

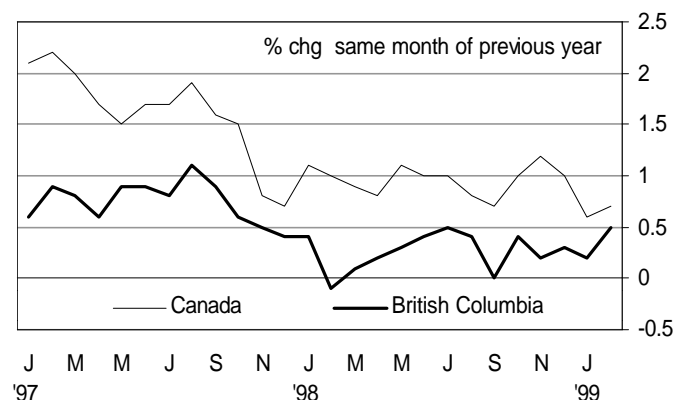
Consumer Price Index ♦ February 1999

Highlights

- The inflation rate for British Columbia was 0.5% between February 1998 and February 1999. Nationally, consumers paid 0.7% more than they did a year ago. For the last two months, the Canadian year-over-year inflation rate was the lowest since May 1962 (0.5%), with the exception of a brief period of time in 1994 and 1995, when the CPI increases were lower due to tobacco tax reductions.
- In February, BC consumers paid less than a year ago for fresh vegetables (-10.5%), heating fuel oil (-9.3%), and gasoline (-7.0). Price increases were recorded for fresh fruits (9.9%), household piped gas (5.6%), and men's and children's clothing (5.4% and 6.9% respectively).
- Provincially, Alberta (2.2%) and Manitoba (1.9%) led the nation with the highest increases in the CPI from February 1998. PEI (-0.5%) followed by Newfoundland (-0.3%) and New Brunswick (-0.2%) recorded all-item declines in the consumer basket of goods.
- Among the metropolitan areas, the prairie cities had above average inflation rates. Calgary (2.9%) and Winnipeg (2.0%) posted the highest price increases. Vancouver and Victoria consumers paid 0.3% more since last February.

	1992=100	% Change From	
		February 1999	February 1998
Canada	109.1	0.2	0.7
B.C.	110.1	0.2	0.5
Vancouver	110.2	0.0	0.3
Victoria	110.0	0.1	0.3

The gap in the national and provincial inflation rate narrows



Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the March Consumer Price Index on April 21, 1999.