

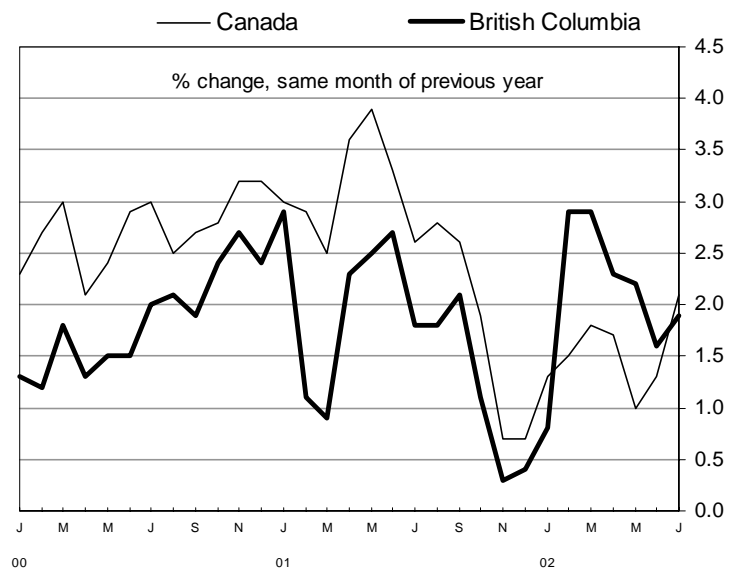
Consumer Price Index – July 2002

Highlights

- BC consumer prices rose 1.9% in July from July 2001, up slightly from June's year-over-year increase of 1.6%. The highest rate (3.9%) was seen in New Brunswick, while Manitoba reported the lowest rate (1.3%). Canada's year-over-year inflation rate was 2.1% in July.
- Of the metropolitan areas, prices in Vancouver rose 1.9% from last July, while Victoria posted a 2.3% increase over the same period. Saint John reported the greatest price increases from a year ago at 3.7%, while Edmonton experienced the smallest increase in prices at 1.2%.
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and gasoline, rose 0.2% from last July, a combination of a 13.1% drop in the price of natural gas, a 6.1% drop in the price of fuel oil, and a 6.1% increase in the price of gasoline. Electricity prices remained relatively stable (+0.4%).
- Increases in provincial and federal taxes in recent months on cigarettes continue to push up BC's All-Items CPI – prices on cigarettes rose 32.1% from last July. Also contributing to inflation in BC from last July were higher prices for public transportation – both local & commuter (+7.4%) and inter-city (+6.5%), household furnishings (+5.5%), reading material (+5.1%), and beer purchased from stores (+4.9%). Lower prices for children's clothing (-8.3%), women's clothing (-6.1%), men's clothing (-2.5%), and non-alcoholic beverages (-2.2%), helped offset these increases.
- BC's consumer price index, excluding food and energy, rose 2.2% from last July. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.9%.

	1992=100	Index	% Change From	
			June 2002	July 2001
Canada		119.6	0.5	2.1
BC		118.5	0.3	1.9
Vancouver		119.2	0.2	1.9
Victoria		118.1	0.3	2.3

BC's inflation lower than Canada's



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	117.4	1.6
BC	116.6	1.7
Vancouver	117.4	1.7
Victoria	116.0	1.8

Note:
 Statistics Canada will release the August issue of the Consumer Price Index on September 20, 2002.