

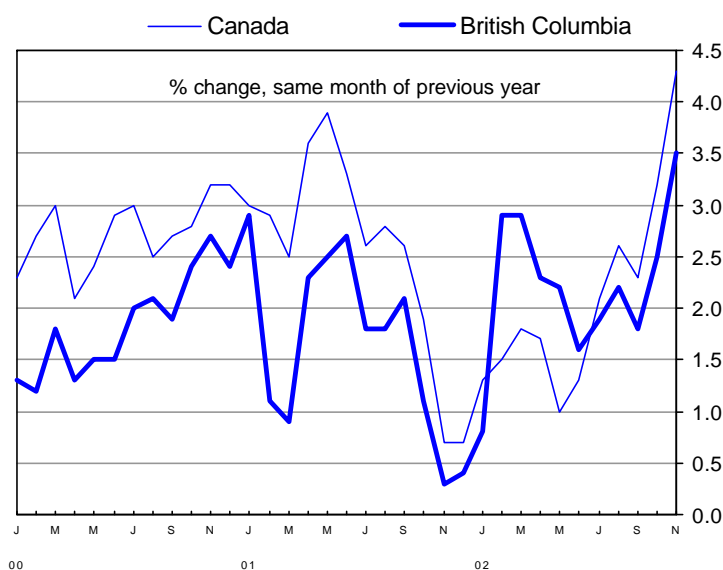
Consumer Price Index ♦ November 2002

Highlights

- Inflation rose sharply across the country from November 2001 to November 2002. Although BC, with a 3.5% increase in consumer prices, experienced its largest year-over-year increase since October of 1993, it was the smallest increase in the country. Alberta's CPI rose 9.7%, while Canada's inflation rate was 4.3% over the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, price increases from November 2001 ranged from Vancouver's low of 3.5% (which was matched by Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal), to highs in Calgary (9.9%) and Edmonton (9.5%). Victoria's CPI rose 3.7% over the same period.
- BC's energy prices, which include natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and gasoline, rose 8.7% from last November, largely due to an 18.4% increase in the price of gasoline. Fuel oil prices rose 3.7% while the price of piped gas dropped 3.4%. Electricity prices remained stable with a 0.4% increase.
- Also contributing to the increase in BC's All-Items CPI from last November were higher prices for cigarettes (30.7%), education (+15.2%), fresh vegetables (+13.8%), public transportation (+7.5%), beer purchased from stores (+4.9%), and property taxes (+3.5%). Lower prices for coffee & tea (-6.6%), and men's clothing (-2.2%) helped offset these increases.
- BC's CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 3.2% from last November. The comparable figure for Canada was 3.7%.

1992=100	Index	% Change From	
	November 2002	October 2002	November 2001
Canada	120.8	0.2	4.3
BC	118.9	0.2	3.5
Vancouver	119.7	0.1	3.5
Victoria	118.6	0.3	3.7

Inflation Rises Sharply



1992=100	Latest 12-month Average Index	Latest 12-month Average % Change
Canada	118.7	2.0
BC	117.5	2.1
Vancouver	118.3	2.1
Victoria	117.1	2.4

Note:
Statistics Canada will release the December Consumer Price Index on January 22, 2003.