

Consumer Price Index ♦ December 2001

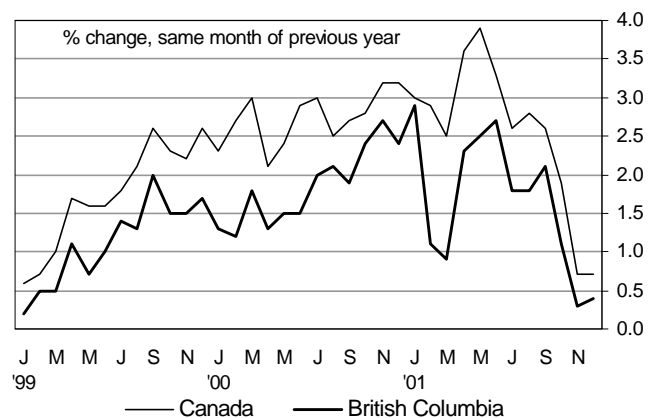
Highlights

Annual Averages

- British Columbia's annual average all-items Consumer Price Index was 1.7% higher in 2001 than in 2000. The lowest increase was seen in Newfoundland at 1.1%, and the highest increases were in Saskatchewan and Ontario, both at 3.1%. Nationally, consumer prices rose 2.6% in 2001 from 2000.
- Of the metropolitan areas, St. John's recorded the lowest annual average increase at 1.1%, while the citizens of Ottawa paid 3.2% more for consumer goods in 2001 than in 2000. Prices rose 1.8% in Vancouver and 1.2% in Victoria between 2000 and 2001.
- BC's annual average energy index, which includes natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and motor gasoline, rose 2.7% from 2000. While natural gas prices rose 33.2% from last year, home heating oil prices increased a more modest 2.5%, prices for motor gasoline remained unchanged from 2000, and electricity prices showed a 13.1% decline from last year, largely due to energy rebates from BC Hydro.
- Contributing to inflation in BC from 2000 are higher prices for food (+3.9%), health and personal care (+2.6%), alcohol and tobacco (+2.4%), shelter (+1.6%), and recreation, education & reading (+1.2%). Household operations & furnishings (+0.9%), clothing & footwear (+0.4%), and transportation (+0.4%) showed modest inclines.
- BC's annual average consumer price index, excluding food and energy, rose 1.0% from 2000. The comparable figure for Canada is 2.0%.

1992=100	Index	% Change From	
	December 2001	November 2001	December 2000
Canada	115.9	0.1	0.7
BC	114.8	-0.1	0.4
Vancouver	115.8	0.2	0.7
Victoria	114.3	-0.1	0.4

Declining Inflation Trend Halted



1992=100	2001 Annual Average Index	Annual % Change 2000/2001
Canada	116.4	2.6
BC	115.2	1.7
Vancouver	116.0	1.8
Victoria	114.3	1.2

Note:
 Statistics Canada will release the January issue of the Consumer Price Index on February 14, 2002.