

## Consumer Price Index ♦ October 2003

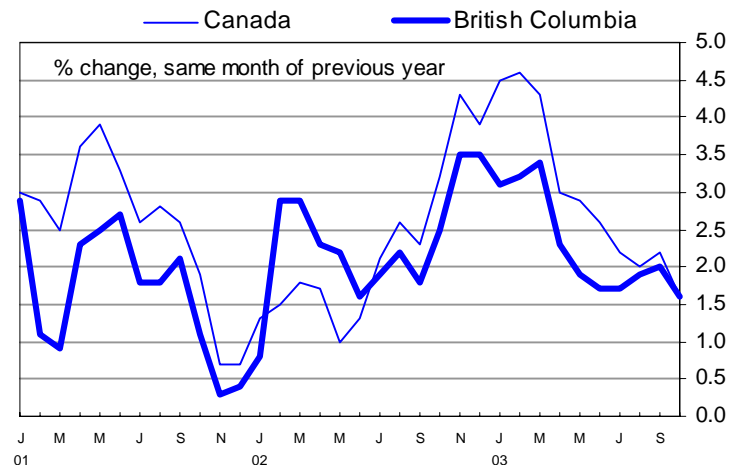
### Highlights

- Inflation across the country has slowed, mainly due to price declines for energy. All provinces, with the exception of Quebec, posted declines in their CPI from September 2003.
- On a year-over-year basis, BC's CPI rose 1.6% from October 2002 to October 2003. The lowest price increases were seen in Newfoundland & Labrador with a 0.9% increase in its CPI, while Alberta continued to have the highest inflation rate among the provinces (1.8%). Nationally, the CPI rose 1.6% during the same period.
- Of the metropolitan areas, price increases from October 2002 ranged from a low of 0.9% in St. John's, to a high of 2.3% in Toronto. During the same period, the Vancouver CPI rose 1.4%, while Victoria prices rose 1.8%.
- Contributing to BC's year-over-year inflation were higher prices for education (+20.6%), natural gas (+16.0%), cigarettes (+8.4%), bakery & cereal products (+7.8%), and coffee & tea (+6.3%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for children's clothing (-6.0%), gasoline (-4.4%), non-alcoholic beverages (-4.3%), footwear (-3.8%), and fish & other seafood (-3.9%). Fuel oil prices fell 0.7% from last October.
- BC's CPI, excluding food and energy, rose 1.6% from last October. The comparable index for Canada rose 1.9%.

**Note:** Statistics Canada will release the November Consumer Price Index on December 19, 2003.

	1992=100	Index		% Change From	
		October 2003	September 2003	September 2003	October 2002
Canada		122.4	-0.2	1.6	
BC		120.6	-0.5	1.6	
Vancouver		121.3	-0.4	1.4	
Victoria		120.4	-0.3	1.8	

### Inflation Trend Dropping



1992=100	Latest 12-Month Average Index (ending in Oct. 2003)	Latest 12-Month Average % Change	2002 Annual Average % Change
Canada	122.0	3.2	2.2
BC	120.1	2.5	2.3
Vancouver	120.7	2.3	2.2
Victoria	119.7	2.5	2.7