

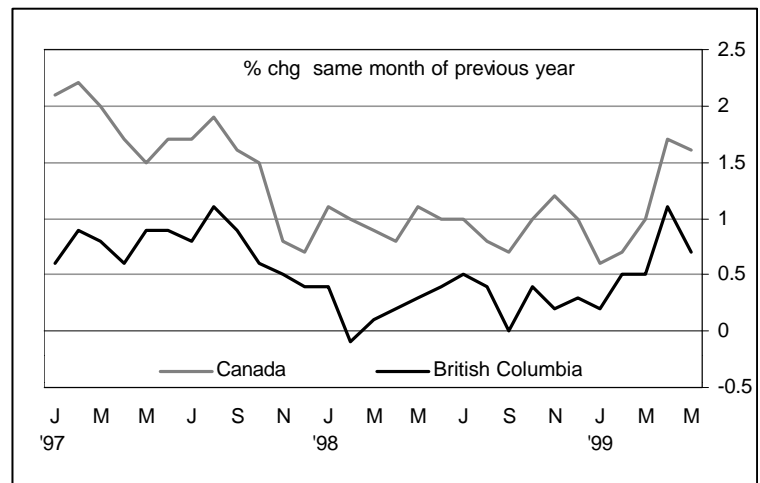
Consumer Price Index ♦ May 1999

Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate rose 0.7% from May 1998, the lowest rate of all the provinces. The highest increase was recorded in Alberta (2.2%). The national rate rose 1.6% from the previous May.
- Shelter costs in the province continue to fall in May, shrinking to 1.0% below the May 1998 level. This was primarily due to a continued decline in the cost of owned accommodation (-2.5%), reflecting the effects of a relatively weak housing market and mortgage rates which remain virtually unchanged from the same time last year.
- Lower shelter costs continue to be the main reason for BC's persistently low inflation rate. The cost of other goods and services has been increasing at rates more similar to those in the rest of Canada. The province's year-over-year inflation rate excluding shelter costs was 1.4% in May. The comparable figure for Canada was 1.8%.
- Compared to April 1999, BC's inflation rate rose 0.1%. Consumers paid more for fish and seafood (1.5%), fresh fruit (1.8%), gasoline (2.1%), and recreation (2.5%). Off-setting these increases were lower prices for bakery and cereal products (-0.6%), coffee and tea (-0.8%), owned accommodation (-0.9%), and women's clothing (-5.1%).
- Of the metropolitan areas, Vancouver and Victoria posted the lowest year-over-year increases (0.5% and 0.6%, respectively). The highest rate was recorded in Calgary, at 2.2%.

	1992=100	% Change From	
	May 1999	April 1999	May 1998
Canada	110.4	0.3	1.6
BC	111.1	0.1	0.7
Vancouver	111.2	0.0	0.5
Victoria	111.0	0.1	0.6

BC's inflation rate lowest in country



Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the June 1999 Consumer Price Index on July 16, 1999.