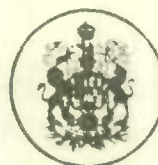


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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

OCTOBER 1956

### THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949 = 100)

The Consumer Price Index advanced 0.7 per cent from 119.0 to 119.8 between September and October 1956. A year ago,

the index stood at 116.9. A 1.6 per cent increase in the Food series accounted for most of the change in the total index, while other component groups moved higher by 0.1 to 0.5 per cent. Foods rose from 115.5 to 117.4 as moderate price increases were reported for a considerable number of items: most canned goods, imported fresh fruits, cereal products, fats, coffee, pork, canned salmon, and chocolate bars. Tomatoes and lettuce were the only foods to show substantial increases. Lower prices were recorded for other fresh vegetables, eggs, and apples. The Shelter index advanced from 133.1 to 133.3 due to small increases in both the rent and home-ownership components. Slight increases in footwear, women's wear and piece goods more than offset decreases for men's and children's wear and the Clothing index advanced fractionally from 108.4 to 108.5. An increase in the Household Operation index, from 117.1 to 117.7 occurred as a result of advances for coal, furniture, floor coverings, most utensils and equipment, and a number of household supplies. Higher fees for dentists, doctors and optical care, and increased rates for prepaid health care in British Columbia, were mainly responsible for an increase in the Other Commodities and Services index from 121.4 to 121.6.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
October 1956	119.8	117.4	133.3	108.5	117.7	121.6
September 1956	119.0	115.5	133.1	108.4	117.1	121.4
October 1955	116.9	113.5	130.2	107.8	116.1	118.1

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EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P., Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1956.

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

The index of 30 industrial material prices receded from 250.0 to 247.8 in the four-week period September 28th to October 26th. Substantial price declines were registered for beef hides, sisal and steers, while fractional losses occurred for spruce lumber, raw sugar, raw cotton, copper, iron ore, unbleached sulphite pulp and wheat. Higher prices were recorded for raw rubber, hogs, tin and oats. Continued firmness for Canadian funds in terms of United States dollars acted as a negative factor.

The index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets declined fractionally from 209.5 to 208.4 between September 28th and October 26th. Price changes, which were largely offsetting, were higher on balance in the East, chiefly in animal products, and lower in the West. The composite Field Products Index moved from 159.7 to 159.9, reflecting increases for Eastern wheat and Western rye, which were almost balanced by decreases for Western potatoes, flax and hay, and Eastern corn, rye, potatoes and barley. The decline of 0.9 per cent in the Animal Products Index from 259.3 to 256.9 represented lower quotations for all Western livestock and for Eastern steers, lambs and poultry, and Western wool. Seasonal increases occurred for eggs, coupled with advances for fluid milk, Eastern calves, hogs and cheesemilk.

**Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)**

	1956 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 28th	Oct. 5th	Oct. 12th	Oct. 19th	Oct. 26th	Oct. 1955	Sept. 1956	Oct. P 1956
<b>Industrial Materials .....</b>	250.0	249.6	248.1	248.0	247.8	240.7	249.5	248.4
<b>Canadian Farm Products .....</b>	209.5	207.0	208.4	207.6	208.4	196.8	209.8	207.8
<b>Field.....</b>	159.7	159.8	159.7	159.8	159.9	151.7	160.3	159.8
<b>Animal.....</b>	259.3	254.2	257.0	255.5	256.9	241.9	259.3	255.9

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**SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:** The Investors' Index of 96 common stocks registered a net (1935-1939 = 100)

decline of 2.5 per cent in the four-week period September 27th to October 25th as the index fell from 271.9 to 265.2. Week-to-week movements showed a rally in the second week of October, which was subsequently cancelled by a weaker tone in the second half. Of the major groups, 76 Industrials declined 3.0 per cent from 286.8 to 278.3 and 13 Utilities 1.1 per cent from 205.0 to 202.7; 7 Banks moved up 0.5 per cent from 277.2 per cent to 278.5. Indexes for 10 sub-groups registered declines ranging from 4.7 per cent for Milling to 0.5 per cent for Telephone issues. Increases were recorded for 2 groups, i.e., Textiles and Clothing 3.8 per cent and Transportation 0.1 per cent.

The composite index for 26 Mining issues declined 1.7 per cent from 132.7 to 130.4 in the four-week period under review, reflecting losses of 2.6 per cent for 5 Base Metals from 271.5 to 264.4, and 0.4 per cent for 21 Gold Stocks from 72.1 to 71.8.

**Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)**

	1956 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 27th	Oct. 4th	Oct. 11th	Oct. 18th	Oct. 25th	Oct. 1955	Sept. 1956	Oct. 1956
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
96 Common Stocks .....	271.9	268.4	275.1	272.3	265.2	239.9	278.9	270.3
76 Industrials.....	286.8	283.0	290.5	287.2	278.3	248.9	294.4	284.8
13 Utilities.....	205.0	205.0	208.0	204.8	202.7	200.6	209.2	205.1
7 Banks .....	277.2	268.0	275.6	278.9	278.5	240.0	283.8	275.3
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
26 Stocks.....	132.7	133.6	135.1	134.9	130.4	117.6	137.4	133.5
21 Golds .....	72.1	72.6	73.1	72.3	71.8	71.0	74.1	72.5
5 Base Metals .....	271.5	273.4	277.2	278.3	264.4	224.2	282.2	273.3

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

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