

Consumer Price Index - February 2002

Highlights

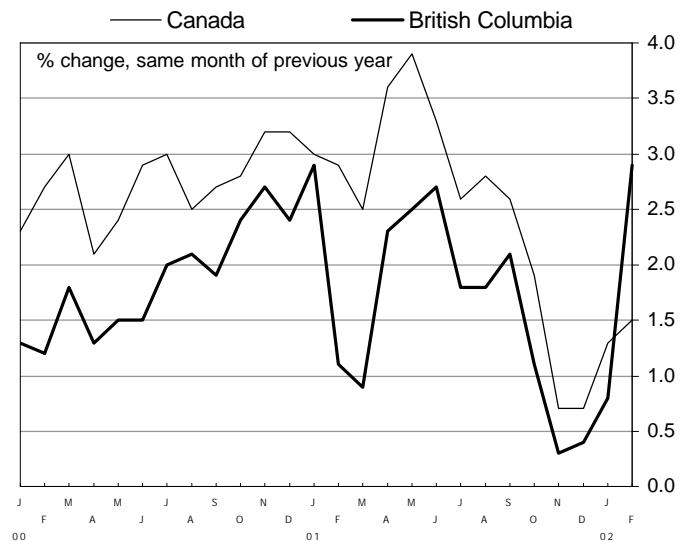
- BC reported an inflation rate of 2.9%, the highest of the provinces, between February 2001 and February 2002. The next highest rate was 1.6% in the provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Quebec. Newfoundland reported deflation of 0.3%. Canada's consumer prices increased 1.5% from last February.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Victoria (3.7%) and Vancouver (2.4%) had the greatest increase by far. The next highest was Edmonton and Regina, both at 1.7%. St. John's and Winnipeg saw zero inflation.
- A significant portion of BC's reported inflation of 2.9% over a year ago is attributable to BC Hydro credits that drove the electricity component of the index to zero in February 2001. Excluding energy, BC's CPI rose 2.1% from last February.
- Even though piped gas (-13.1%) and fuel oil and other fuel (-19.1%) decreased from February 2001, the water, fuel and electricity component of shelter increased by 67.5% in BC. Gasoline prices were 16.2% lower but the prices of fresh vegetables (12.4%), fresh fruit (7.7%) and cigarettes (12.3%) contributed to our higher inflation rate.
- BC's consumer price index, excluding food and energy, rose 1.5% from last February. The comparable figure for Canada is 1.8%.

Note:

Statistics Canada will release the March issue of the Consumer Price Index on April 23, 2002.

1992=100	Index		
	February 2002	January 2002	February 2001
Canada	116.9	0.6	1.5
BC	115.9	0.4	2.9
Vancouver	116.6	0.3	2.4
Victoria	115.4	0.4	3.7

BC inflation surges past national average



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