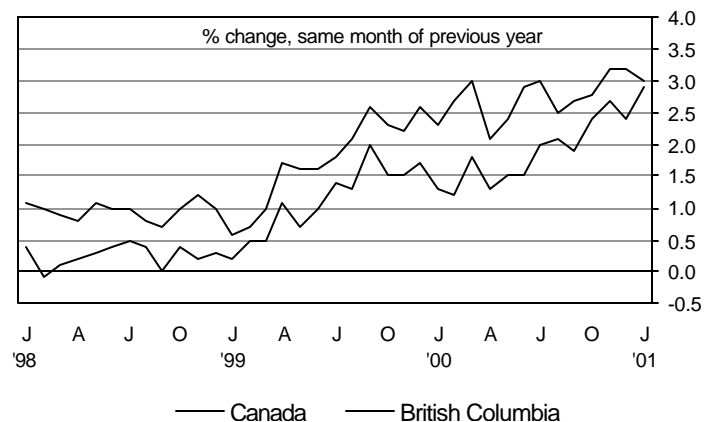
Consumer Price Index ♦ January 2001

Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, rose 2.9% from January 2000. Alberta posted the smallest 12-month increase at 1.1%, while Prince Edward Island experienced the greatest increase at 4.6%. Canada's rate rose 3.0% from last January.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Victoria recorded a 2.4% increase and Vancouver a 3.3% increase from the previous January. Edmonton recorded the lowest 12-month increase at 0.3%, while the highest increase was experienced in Charlottetown at 4.2%.
- Energy prices have been rising steadily since April of 1999 in both BC and Canada. Compared to January 2000, natural gas prices rose a whopping 54.9% in BC and 24.2% in Canada. BC fuel oil and gasoline prices, while both beginning to show monthly declines, are still posting 12-month increases of 26.2% and 13.4%, respectively. Also contributing to increased inflation in BC are higher prices for local and commuter transportation (10.7%), meat (7.3%), reading material and other printed matter (6.7%), and fresh vegetables (6.4%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for children's clothing (-7.1%), bakery and cereal products (-2.3%), and coffee and tea (-2.1%).
- BC's inflation rate, excluding energy, rose 1.8% compared to a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.3%.

1992=100	Index	% Change From	
	January 2001	December 2000	January 2000
Canada	114.7	-0.3	3.0
BC	114.5	0.2	2.9
Vancouver	115.3	0.3	3.3
Victoria	113.8	-0.1	2.4

BC / Canada gap closing



1992=100	2000 Annual Average Index	1999 Annual Average Index	Annual % Change
Canada	113.5	110.5	2.7
BC	113.3	111.2	1.9
Vancouver	113.9	111.4	2.2
Victoria	113.0	111.1	1.7