

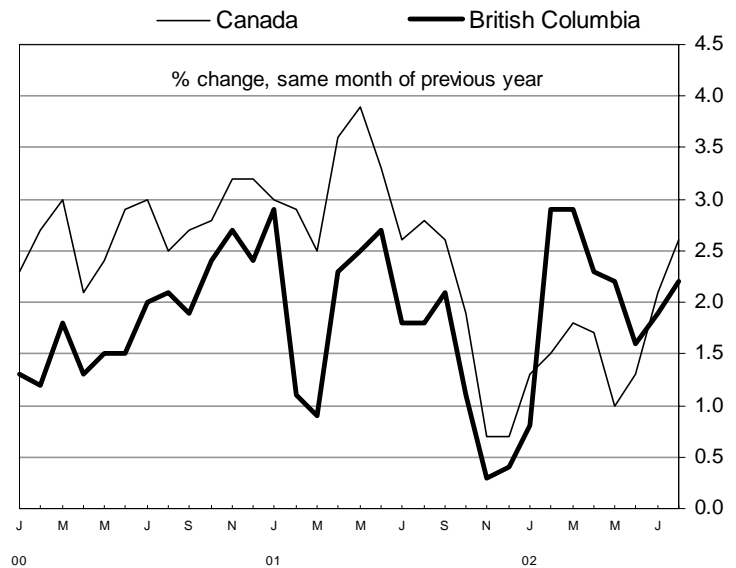
Consumer Price Index – August 2002

Highlights

- BC consumer prices rose 2.2% in August from August 2001, continuing a trend of mild inflation. The highest year-over-year inflation rate was seen in New Brunswick (4.2%), while Manitoba reported the lowest rate (1.8%). Canada's inflation rate was 2.6% over the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, prices in Vancouver rose 2.0% from last August, while Victoria posted a 2.7% increase over the same period. Saint John reported the greatest price increase from a year ago at 3.9%, while Edmonton and Winnipeg shared the smallest price increase at 1.8%.
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and gasoline, rose 1.4% from last August. Natural gas and fuel oil prices continue to drop while gasoline prices are again on the rise. Electricity prices are up slightly (+0.4%) from last August.
- Increases in provincial and federal taxes on cigarettes continue to push up BC's All-Items CPI – prices on cigarettes rose 30.9% from last August. Also contributing to inflation in BC from last August were higher prices for public transportation – both inter-city (+7.9%) and local & commuter (+7.4), household furnishings (+5.5%), reading material (+5.1%), and beer purchased from stores (+4.9%). Lower prices for men's clothing (-6.6%), children's clothing (-6.3%), and non-alcoholic beverages (-3.8%), helped offset these increases.
- BC's consumer price index, excluding food and energy, rose 2.5% from last August. The comparable figure for Canada was 3.0%.

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		August 2002	July 2002	August 2001	July 2001
Canada	120.1	119.9	119.7	2.6	2.5
BC	118.7	118.5	118.3	2.2	2.1
Vancouver	119.3	119.1	118.9	2.0	1.9
Victoria	118.3	118.1	117.9	2.7	2.6

BC and Canada Inflation trend on the rise



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	117.7	1.6
BC	116.8	1.7
Vancouver	117.6	1.7
Victoria	116.2	1.9

Note:
 Statistics Canada will release the September issue of the Consumer Price Index on October 23, 2002.