

Consumer Price Index ♦ April 2003

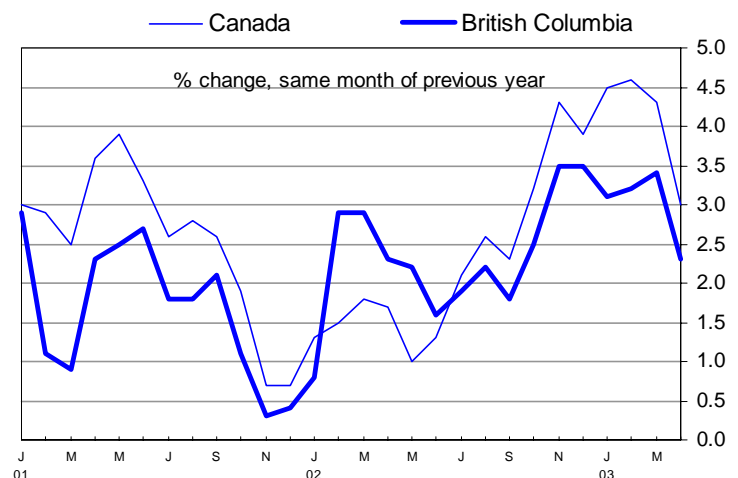
Highlights

- Compared to April 2002, BC consumers paid 2.3% more for the basket of goods included in the CPI, the lowest year-over-year increase since September 2002. Saskatchewan posted the lowest increase at 2.1%, while Alberta continues to have the highest inflation rate in the country (5.9%). Nationally, the CPI rose 3.0%.
- Edmonton's 7.4% increase in the CPI from April 2002 is the highest among the metropolitan areas, while Ottawa, at 2.1%, had the lowest increase from last April. Vancouver prices rose 2.2%, while Victoria prices rose 2.4% during the same period.
- Contributing to BC's year-over-year inflation were higher prices for fuel oil (+26.1%), cigarettes (+18.7%), piped gas (+16.0%), education (+14.9%), and gasoline (+11.5%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for fresh vegetables (-8.8%), non-alcoholic beverages (-6.7%), fresh fruit (-6.1%), and clothing (-2.6%).
- BC's CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 2.1% from last April. The comparable figure for Canada was 3.2%.
- Costs for internet access services in BC remained unchanged from March 2003. Costs for financial services rose 1.3% from last month.

Note: Statistics Canada will release the May Consumer Price Index on June 20, 2003.

	1992=100	Index	% Change From	
			March 2003	April 2002
		April 2003	March 2003	April 2002
Canada		121.9	-0.7	3.0
BC		120.4	-0.2	2.3
Vancouver		121.0	-0.2	2.2
Victoria		119.9	-0.2	2.4

Inflation Trend Plummetts



1992=100	Latest 12-Month Average Index (ending in April)	Latest 12-Month Average % Change
Canada	120.6	3.1
BC	119.0	2.6
Vancouver	119.8	2.5
Victoria	118.6	2.9