

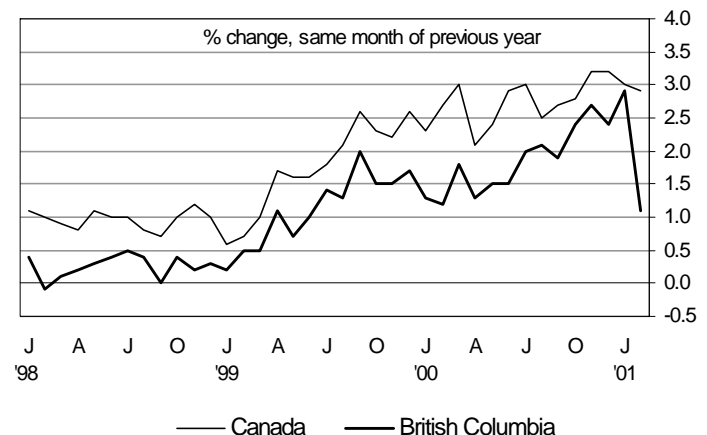
Consumer Price Index ♦ February 2001

Highlights

- British Columbia, with a 1.1% increase from February 2000, had the lowest inflation rate in Canada. Prince Edward Island had the highest at 3.7% while Canada's rate was 2.9%. In BC fresh vegetables (20.6%) and piped gas (54.9%) were the main contributors to the increase.
- Of the metropolitan areas, both Victoria and Vancouver showed a decrease from the previous month, at -2.2% and -1.2% respectively. Edmonton experienced the highest month-over-month change at 3.1%.
- Energy prices and government rebates have significantly affected the CPI. BC's energy component, which includes piped gas (54.9%), fuel oil (18.6%), motor gasoline (16.4%) and electricity (-100.0%), decreased by 8.4% from the same month a year ago. The \$200 credit for BC Hydro customers caused the index for electricity to fall from 106.1 in January to 0.0 in February. With the resumption of payments in March the index series will be re-established.
- Many British Columbians received a \$100 rebate from the Insurance Corporation of BC, resulting in a 1.8% drop in automotive insurance costs.
- BC's inflation rate, excluding food and energy, rose 1.4% compared to a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.0%.

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		February 2001	January 2001	February 2001	February 2000
Canada		115.2	0.4	2.9	
BC		112.6	-1.7	1.1	
Vancouver		113.9	-1.2	1.9	
Victoria		111.3	-2.2	0.0	

Government rebates affect BC's CPI



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	114.1	2.8
BC	113.6	2.0
Vancouver	114.4	2.4
Victoria	113.2	1.7

Note:

Statistics Canada will release the March issue of the Consumer Price Index on April 20, 2001.