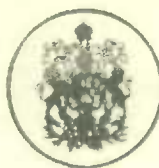


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PRICE MOVEMENTS

JANUARY 1955

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1949 = 100)

The Consumer Price Index receded 0.2 per cent from 116.6 to 116.4 between December 1 and January 3. The decrease was due entirely to a drop in foods as the index for this series changed from 112.6 to 112.1. Among foods lower prices were recorded for processed pork products, oranges, bananas, eggs and lettuce while firmer quotations were registered for tea, most fresh vegetables and beef. Shelter, the only other group to change, advanced from 128.2 to 128.4 reflecting increases in both rent and home-ownership. Household operation remained at 117.1 as slight advances in supplies and services were balanced by decreases in a few items of floor coverings, furniture and textiles. In clothing a slight advance in women's wear was cancelled by a decline in men's wear to leave the group index unchanged at 108.1. Other commodities and services were steady at 118.2 although narrow advances were noted for a few drug and personal care items.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
January 3, 1955	116.4	112.1	128.4	108.1	117.1	118.2
December 1, 1954	116.6	112.6	128.2	108.1	117.1	118.2
January 2, 1954	115.7	111.6	125.4	110.1	117.5	116.4

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)

(1935-1939=100)

Industrial material prices, after falling off slightly at the beginning of the month, recovered in the final two weeks of January to reach an index of 226.2 for the week of January 28th, as against 225.1 for the week of December 31st. Nine of the thirty price series advanced with the largest increases being recorded by steel scrap, beef hides, rosin and raw rubber, followed by tin, wheat, bleached pulp sulphite, iron ore and oats. Lower prices occurred for sisal, hogs, steers and raw cotton.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets, after touching a mid-month low of 204.0, moved up in the latter half of January to 207.4 for the week of the 28th from 206.0 for the week of December 31st. Both field and animal products were higher with the former showing the greater change due to higher quotations for potatoes, eastern wheat and rye, and flax and rye in the west. These outweighed decreases in eastern oats and barley to advance the field products index from 163.1 at the end of December to 165.3 for the week of January 28th. In the animal products group price changes were general as advances in steers in the west and calves, lambs, poultry and cheese milk in the east, outweighed decreases for eggs, hogs, eastern steers and western calves to move the index from 248.9 at December 31st to 249.6 for the week of January 28th.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1954		1955 Week Ended			Monthly Average		
	Dec. 31st	Jan. 7th	Jan. 14th	Jan. 21st	Jan. 28th	Jan. 1954	Dec. 1954	Jan.P 1955
Industrial Materials	225.1	224.6	224.1	225.0	226.2	224.1	224.0	225.0
Canadian Farm Products	206.0	204.9	204.0	205.9	207.4	212.9	204.7	205.6
Field	163.1	162.8	163.0	164.6	165.3	159.4	163.5	163.9
Animal	248.9	247.0	245.0	247.3	249.6	266.3	245.9	247.2

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SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

Following thirteen months of uninterrupted advance, common stock prices presented a mixed appearance in January. From a peak of 212.1 for the week of December 30th the Investors' index for 101 representative issues dropped to 205.6 for the week of January 6th. Intermittent firmness in the final three weeks of the month was, however, reflected in an advance in the index level to 209.6 by the week of the 27th. As compared with the December 30th figure, this represented a drop of 1.2 per cent. During the same interval the index for 79 industrials declined 0.9 per cent, from 215.8 to 213.8 while 14 utilities receded 2.9 per cent from 187.1 to 181.6. Bank shares, on the other hand, moved against the trend to register a narrow increase of 0.1 per cent from 232.3 to 232.6. Sub-group indexes which reached lower levels were machinery and equipment, oils, beverages, transportation, and power and traction. Slightly firmer series were noted for milling, industrial mines, and food and allied products. Due to strength in base metal shares, mining stocks were somewhat firmer in January as the composite index for 27 issues changed from 103.2 for the week of December 30th to 104.6 for the week of January 27th. Over the same interval, the index for 5 base metals advanced from 181.4 to 188.4 while the series for 22 golds receded fractionally from 69.1 to 68.0.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1955 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	1954 Dec. 30th	Jan. 6th	Jan. 13th	Jan. 20th	Jan. 27th	Jan. 1954	Dec. 1954	Jan. 1955
Investors' Price Index								
101 Common Stocks	212.1	205.6	207.8	206.1	209.6	157.4	206.8	207.3
79 Industrials.....	215.8	209.0	211.6	209.7	213.8	156.5	210.5	211.0
14 Utilities.....	187.1	180.5	181.9	180.0	181.6	149.1	181.8	181.0
8 Banks.....	232.3	230.3	229.3	230.9	232.6	185.5	227.0	230.8
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks.....	103.2	100.7	103.3	102.1	104.6	81.9	100.9	102.7
22 Golds	69.1	67.9	68.9	68.4	68.0	60.3	67.6	68.3
5 Base Metals.....	181.4	175.8	181.9	179.2	188.4	131.2	177.2	181.3
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index¹	99.3	99.6	100.3	99.6	99.3	115.0	98.9	99.7

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

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

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