

Consumer Price Index ♦ December 1998

Highlights

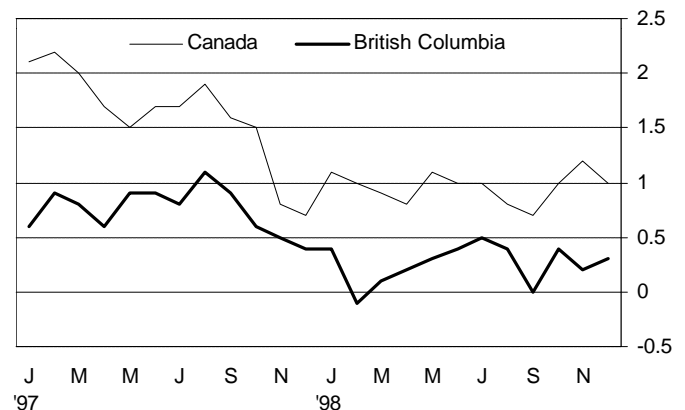
- The British Columbia inflation rate for December 1998 decreased 0.2% from the previous month, and showed a modest 0.3% increase from December 1997. The national rate also declined from the previous month (-0.3%) and posted a 1.0% increase from December 1997.
- Notable price declines from November 1998 were recorded in B.C. for fresh fruit (-1.8%), fresh vegetables (-1.3%), clothing and footwear (-2.7%), and gasoline (-3.2%).

	1992=100	% Change From	
		November 1998	December 1997
Canada	108.7	-0.3	1.0
B.C.	109.7	-0.2	0.3
Vancouver	110.1	0.0	0.5
Victoria	109.7	-0.2	0.3

Annual Averages

- The 1998 annual average inflation rate for B.C. rose 0.3%, the lowest annual rate ever recorded since the CPI has been measured in B.C. Prince Edward Island posted a decrease in its annual rate (-0.5%), while Saskatchewan and Quebec recorded the greatest increase at 1.4%. The annual rate for Canada rose by 0.9%.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Victoria and Vancouver showed modest annual increases of 0.3% and 0.5%, respectively, while Charlottetown recorded a decrease (-0.2%). The highest increases were noted in Regina (1.7%) and Montreal (1.6%).

CPI - Percent Change from
Same Month of Previous Year



Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the January Consumer Price Index on February 18, 1999.