

## Consumer Price Index ♦ December 1999

### Highlights

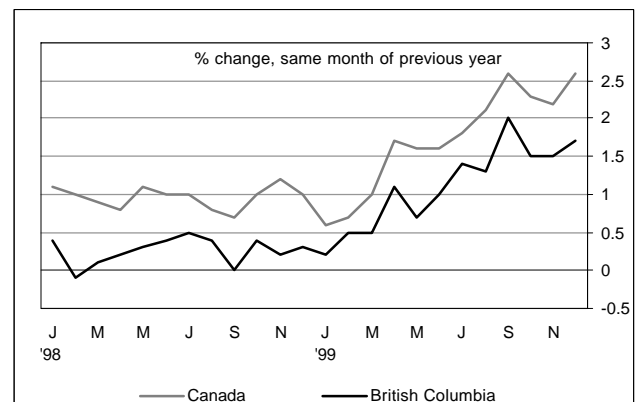
- British Columbia's inflation rate continues to be the lowest in the country, rising 1.7% compared to December 1998. Alberta and Nova Scotia shared the largest increase at 3.3%. The national rate rose 2.6% during the same period.
- Vancouver and Victoria recorded the lowest inflation rates of all the metropolitan areas, at 1.5% and 1.6%, respectively. Calgary at 3.5%, followed by Saint John at 3.3%, posted the highest increases.
- Fuel price increases remain major contributors to inflation in BC. The price of piped gas rose 20.3% since December 1998, followed by fuel oil at 19.4% and gasoline at 19.0%. Offsetting these increases were lower prices for coffee and tea (-3.8%), non-alcoholic beverages (-3.4%), and alcoholic beverages purchased from stores (-3.3%).
- Shelter costs in the province remained flat compared to December 1998 (0.0%), and showed a slight drop (-0.1%) from last month. BC's inflation rate, excluding the shelter component, rose 2.3% in December compared with a year ago. The comparable figure for Canada was 2.9%.

### Annual Averages:

BC's annual average inflation rate for 1999 was 1.1%, the lowest of all the provinces and the first time since 1995 that the annual rate has risen above 1.0%. The highest annual average inflation rate for 1999 was experienced in Alberta, at 2.4%. Canada's rate was 1.7%.

	1992=100	% Change From	
		December 1999	December 1998
Canada	111.5	0.1	2.6
BC	111.6	0.1	1.7
Vancouver	111.8	0.1	1.5
Victoria	111.5	0.1	1.6

### Inflation rates on the rise



1992=100	Annual Index 1999	Annual Index 1998	Annual % Change
Canada	110.5	108.6	1.7
BC	111.2	110.0	1.1
Vancouver	111.4	110.4	0.9
Victoria	111.1	110.0	1.0

### Notes:

Statistics Canada will release the January 2000 Consumer Price Index on February 24, 2000.