

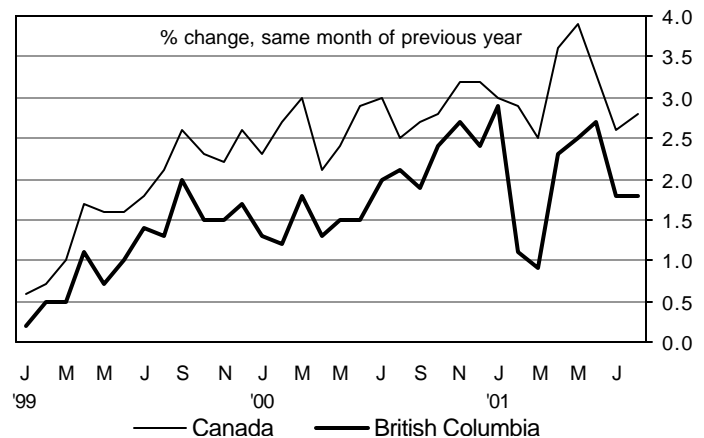
Consumer Price Index ♦ August 2001

Highlights

- Consumers in British Columbia paid 1.8% more for goods and services in August than they did in August 2000. The smallest 12-month price increase was in Newfoundland at 1.1%, while Ontario and Saskatchewan shared the greatest price increase at 3.4%. Canada's consumer prices increased 2.8% during the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, St. John's recorded the lowest year-over-year increase in prices at 1.0%. Prices in Victoria rose 1.4%, while Vancouver experienced a 1.8% increase in prices since last August. The highest price increases were seen in Ottawa (3.6%).
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and motor gasoline, are continuing to moderate, rising 1.3% from last August. While natural gas prices rose 22.4% from last August, motor gasoline prices dropped 5.9%, 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 August are higher prices for non-alcoholic beverages (+14.9%), fresh vegetables (+14.4%), fresh fruit (+12.8%), fish and other seafood (+6.9%), and reading material (+5.6%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for coffee and tea (-6.2%), children's clothing (-5.5%), and household furnishings (-4.5%).
- BC's consumer price index, excluding food and energy, was 1.1% compared to a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.2%.

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		August 2001	July 2001	July 2001	August 2000
Canada		117.1		0.0	2.8
BC		116.1		-0.2	1.8
Vancouver		117.0		0.0	1.8
Victoria		115.2		-0.2	1.4

BC's inflation rate flat



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	115.8	3.0
BC	114.8	2.1
Vancouver	115.6	2.4
Victoria	114.0	1.6

Note:

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