

Consumer Price Index ♦ February 2003

Highlights

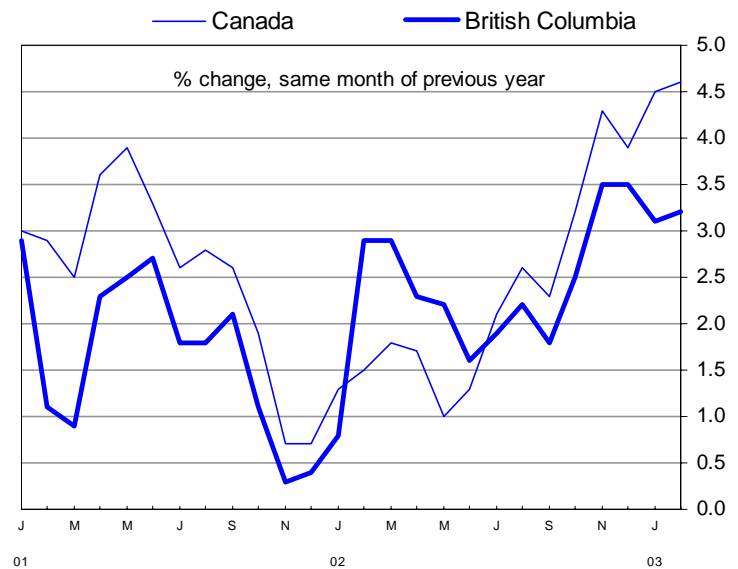
- From February 2002 to February 2003, BC's CPI increased 3.2%, the lowest year-over-year increase in the country. Alberta posted the highest increase at 7.1%, while nationally, consumers paid 4.5% more.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Edmonton again recorded the highest increase in prices from last February at 7.3%, while Vancouver residents still enjoyed the lowest inflation at 3.2%. Prices in Victoria remained at 3.3%.
- The major commodities contributing to BC's inflation were higher prices for gasoline (+35.8%), cigarettes (+28.4%), fuel oil (+26.2%) and education (+13.5%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for fresh vegetables (-13.6%), coffee and tea (-6.8%) and clothing (-5.6%).
- BC's CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 2.5% from last February. The comparable figure for Canada was 3.9%.
- Internet access services were slightly lower (-0.7% for Canada and -1.1% for BC) in February than in January. There was no change for financial services.

Notes

- The basket of goods and services used to calculate the CPI has been updated. Starting January 2003 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).

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		February 2003	January 2003	February 2003	February 2002
Canada		122.3	0.7	4.6	
BC		119.6	0.5	3.2	
Vancouver		120.3	0.5	3.2	
Victoria		119.2	0.4	3.3	

Gasoline Fuels Inflation



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 March Consumer Price Index on April 23, 2003.