

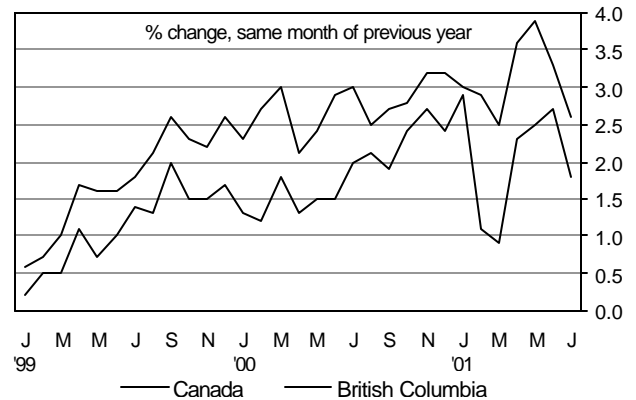
Consumer Price Index ♦ July 2001

Highlights

- British Columbia's year-over-year inflation rate was 1.8% in July 2001. The smallest 12-month increase was in Newfoundland at 1.3% while Saskatchewan posted the greatest increase at 3.5%. Canada's increase was 2.6% for the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, St. John's recorded the lowest year-over-year increase in prices at 1.3%. Prices in Victoria rose 1.5%, while Vancouver experienced a 1.8% increase since last July. The highest increases were seen in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Regina, all at 3.5%.
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and motor gasoline, are continuing to moderate, rising 1.2% from last July. While natural gas prices rose 22.4% from last July, motor gasoline prices dropped 6.1%, and prices for home heating oil (+5.9%) and electricity (+0.4%) have remained stable for several months.
- Also contributing to inflation in BC from last July are higher prices for fresh vegetables (+16.6%), fresh fruit (+9.2%), non-alcoholic beverages (+8.5%), fish and other seafood (+7.6%), meat (+7.4%), and reading material (+5.6%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for household furnishings (-4.6%), coffee and tea (-5.2%), and children's clothing (-4.3%).
- BC's consumer price index, excluding food and energy, rose 1.2% compared to a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.2%.

	1992=100	Index	% Change From	
			June 2001	July 2000
Canada		117.1	-0.3	2.6
BC		116.3	0.0	1.8
Vancouver		117.0	0.0	1.8
Victoria		115.4	0.0	1.5

BC and Canada inflation rates drop



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	115.6	3.0
BC	114.6	2.1
Vancouver	115.4	2.5
Victoria	113.9	1.6

Note:
Statistics Canada will release the August issue of the Consumer Price Index on September 18, 2001.