

Consumer Price Index ♦ January 2003

Highlights

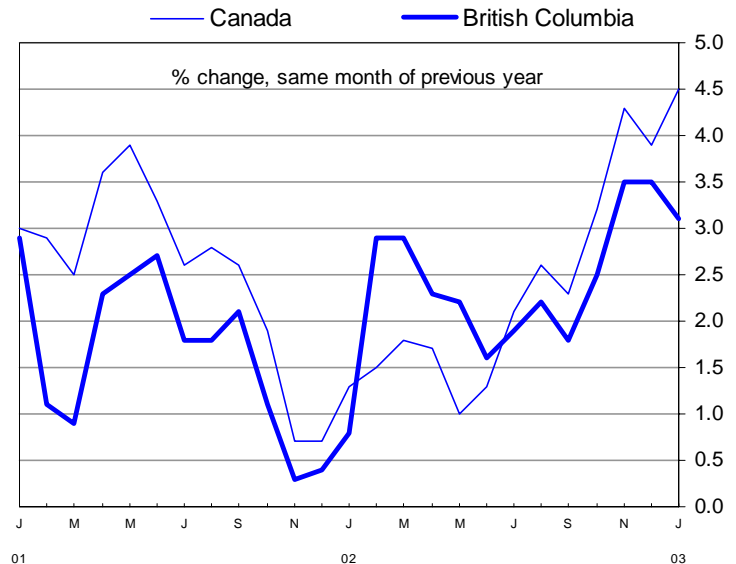
- From January 2002 to January 2003, BC's CPI increased 3.1%, the lowest year-over-year increase in the country. Alberta posted the highest increase at 7.1%, while nationally, consumers paid 4.5% more.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Edmonton recorded the highest increase in prices from last January at 7.6%, while Vancouver residents enjoyed the lowest inflation at 2.9%. Prices in Victoria rose 3.3%.
- Contributing to BC's inflation were higher prices for cigarettes (+29.6%), gasoline (+25.1%), fuel oil (+15.9%), and education (+13.5%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for fresh fruit (-7.3%), coffee and tea (-7.1%), women's clothing (-7.4%), and fresh vegetables (-3.1%).
- BC's CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 2.6% from last January. The comparable figure for Canada was 3.9%.

Notes

- The basket of goods and services used to calculate the CPI has been updated. Expenditure patterns for 2001 replaced those for 1996. The time base remains at 1992=100.
- The Iqaluit all-items index is now available (December 2002=100).
- Indexes for internet access services and financial services are available on the time base of December 2002=100, and will be included in next month's report.

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		January 2003	December 2002	December 2002	January 2002
Canada		121.4		0.8	4.5
BC		119.0		0.2	3.1
Vancouver		119.7		0.2	2.9
Victoria		118.7		0.3	3.3

BC and Canada trends opposite



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 February Consumer Price Index on March 21, 2003.