

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA



Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

Vol. 33 No. 10 (For release 10 a.m. November 4, 1955) Price: \$1.00 per year, 10¢ per copy

PRICE MOVEMENTS

OCTOBER 1955

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949 = 100) The Consumer Price Index remained practically unchanged between September 1 and October 1, 1955, moving from 116.8 to 116.9. The October index of a year ago was 116.8. Latest changes in the group indexes were all very slight, none exceeding 0.2 per cent. The Food Index declined from 113.7 to 113.5 as somewhat lower prices were recorded for most cuts of pork and beef, lamb, chicken, potatoes, apples and a number of canned and fresh fruits and vegetables. Among the relatively few items showing small price increases were fats, coffee, fresh tomatoes and lettuce. The Shelter series advanced slightly from 130.0 to 130.2 with both rent and home-ownership components contributing to the change. Clothing remained unchanged at 107.8 for the fourth consecutive month, slight increases in men's wear and footwear being offset by decreases in women's and children's wear. Further decreases in prices of household appliances were outweighed by increases for coal, fuel oil, and some items of furniture and household supplies, with the result that the Household Operation index increased from 115.9 to 116.1. Other Commodities and Services moved from 117.9 to 118.1, with increased prices for gasoline, some inter-urban bus fares, doctors' and dentists' fees more than sufficient to offset decreased prices for radios and personal care items.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
October 1, 1955	116.9	113.5	130.2	107.8	116.1	118.1
September 1, 1955	116.8	113.7	130.0	107.8	115.9	117.9
October 1, 1954	116.8	113.8	127.4	108.4	117.3	117.9

Prepared in Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P., Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1955.

8002-503-105

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

The weekly composite index for thirty industrial material prices at wholesale advanced 0.2 per cent from 241.1 to 241.7 between September 30th and October 28th. Higher prices were recorded for beef hides, bleached sulphite pulp, raw cotton, and tin, followed by lesser changes for bituminous coal, raw sugar, white lead, oats, copper, and iron ore. The continued easier position of the Canadian dollar in terms of U.S. funds was reflected in higher prices of imported items. Partially offsetting these increases was a sharp decline reported for raw rubber, coupled with slightly lower prices for hogs, steers, Western wheat and sisal.

The composite index of Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets declined a further 1.7 per cent from 199.8 to 196.4 between September 30th and October 28th, reflecting lower prices for both Field and Animal Products. The Field Products index dropped 0.9 per cent from 153.3 to 151.9 due largely to lower prices for Eastern potatoes and corn, and smaller decreases for Western rye and Ontario wheat. Major gains were reported for Western potatoes and flax while Eastern oats and barley moved up slightly. The 2.2 per cent decline in the Animal Products index from 246.3 to 241.0 reflected substantially lower prices for hogs, Western calves and Eastern poultry, with lesser decreases for raw wool, Eastern eggs, cheesemilk and steers, and Western lambs. Higher prices were noted for fluid milk, Western steers and eggs, and Eastern calves.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1955 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 30th	Oct. 7th	Oct. 14th	Oct. 21st	Oct. 28th	Oct. 1954	Sept. 1955	Oct. ^P 1955
Industrial Materials	241.1	239.6	240.0	241.8	241.7	223.6	241.4	240.8
Canadian Farm Products	199.8	195.8	196.3	198.1	196.4	201.7	202.7	196.6
Field.....	153.3	152.1	151.3	151.5	151.9	162.9	153.9	151.7
Animal.....	246.3	239.4	241.3	244.7	241.0	240.5	251.6	241.6

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES: The composite Investors' Index for 99 common stocks dropped (1935-1939 = 100) from 252.8 to 239.6 between September 29th and October 27th, for a loss of 5.2 per cent. This decline cancelled all gains accumulated since the end of June. Among group indexes, 78 Industrials fell 5.8 per cent from 263.3 to 248.1 and 14 Utilities 4.4 per cent from 208.5 to 199.3, while 7 banks registered a smaller loss of 1.2 per cent as the index changed from 249.8 to 246.9. Sub-group indexes were all lower, with the greatest losses being registered for Milling shares, down 13.0 per cent, Machinery and Equipment 8.1 per cent, Building Materials 7.9 per cent, Industrial Mines 7.3 per cent and Power and Traction 7.1 per cent.

Mining issues also declined in the period under review as the composite index for 27 representative issues recorded a drop of 6.4 per cent from 124.7 to 116.7. The index for 5 Base Metals dropped 7.6 per cent from 242.7 to 224.2, while the change in the Gold series of 4.6 per cent from 73.2 to 69.8 brought this series to its lowest level since the week of April 7th.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1955 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 29th	Oct. 6th	Oct. 13th	Oct. 20th	Oct. 27th	Oct. 1954	Sept. 1955	Oct. 1955
Investors' Price Index								
99 Common Stocks	252.8	244.4	236.4	239.1	239.6	190.2	255.9	239.9
78 Industrials.....	263.3	254.0	245.3	248.2	248.1	191.9	265.9	248.9
14 Utilities.....	208.5	204.1	198.9	200.1	199.3	171.4	211.2	200.6
7 Banks	249.8	241.2	233.8	238.1	246.9	217.4	259.0	240.0
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks.....	124.7	120.0	117.1	116.6	116.7	95.0	129.0	117.6
22 Golds	73.2	72.9	70.9	70.6	69.8	66.2	75.3	71.0
5 Base Metals	242.7	227.8	222.9	221.9	224.2	161.0	252.0	224.2
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index¹	102.2	102.5	102.5	103.2	103.5	98.1	102.1	102.9

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.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010751079