

Consumer Price Index – April 2002

Highlights

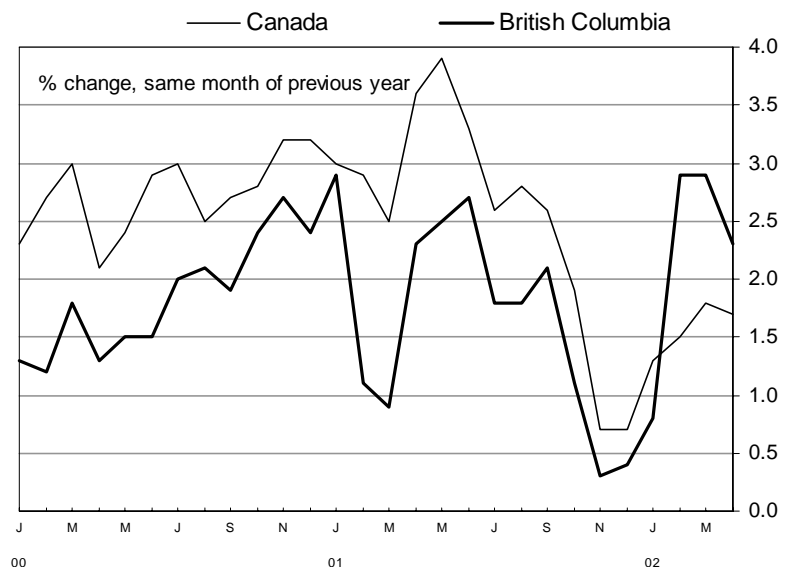
- Inflation in BC rose 2.3% between April 2001 and April 2002. The greatest increase was seen in Saskatchewan at 3.6%, followed by Alberta at 3.4%. Quebec reported the lowest inflation at 1.0%, while Canada's consumer prices increased 1.7% over the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Calgary experienced the greatest price increases from last April (4.2%). Victoria (2.5%) and Vancouver (2.3%) experienced moderate increases, while the smallest price increases were in Thunder Bay, at 0.4%.
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and gasoline, dropped 2.2% from last April, led by a 13.1% decrease in the price of natural gas. Fuel oil prices also fell (-6.7%), while electricity prices remained stable. Gasoline prices rose moderately (+1.4%) after six months of decreases.
- Contributing to inflation in BC from last April are higher prices for cigarettes (+24.1%), inter-city public transportation (+13.2%), and fresh vegetables (+10.8%). Lower prices for children's clothing (-4.5%), and coffee and tea (-4.3%) helped offset these increases.
- BC's consumer price index, excluding food and energy, rose 2.4% from last April. The comparable figure for Canada is 2.3%.

Note:

Statistics Canada will release the May issue of the Consumer Price Index on June 14, 2002.

	1992=100	Index	% Change From	
			March 2002	April 2001
Canada		118.4	0.6	1.7
BC		117.7	0.9	2.3
Vancouver		118.4	0.9	2.3
Victoria		117.1	0.9	2.5

BC inflation moderating



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	117.0	2.1
BC	116.0	1.8
Vancouver	116.8	1.8
Victoria	115.3	1.7