

Consumer Price Index ♦ April 1999

Highlights

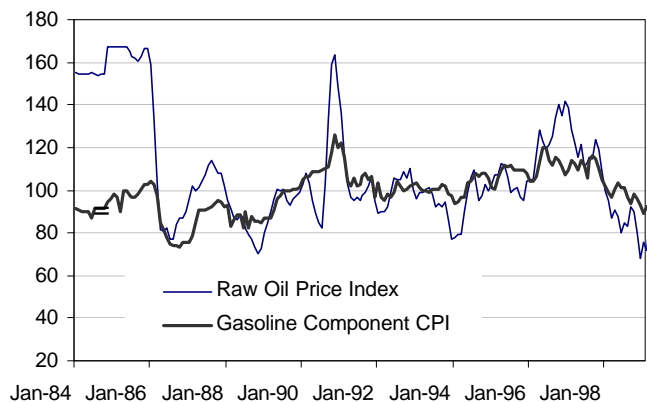
- British Columbia's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose 1.1% from April 1998. All provinces recorded an increase, with Manitoba (2.0%) followed by Ontario (1.9%) showing the greatest change from the previous April. PEI posted the lowest inflation rate in the country at 0.1%. Canada's inflation rate rose 1.7% from April 1998.
- Consumers across the country paid more for gasoline in April. The upward movement in the price of gasoline (15.4% from March) was influenced by increases in crude oil prices. The Raw Material Price Index increased 25.6% for crude oil between February and March.
- Declining housing cost continues to be the greatest cause of the low inflation rate in BC. Since 1994, the shelter component of the CPI has declined 5.5%. From the previous April owned accommodation has declined 2.5%.
- Only two metropolitan areas recorded less than one percent inflation from the previous April 1998—Vancouver (0.9%) and Charlottetown (0.2%).

Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the May Consumer Price Index on June 18, 1999.

| | 1992=100 | % Change From | |
|-----------|----------|---------------|------------|
| | | April 1999 | April 1998 |
| Canada | 110.1 | 0.5 | 1.7 |
| BC | 111.0 | 0.6 | 1.1 |
| Vancouver | 111.2 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Victoria | 110.9 | 0.6 | 1.0 |

Gasoline component of the CPI closely follows crude oil prices



BC has the largest annual increase since August of 1997.

