

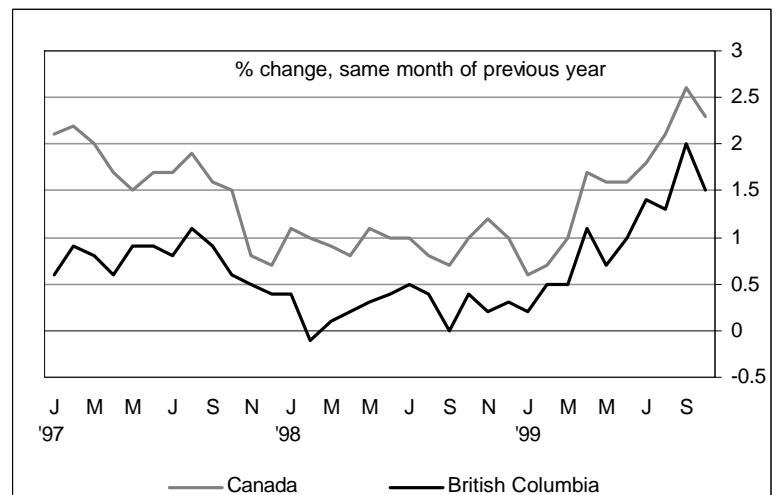
Consumer Price Index ♦ October 1999

Highlights

- British Columbia's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, rose 1.5% compared to October 1998, the third consecutive month that BC had the lowest rate of all the provinces across Canada. The greatest increase was in Alberta at 3.6%. The national rate rose 2.3% in the same period.
- Vancouver and Victoria recorded the lowest inflation rate of all the metropolitan areas, both at 1.4%. Calgary at 3.8%, and Edmonton at 3.4% posted the highest increases.
- Fuel price increases over the past year remain major contributors to inflation in BC. The price of gasoline rose 18.2%, followed by piped gas at 17.7% and fuel oil at 8.2%. Offsetting these increases were lower prices for fresh fruit (-3.5%), fresh vegetables (-3.0%), and alcoholic beverages purchased from stores (-3.3%).
- Shelter costs in the province declined 0.2% in October from September 1999, and were 0.3% below the October 1998 level. Lower prices for owned accommodation (-1.9%) were largely responsible for the year-over-year drop. BC's inflation rate, excluding the shelter component, rose 2.2% in October compared with a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.7%.

	1992=100	% Change From	
	October 1999	September 1999	October 1998
Canada	111.5	0.1	2.3
BC	111.8	-0.4	1.5
Vancouver	111.9	-0.4	1.4
Victoria	111.7	-0.3	1.4

BC and Canada rates drop



Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the November 1999 Consumer Price Index on December 17, 1999.