

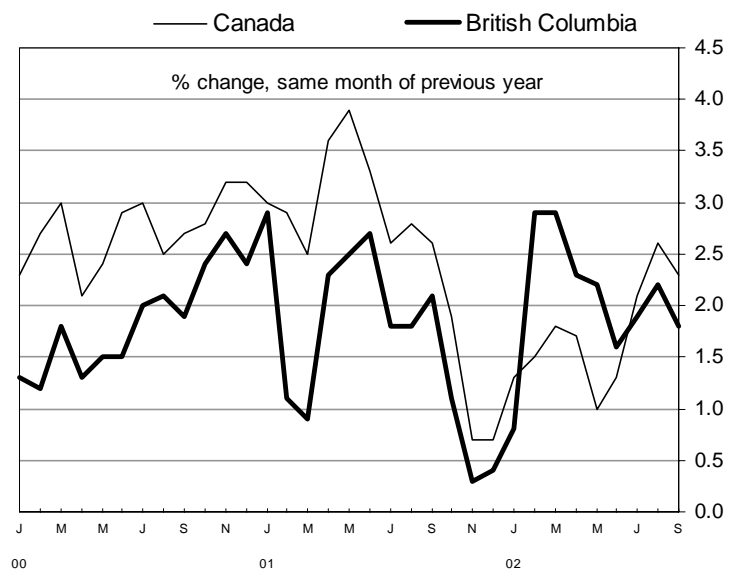
Consumer Price Index – September 2002

Highlights

- BC consumers paid 1.8% more in September than in September 2001, following a 2.2% rise in August from August 2001. New Brunswick consumers experienced the greatest increase in prices (4.1%), while Manitoba reported the smallest price increases in the country (1.2%). Canada's inflation rate was 2.3% over the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, price increases from September 2001 ranged from a high of 3.9% in Saint John, to a low of 1.3% in Winnipeg. Prices rose 1.8% in Vancouver and 2.3% in Victoria over the same period.
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and gasoline, dropped 3.7% from last September. Prices for natural gas (-13.1%), fuel oil (-5.7%), and gasoline (-1.8%) all showed declines while electricity prices are up slightly (+0.4%) from last September.
- Increases in provincial and federal taxes on cigarettes continue to exert strong upward pressure on BC's All-Items CPI – prices on cigarettes rose 30.9% from last September. Also contributing to inflation in BC from last September were higher costs for education (+15.3%) – average tuition fees increased 21.1%, fresh fruit (+7.6%), public transportation – both local & commuter (+7.4%) and inter-city (+6.9%), and reading material (+5.1%). Lower prices for children's clothing (-8.4%), men's clothing (-4.2%), and coffee & tea (-2.9%) helped offset these increases.
- BC's consumer price index, excluding food and energy, rose 2.5% from last September. The comparable figure for Canada was 3.0%.

	1992=100	Index	% Change From	
			August 2002	September 2001
		September 2002		
Canada		120.1	0.0	2.3
BC		118.8	0.1	1.8
Vancouver		119.6	0.3	1.8
Victoria		118.4	0.1	2.3

BC and Canada Inflation trends drop



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	117.9	1.6
BC	117.0	1.7
Vancouver	117.7	1.7
Victoria	116.5	2.0

Note:
 Statistics Canada will release the October issue of the Consumer Price Index on November 21, 2002.