

Consumer Price Index ♦ September 1999

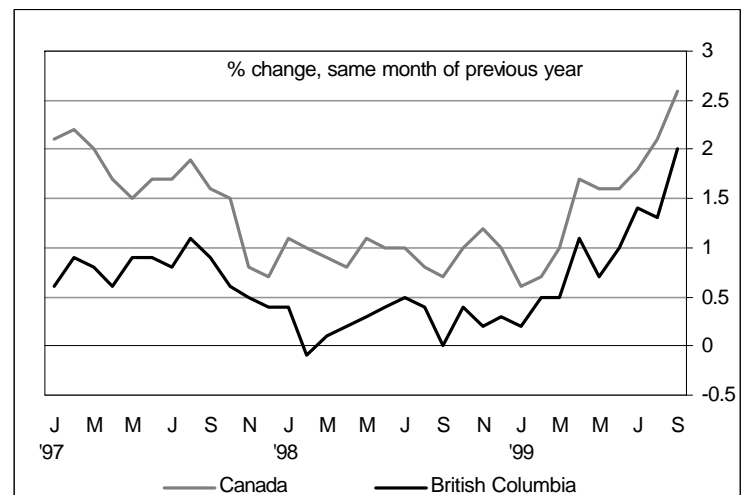
Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, rose 2.0% compared to September 1998, the second month in a row with the lowest rate of all the provinces across Canada. The largest increase was in Nova Scotia at 3.9% followed by Alberta at 3.5%. The national rate rose 2.6% in the same period.
- Vancouver and Victoria closely matched the provincial rate at 2.0% and 1.9% respectively. Edmonton topped the metropolitan areas with an increase of 4.0%.
- Fuel price increases over the past year were major contributors to the inflation experienced by BC consumers. The price of piped gas increased 17.7%, that of fuel oil by 8.5% and gasoline by 26.9%, in all cases, higher than the national all commodity increase. Prices for alcoholic beverages declined by 1.4%.
- Shelter costs in the province, after having been stable for the past four months, climbed 0.6% from August to September 1999, but were 0.1% below the September 1998 level. Lower costs of owned accommodation (-1.8%) were largely responsible for the year-over-year drop. BC's inflation rate, excluding the shelter component, was up 2.8% in September compared with a year earlier. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.9%.
- Vancouver and Victoria both enjoyed stable shelter costs, with Vancouver's unchanged from September 1998 and Victoria's declining by 0.5%. However, the cost of utilities (water, fuel and electricity) over the last

12 months increased 8.1% for Vancouver householders but only 1.7% for those in Victoria.

	1992=100	% Change From	
	September 1999	August 1999	September 1998
Canada	111.4	0.3	2.6
BC	112.2	0.4	2.0
Vancouver	112.4	0.5	2.0
Victoria	112.0	0.2	1.9

Inflation on the rise



Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the October 1999 Consumer Price Index on November 19, 1999.