

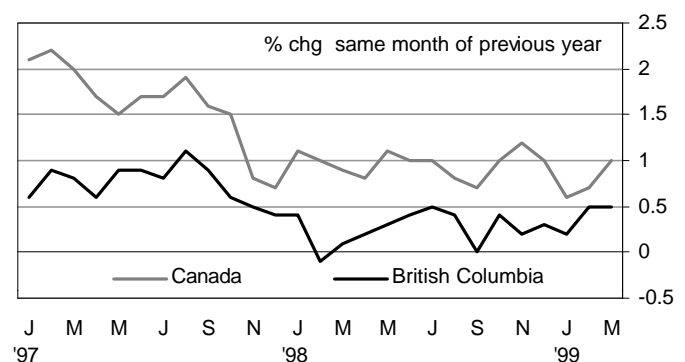
Consumer Price Index ♦ March 1999

Highlights

- British Columbia's annual inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose 0.5% from March 1998. The national rate rose 1.0%. Alberta recorded the highest increase at 1.9%, and New Brunswick shared zero inflation with Prince Edward Island for the same period.
- Relative to March 1998, BC consumers paid more for meat (6.3%), piped gas (5.6%), inter-city public transportation (7.0%), and beer (5.2%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for fresh vegetables (-15.2%), heating fuel oil (-10.7), and gasoline (-3.9%).
- Among the metropolitan areas, Vancouver recorded the lowest increase from a year ago at 0.1%, matched by Charlottetown. Victoria's increase was 0.3%. The highest increase was recorded in Calgary (2.1%).
- Between February and March, BC, Vancouver and Victoria all experienced a modest 0.2% increase in their inflation rates. Canada's monthly increase was 0.4%. The highest monthly increase was found in Quebec (0.8%), while Manitoba recorded a decline (-0.1%).

| | 1992=100 | % Change From | |
|-----------|----------|---------------|------------|
| | | February 1999 | March 1998 |
| Canada | 109.5 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| BC | 110.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Vancouver | 110.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Victoria | 110.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 |

BC's inflation rate remains flat



Notes:

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