

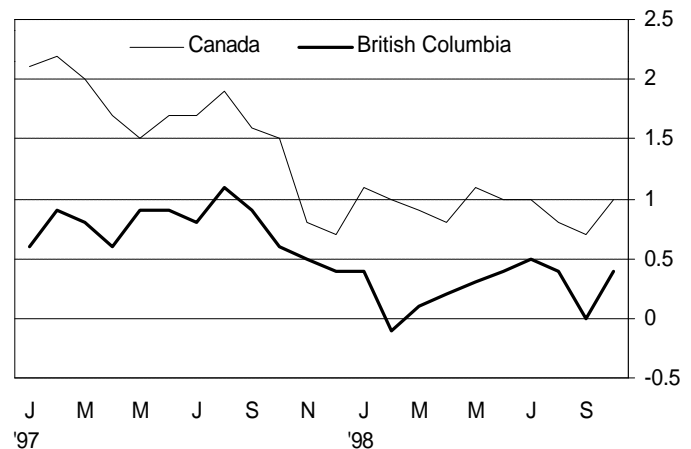
Consumer Price Index ♦ October 1998

Highlights

- British Columbia's Consumer Price Index (CPI) was among the lowest in the country. The CPI increased 0.4% from the same month of the previous year. The inflation rate has been less than one percent since July 1997, and the twelve month change has ranged from a high of 0.5% (July) to a low of -0.1% (February). Nationally, the CPI increased 1.0% from October 1997. Since January 1998, the twelve month change has ranged from a high of 1.1% (January, May) to a low of 0.7% (September) this is well below the annual rate of 1.6% in 1997.
- The price of fresh fruit and vegetables increased 3.5% and 5.0% respectively from the previous month. This signifies the end of the growing season and the beginning of our reliance on imported fruit and vegetable. Higher property taxes in October were offset by declines in homeowners' maintenance and repairs, home prices and furniture.
- The Vancouver and Victoria CPI increased slightly to 0.6% and 0.5% respectively from the previous October 1997. With the exception of Charlottetown (-0.2%) all metropolitan area registered a gain in the CPI. The greatest inflation rate was found in Winnipeg (1.9%) and Regina (1.8%).

	1992=100	% Change From	
	October 1998	September 1998	October 1997
Canada	109.0	0.4	1.0
B.C.	110.1	0.1	0.4
Vancouver	110.4	0.2	0.6
Victoria	110.2	0.3	0.5

CPI - Percent Change from
Same of Previous Year



Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the November Consumer Price Index on December 18, 1998.