

Consumer Price Index ♦ May 2003

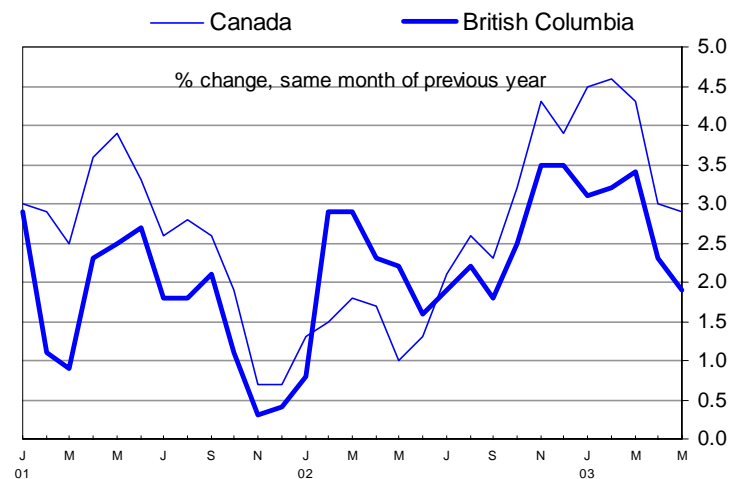
Highlights

- Compared to May 2002, BC consumers paid 1.9% more for the basket of goods included in the CPI. Manitoba posted the lowest increase at 1.5%, while Alberta continues to have the highest year-over-year inflation rate in the country at 4.8%. Nationally, the CPI rose 2.9%.
- Edmonton's 6.3% increase in the CPI from May 2002 is the highest among the metropolitan areas, while Winnipeg, at 1.5%, had the lowest year-over-year increase from last May, followed closely by Vancouver (+1.6%). Victoria prices rose 2.0% during the same period.
- Contributing to BC's year-over-year inflation were higher prices for cigarettes (+18.1%), piped gas (+16.0%), and education (+14.9%). Gasoline prices were only 1.5% higher than in May 2002, dropping 7.3% from last month. Offsetting these increases were lower prices for children's clothing (-12.8%), fresh fruit (-3.4%), women's clothing (-3.0%), fresh vegetables (-2.9%), and alcoholic beverages purchased from stores (-2.7%).
- BC's CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 1.8% from last May. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.9%.
- Costs for both internet and financial services in BC remained unchanged from last month.

Note: Statistics Canada will release the June Consumer Price Index on July 22, 2003.

1992=100	Index	% Change From	
	May 2003	April 2003	May 2002
Canada	122.0	0.1	2.9
BC	120.4	0.0	1.9
Vancouver	120.9	-0.1	1.6
Victoria	119.9	0.0	2.0

Inflation Trend Continues to Drop



1992=100	Latest 12-Month Average Index (ending in May)	Latest 12-Month Average % Change
Canada	120.9	3.2
BC	119.2	2.6
Vancouver	119.9	2.5
Victoria	118.8	2.8