

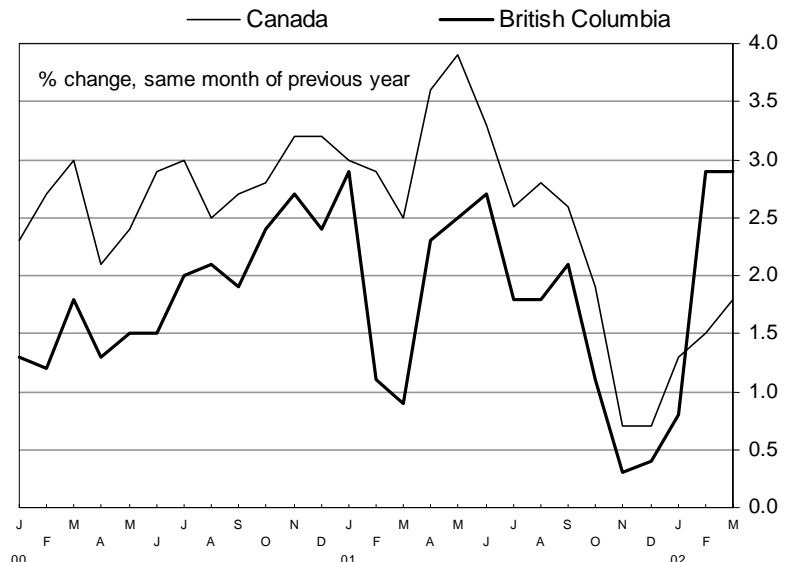
Consumer Price Index - March 2002

Highlights

- BC reported inflation of 2.9%, the highest of the provinces, between March 2001 and March 2002, followed by Saskatchewan at 2.5%. Newfoundland reported the lowest inflation at 0.4%, while Canada's consumer prices increased 1.8% during the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Victoria (3.3%) and Vancouver (3.0%) experienced the greatest price increases from last March, followed by Calgary at 2.7%. The smallest price increases were in St. John's and Winnipeg, both at 0.6%.
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and gasoline, rose 9.5% from last March, due to lingering effects of the \$200 BC Hydro credit (issued February 2001) which had the effect of pushing March 2002 electricity prices up by 150.8%. This was offset by significant price decreases for fuel oil (-15.4%), piped gas (-13.1%) and gasoline (-4.5%). BC's inflation rate excluding the energy component was 2.5%.
- Also contributing to inflation in BC from last March are higher prices for cigarettes (+23.4%), fresh fruit (+13.9%), inter-city public transportation (+11.7%) and fresh vegetables (+11.0%). Lower prices for coffee and tea (-2.1%) and children's clothing (-1.5%) also helped offset these increases.
- BC's consumer price index, excluding food and energy, rose 2.2% from last March. The comparable figure for Canada is also 2.2%.

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		March 2002	February 2002	March 2001	
Canada		117.7	0.7	1.8	
BC		116.6	0.6	2.9	
Vancouver		117.4	0.7	3.0	
Victoria		116.1	0.6	3.3	

BC inflation trend levels



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	116.9	2.2
BC	115.8	1.8
Vancouver	116.6	1.8
Victoria	115.1	1.6

Note:

Statistics Canada will release the April issue of the Consumer Price Index on May 22, 2002.