

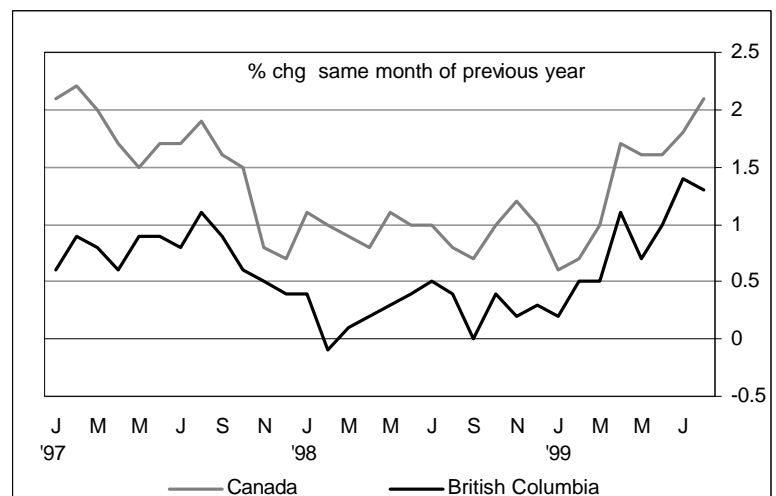
Consumer Price Index ♦ August 1999

Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, rose 1.3% compared to August 1998, the lowest rate of all the provinces in Canada. Alberta posted the greatest gain at 2.6%. The national rate rose 2.1% in the same period.
- BC and its two metropolitan cities, Vancouver and Victoria, experienced deflation from July 1999, with BC and Vancouver posting a 0.2% decline and Victoria posting a 0.1% decline.
- Compared to August 1998, BC consumers paid more for meat (3.7%), fish and other seafood (4.9%), piped gas (9.2%), fuel oil and other fuel (6.7%), gasoline (16.4%), inter-city transportation (7.1%), and personal care (4.1%). Offsetting these increases were lower prices for bakery and cereal products (-1.6%), non-alcoholic beverages (-1.6%), children's clothing (-1.1%) and shelter costs.
- Shelter costs in the province continued to decline in August to 0.5% below the August 1998 level, due to continuing decreases in the cost of owned accommodation (-1.9%). BC's year-over-year inflation rate, excluding the shelter component, was 1.9% in August. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.5%.
- Of the metropolitan areas, Vancouver and Victoria recorded the lowest increases in their year-over-year inflation rates at 1.1% and 1.4%, respectively. The highest rate was recorded in Edmonton at 2.7%.

	1992=100	% Change From	
		August 1999	July 1999
Canada	111.1	0.3	2.1
BC	111.8	-0.2	1.3
Vancouver	111.8	-0.2	1.1
Victoria	111.8	-0.1	1.4

BC's inflation rate lowest in Canada



Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the September 1999 Consumer Price Index on October 15, 1999.