

Consumer Price Index ♦ June 2003

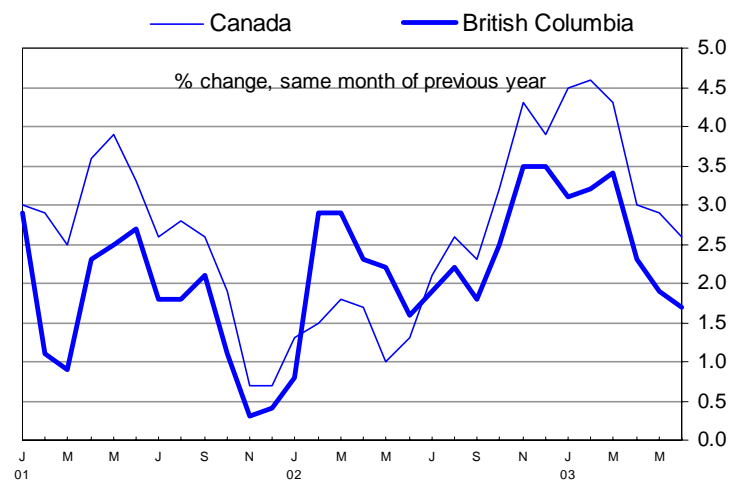
Highlights

- Compared to June 2002, BC consumers paid 1.7% more for the basket of goods included in the CPI, a drop from May's year-over-year increase of 1.9%.
- Manitoba posted the lowest price increase from last June at 1.1%, while Alberta continues to have the highest inflation rate in the country at 4.8%. Nationally, the CPI rose 2.6% during the same period.
- Edmonton's 6.2% increase in the CPI from June 2002 is the highest among the metropolitan areas, while Winnipeg, at 1.0%, had the lowest increase from last June, followed by Vancouver (+1.5%) and Victoria (+1.6%).
- Energy prices continue to push up the all-items index across the country. Nationally, the price of piped gas rose 48.3% from June 2002. Contributing to BC's year-over-year inflation were higher prices for piped gas (+16.0%), cigarettes (+14.4%), education (+14.2%), and fuel oil (+13.3%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for children's clothing (-9.5%), fresh vegetables (-5.0%), personal care (-3.1%), women's clothing (-2.8%), and coffee and tea (-2.5%).
- BC's CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 1.5% from last June. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.3%.
- Costs for internet services in BC remained unchanged from last month, but prices for financial services rose 6.5% from May 2003.

Note: Statistics Canada will release the July Consumer Price Index on August 19, 2003.

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		June 2003	May 2003	May 2003	June 2002
Canada	122.1	122.1	122.0	0.1	2.6
BC	120.2	120.2	119.9	-0.2	1.7
Vancouver	120.8	120.8	120.7	-0.1	1.5
Victoria	119.7	119.7	119.5	-0.2	1.6

BC and Canada Inflation Continues To Slide



1992=100	Latest 12-Month Average Index (ending in June)	Latest 12-Month Average % Change	2002 Annual Average % Change
Canada	121.2	3.3	2.2
BC	119.4	2.6	2.3
Vancouver	120.1	2.5	2.2
Victoria	119.0	2.8	2.7