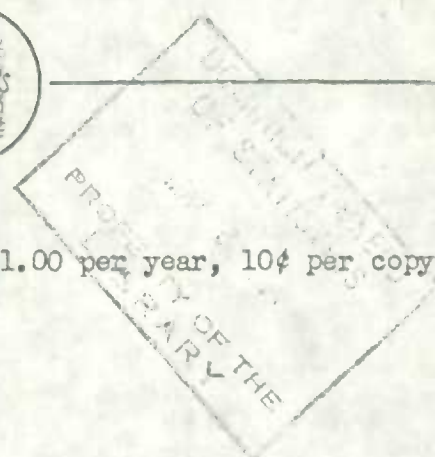


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PRICE MOVEMENTS

APRIL 1954

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
(1949 = 100)

The Consumer Price Index registered a slight gain between March 1 and April 1, moving from 115.5 to 115.6

due mainly to advances in clothing, household operation and other commodities and services which overbalanced weakness in food prices. The food index moved down from 110.7 to 110.4 reflecting sizeable decreases in eggs and smaller declines for butter, beef, fresh pork, veal, fresh tomatoes, celery and potatoes which proved more important than increases for coffee, tea, oranges, cured pork and shortening. The shelter index remained unchanged at 125.6, a small increase in rents balancing a decline in the home-ownership section. The remaining three indexes were influenced by increases in health care, personal care, postal rates, as well as tax adjustments in British Columbia and New Brunswick. The clothing index advanced from 109.8 to 109.9, while the household operation index moved up 0.4 per cent to 118.1. Cleaning supplies were firmer in this group, while lower prices were noted for electric irons and lawnmowers. An advance of 0.5 per cent to 117.2 was registered in the other commodities and services series.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
April 1, 1954	115.6	110.4	125.6	109.9	118.1	117.2
March 1, 1954	115.5	110.7	125.6	109.8	117.6	116.6
April 1, 1953	114.6	110.9	122.7	109.7	116.9	115.0

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)
(1935-1939=100)

Scattered increases for 14 of the 30 representative commodities included in the composite

industrial materials index were sufficient to move the series from 222.5 for the week of March 26th to 224.6 for the week of April 23rd. Commodity advances were led by a 14.6 per cent increase in raw rubber, a 9.1 per cent gain in domestic raw wool and an 8.2 and 5.4 per cent change in lead and raw sugar respectively. Smaller advances occurred for zinc, steers, hogs, white lead, iron ore, bleached sulphite pulp, copper, western wheat, oats and raw cotton. Five price series moved down, these being scrap steel, linseed oil, African sisal, spruce lumber, and tin. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets declined again in April to reach 205.6 by the week of the 23rd as against 206.2 for the week of March 26th. Both sub-groups moved lower, the field products series changing from 151.4 to 150.6 as lower quotations were registered for most eastern grains and western rye. Prices for western potatoes and hay moved up slightly in this group. In the animal product series, lower quotations for eggs, butterfat, eastern calves, poultry and fluid milk and western hogs were sufficient to lower the index from 261.0 to 260.6. Steers, lambs, raw wool and eastern hogs, and western milk for cheese manufacture, were all higher in this sub-group.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1954 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	March 26th	April 2nd	April 9th	April 15th	April 23rd	April 1953	March 1954	April ^P 1954
Industrial Materials.....	222.5	222.9	222.8	223.9	224.6	231.9	222.8	223.6
Canadian Farm Products	206.2	205.3	205.3	204.8	205.6	221.7	206.7	205.2
Field	151.4	151.0	151.0	150.7	150.6	187.6	151.3	150.8
Animal.....	261.0	259.5	259.6	259.0	260.6	255.8	262.0	259.7

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

Common stock prices moved sharply higher in the opening week of April but fluctuated narrowly during the succeeding three weeks. Between the weeks of March 25th and April 1st, the composite index for 101 issues changed from 163.8 to 171.6 which compared with the high for the month of 174.5, reached on April 15th and 172.9 for the week of the 22nd. The three major groups were all firmer, led by an increase in the index for 80 industrials from 163.7 to 174.2 between the weeks of March 25th and April 22nd, and followed by the index for 13 utilities which changed from 152.3 to 158.7 and 8 banks from 191.7 to 193.0. Among the various sub-groups, increases were noted for machinery and equipment, pulp and paper, oils, beverages, building materials, transportation, industrial mines, communication, and power and traction. On the other hand, textile and clothing stocks, after a firm opening, weakened to close at 160.7 as against 165.9 for the final week of March. Mining stocks, paralleling industrials and utilities, moved substantially higher in the opening week of April but thereafter registered little net change. Between the weeks of March 25th and April 22nd, the composite index for 27 stocks moved from 83.9 to 88.7 which compared with the month's peak of 91.5 touched for the week of the 15th. Both golds and base metals moved higher, the former series advancing from 61.3 to 64.8 and the latter from 135.7 to 143.5.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1954 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	March 25th	April 1st	April 8th	April 15th	April 22nd	April 1953	March 1954	April ² 1954
Investors' Price Index								
101 Common Stocks	163.8	171.6	172.3	174.5	172.9	160.8	165.0	172.8
80 Industrials.....	163.7	172.2	173.1	176.2	174.2	160.6	165.1	173.9
13 Utilities.....	152.3	158.6	158.5	158.7	158.7	161.0	153.3	158.6
8 Banks.....	191.7	196.1	196.0	194.7	193.0	163.0	192.5	195.0
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks.....	83.9	87.9	88.6	91.5	88.7	96.5	84.3	89.2
22 Golds	61.3	63.6	63.6	66.3	64.8	69.2	61.5	64.6
5 Base Metals.....	135.7	143.4	146.0	149.1	143.5	159.0	136.5	145.5
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds—Yield Index¹	105.1	99.3	99.9	100.3	100.3	118.9	104.7	100.2

1. Yield Indexes based on rates as of Wednesday of each week.

2. Average of four weeks.

N.B. Enquiries concerning indexes in this release should be directed to The Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division.

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