

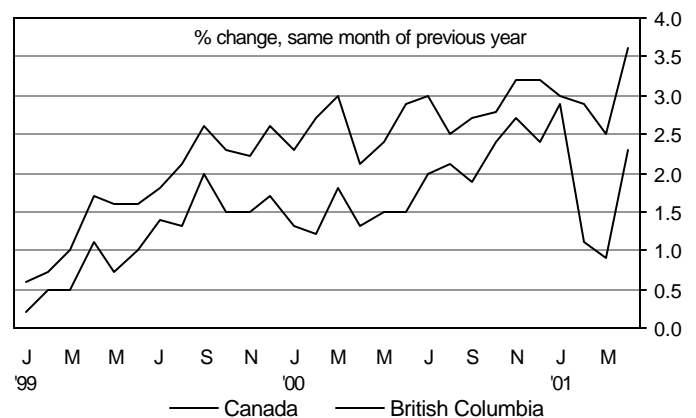
Consumer Price Index ♦ April 2001

Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate rose 2.3% from April 2000. Newfoundland posted the lowest 12-month increase at 1.2%, while Ontario had the highest increase at 4.3%. Canada's increase was 3.6%, the highest 12-month increase the country has seen since December 1991.
- Of the metropolitan areas, St. John's recorded the smallest year-over-year increase at 1.2%, with Victoria following at 1.7%. Vancouver's inflation rate increased 2.5% over the same period while the greatest increases were seen in Ottawa and Toronto, both at 4.5%.
- Natural gas prices continue to fuel BC's rising inflation rate, increasing 54.0% from the same month a year ago. Price increases from last April for home heating oil (4.2%) and motor gasoline (5.5%) are continuing to stabilize. Electricity prices rose 0.4% from a year ago.
- Also contributing to inflation in BC from last April are higher prices for fresh fruit and vegetables (both rose 16.5%), local and commuter transportation (+12.0%), reading material (+5.2%), and beer purchased from stores (+4.6%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for inter-city transportation (-6.8%), footwear (-4.3%), household furnishings (-2.8%), and children's clothing (-2.7%).
- BC's inflation rate, excluding food and energy, rose 1.0% compared to a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.1%.

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		April 2001	March 2001	March 2001	April 2000
Canada	116.4	116.4	116.3	0.7	3.6
BC	115.0	115.0	113.5	1.5	2.3
Vancouver	115.7	115.7	113.2	1.5	2.5
Victoria	114.2	114.2	112.6	1.6	1.7

Inflation Rates Spike Upward



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	114.6	2.9
BC	113.9	2.0
Vancouver	114.7	2.4
Victoria	113.4	1.6

Note:
Statistics Canada will release the May issue of the Consumer Price Index on June 15, 2001.