

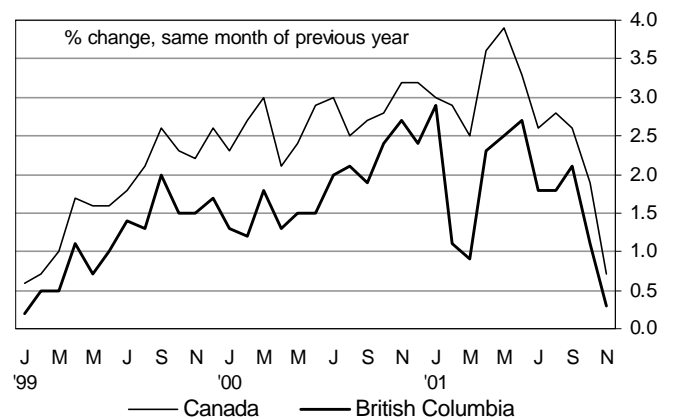
Consumer Price Index ♦ November 2001

Highlights

- Inflation in BC rose 0.3% between November 2000 and November 2001, the lowest year-over-year increase since January of 1999 when it rose 0.2%. Several provinces experienced deflation, with Alberta reporting a 2.5% drop in prices compared to a year ago, mostly due to a natural gas credit. Saskatchewan had the greatest increase at 2.0%. Canada's consumer prices increased 0.7% during the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Edmonton and Calgary reported deflation of 2.5% and 2.6%, respectively. Regina, at 2.1%, recorded the highest increase. Prices in Vancouver and Victoria rose 0.3% from last November.
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and motor gasoline, dropped 5.9% from last November, continuing a downward trend. While natural gas prices rose 10.1% from last November, home heating oil prices dropped 10.7% and motor gasoline prices dropped 14.0%. Electricity prices remained stable with a 0.4% increase from the same period last year.
- Contributing to inflation in BC from last November are higher prices for fresh fruit (+13.9%), meat (+7.3%), cigarettes (+6.1%), and fish/seafood (+5.2%). (At the national level, cigarette prices rose 24.7% from last November.) In BC, price increases were offset by lower prices for women's clothing (-4.7%), children's clothing (-4.2%), footwear (-3.8%), and coffee and tea (-2.9%).
- BC's consumer price index, excluding food and energy, rose 0.2% from last November. The comparable figure for Canada is 1.7%.

1992=100	Index	% Change From	
		October 2001	November 2000
Canada	115.8	-0.9	0.7
BC	114.9	-0.8	0.3
Vancouver	115.6	-0.8	0.3
Victoria	114.4	-0.7	0.3

Inflation Trend Continues to Fall



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	% Change from Prev. 12-month average
Canada	116.3	2.7
BC	115.1	1.8
Vancouver	115.9	2.0
Victoria	114.3	1.3

Note:
 Statistics Canada will release the December issue of the Consumer Price Index on January 22, 2002.