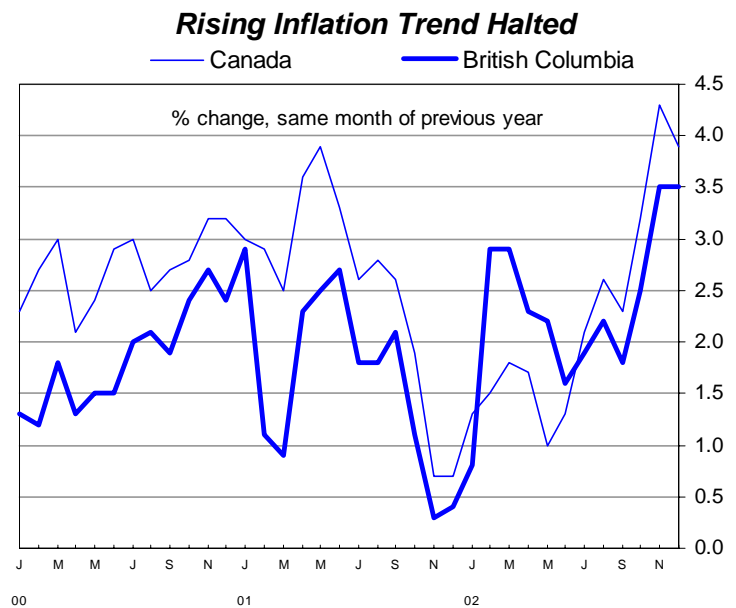


## Consumer Price Index ♦ December 2002

### Highlights - Annual Averages

- British Columbia's annual average all-items Consumer Price Index was 2.3% higher in 2002 than in 2001. The lowest annual increase was seen in Manitoba at 1.6%, while the highest increases were in Alberta and New Brunswick, both at 3.4%. Nationally, consumer prices rose 2.2% from 2001.
- Of the metropolitan areas, residents in Thunder Bay and Winnipeg shared the lowest annual average increase at 1.5%, while Calgarians paid 3.7% more for consumer goods in 2002. Prices rose 2.2% in Vancouver and 2.7% in Victoria between 2001 and 2002.
- BC's annual average energy index, which includes natural gas, home heating oil, electricity and gasoline, rose 1.2% from 2001, down from the 2.7% increase recorded between 2000 and 2001. Natural gas and home heating oil prices dropped 10.9% and 6.7%, respectively, from 2001. Gasoline prices rose a modest 1.0%, while electricity costs rose 15.7% compared to 2001 (due to Hydro rebates issued in February of 2001).
- Contributing to BC's annual inflation were higher prices for transportation (+3.4%), food (+2.7%), and household operations & furnishings (+2.5%). Federal and provincial taxes on cigarettes imposed at the beginning of 2002 caused a 12.8% annual increase in BC's alcohol & tobacco products index. Excluding alcohol & tobacco from the all-items CPI resulted in a 1.9% annual increase.
- BC's annual average CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 2.4% from 2001. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.7%.

1992=100	Index	% Change From	
	December 2002	November 2002	December 2001
Canada	120.4	-0.3	3.9
BC	118.8	-0.1	3.5
Vancouver	119.5	-0.2	3.2
Victoria	118.4	-0.2	3.6



1992=100	2002 Annual Average Index	2001/2002 Annual % Change
Canada	119.0	2.2
BC	117.9	2.3
Vancouver	118.6	2.2
Victoria	117.4	2.7

Note:  
Statistics Canada will release the January Consumer Price Index on February 27, 2003.