

Consumer Price Index ♦ August 2003

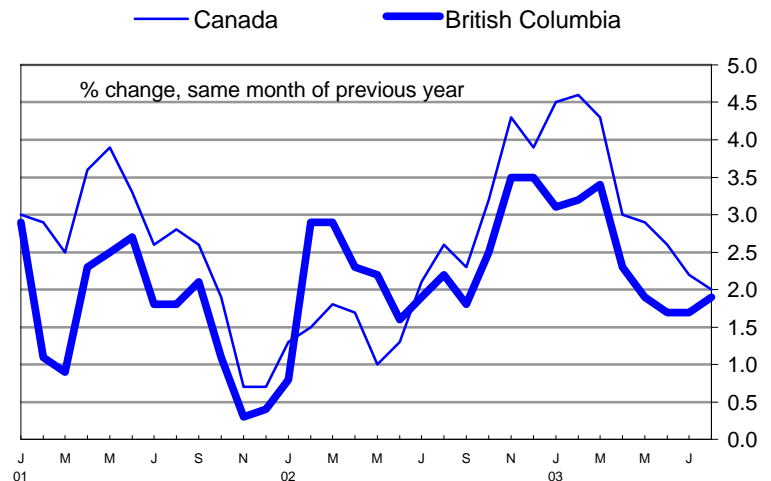
Highlights

- Inflation in BC rose 1.9% over August 2002. The lowest price increases were seen in Manitoba, with a 0.9% rise in inflation, while Alberta continued to have the highest inflation rate in the country (4.0%). Nationally, the CPI rose 2.0% during the same period.
- Among the metropolitan areas, Edmonton, at 5.0%, had the highest increase in the CPI from last August, while Winnipeg, at 0.9%, recorded the lowest increase. During the same period, the Vancouver CPI rose 1.8%, and the Victoria CPI rose 1.9%.
- Energy prices continued to play a significant role in BC's inflation. Contributing to BC's year-over-year inflation were higher prices for natural gas (+16.0%), education (+14.2%), fuel oil (+13.3%), gasoline (+12.2%), and cigarettes (+10.0%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for fresh vegetables (-6.8%), women's and children's clothing (both -3.9%), inter-city public transportation (-2.4%), meat (-2.5%), and liquor purchased from stores (also -2.5%).
- BC's CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 1.2% from last August. The comparable figure for Canada was 1.7%.

Note: Statistics Canada will release the September Consumer Price Index on October 21, 2003.

	1992=100	Index	% Change From	
			July 2003	August 2002
Canada		122.5	0.2	2.0
BC		120.9	0.3	1.9
Vancouver		121.5	0.5	1.8
Victoria		120.5	0.3	1.9

Inflation Trend Gap Narrowing



1992=100	Latest 12-Month Average Index (ending in August)	Latest 12-Month Average % Change	2002 Annual Average % Change
Canada	121.6	3.3	2.2
BC	119.7	2.5	2.3
Vancouver	120.4	2.4	2.2
Victoria	119.3	2.6	2.7