

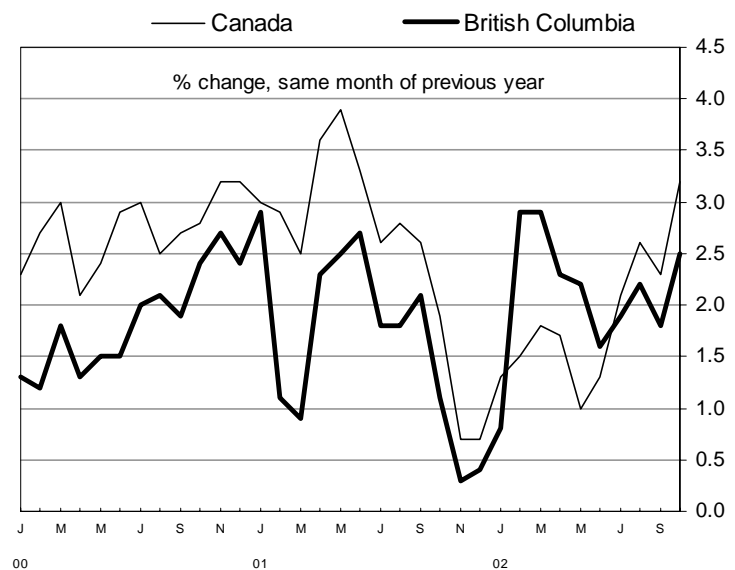
Consumer Price Index ♦ October 2002

Highlights

- BC consumers paid 2.5% more in October 2002 compared to October 2001, following a 1.8% year-over-year rise in September. Alberta experienced the greatest price increases (5.2%), while Manitoba reported the smallest price increases in the country (1.9%). Canada's inflation rate was 3.2% over the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, price increases from October 2001 ranged from a high of 5.2% in Edmonton to a low of 1.8% in Winnipeg. Prices in both Vancouver and Victoria rose 2.7% over the same period.
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and gasoline, rose 2.7% from last October. Prices for natural gas declined (-3.4%), while prices for gasoline (+5.8%), fuel oil (+1.9%), and electricity (+0.4%) all rose from last October.
- Increases in provincial and federal taxes on cigarettes continue to push up BC's All-Items CPI - prices on cigarettes rose 33.2% from last October. Also contributing to inflation in BC from last October were higher costs for education (+15.2%), due to tuition fee increases, public transportation—both local & commuter (+7.4%) and inter-city (+7.2%), beer purchased from stores (+4.9%), and reading material (+3.4%). Lower prices for coffee & tea (-4.7%), non-alcoholic beverages (-2.6%), and men's clothing (-1.8%) helped offset these increases.
- BC's CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 2.8% from last October. The comparable figure for Canada was 3.3%.

1992=100	Index		
	October 2002	September 2002	October 2001
Canada	120.5	0.3	3.2
BC	118.7	-0.1	2.5
Vancouver	119.6	0.0	2.7
Victoria	118.3	-0.1	2.7

BC and Canada in tandem



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	118.2	1.7
BC	117.2	1.8
Vancouver	118.0	1.8
Victoria	116.7	2.1

Note:
Statistics Canada will release the November Consumer Price Index on December 20, 2002.