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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

DECEMBER 1956

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

The Consumer Price Index increased fractionally from 120.3 to 120.4 between November and December 1956. In December 1955 the index stood at 116.9. During the month under review, increases in four of the five group indexes more than offset a decrease of 0.3 per cent in the Food index. Foods moved from 117.9 to 117.5 as a substantial decrease was recorded in egg prices while prices were lower for most cuts of beef, some fresh vegetables, tea and coffee. Increases in bread and milk, which showed up in the November index in some cities, occurred in additional cities in December. Pork prices continued to move up while most canned fruits and vegetables, sugar and jam were higher. The Shelter index advanced from 133.4 to 133.5 as a result of increases in both the rent and home-ownership components. The Clothing index moved from 108.4 to 108.6 as increases were reported for men's and women's shoes and some items of men's and women's clothing. Higher prices for coal, furniture, utensils and equipment, laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repairs were responsible for an increase from 118.1 to 118.6 in the Household Operation index. The Other Commodities and Services index was slightly higher at 122.9 compared with 122.8 a month ago. Men's haircuts were higher.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
December 1956	120.4	117.5	133.5	108.6	118.6	122.9
November 1956	120.3	117.9	133.4	108.4	118.1	122.8
December 1955	116.9	112.4	131.0	108.5	116.6	118.3

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

The weekly composite index for thirty industrial material prices decreased 0.1 per cent from 250.2 to 249.9 between November 30th and December 21st. Substantially lower prices were recorded for hogs at Toronto, oats, beef hides and raw rubber, followed by lesser decreases for tin and raw sugar. On the other hand, sizable increases occurred for linseed and cottonseed oils and rayon yarn in addition to lesser changes for bituminous coal, steers at Toronto, sisal, raw cotton, wheat, iron ore and bleached sulphite pulp. For a number of commodities strength reflected a slight weakening of the Canadian dollar in terms of United States funds.

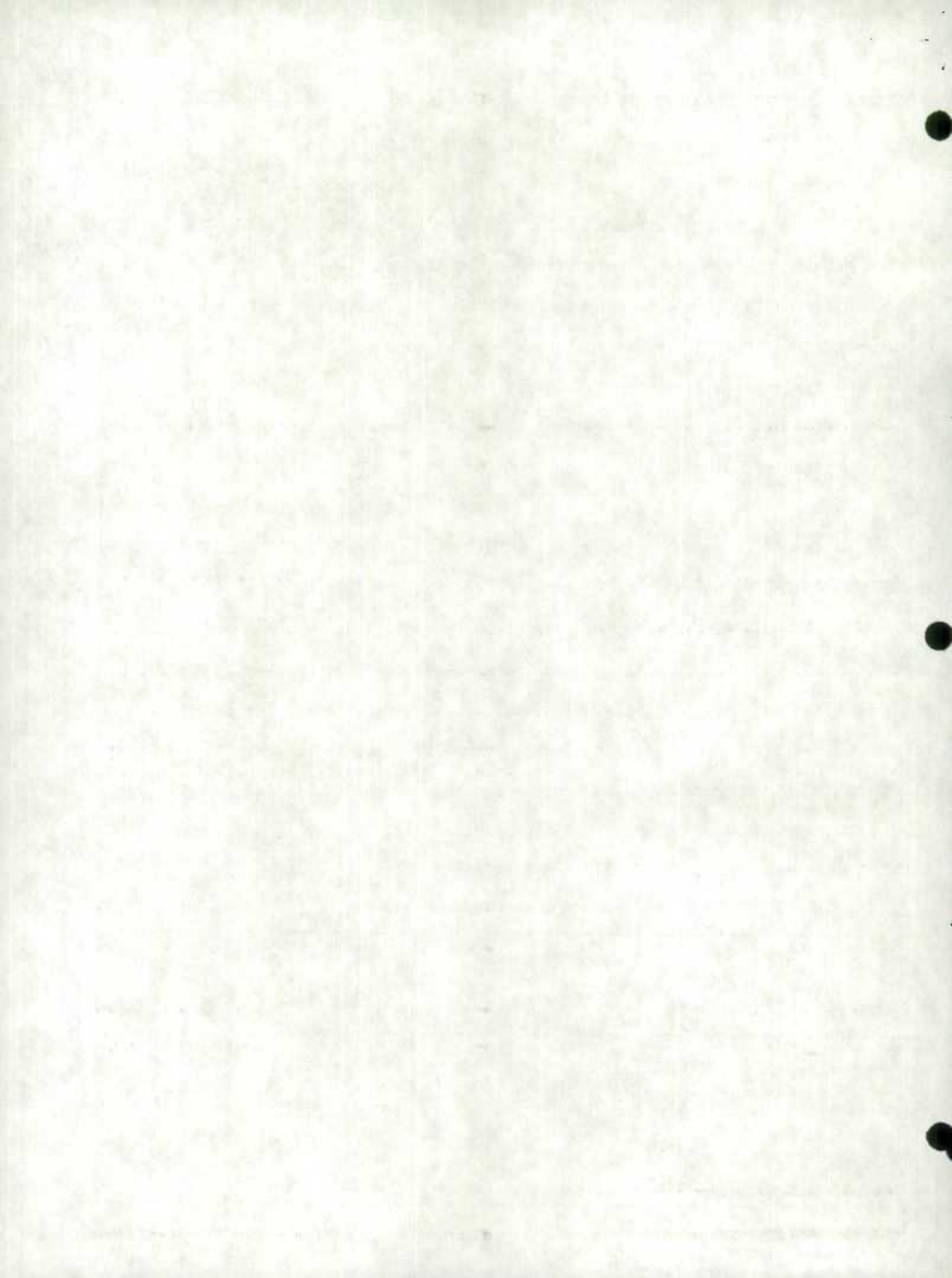
The composite index of Canadian Farm Product prices at terminal markets declined 2.1 per cent from 212.4 to 207.9 between the weeks of November 30th and December 21st, reflecting lower prices for both Field and Animal Products. The Field Products index dropped 0.7 per cent from 165.2 to 164.1 due largely to lower prices for most grains and Eastern potatoes which were only slightly offset by increases for Eastern hay and Western potatoes. The 3.0 per cent decline in the Animal Products index from 259.6 to 251.7 reflected substantially lower prices for hogs, coupled with lesser decreases for eggs, Western steers and Eastern cheesemilk. Higher prices were noted for calves, lambs, fluid milk and Eastern steers.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1956 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 30th	Dec. 7th	Dec. 14th	Dec. 21st	Dec. 28th	Dec. 1955	Nov. 1956	Dec. <sup>P</sup> 1956
Industrial Materials .....	250.2	250.4	249.8	249.9		244.2	247.7	250.0
Canadian Farm Products .....	212.4	212.4	208.9	207.9	Not Avail- able	198.2 <sup>r</sup>	209.4	209.7
Field.....	165.2	164.9	164.0	164.1		156.9 <sup>r</sup>	163.1	164.3
Animal.....	259.6	259.8	253.7	251.7		239.4	255.7	255.1

p - preliminary

r - revised to incorporate final payments for western oats and barley for crop year August 1955 - July 1956.



**SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:**  
(1935-1939 = 100)

Common stock prices recovered a major portion of their November decline in the early part of December. From a level of 247.6 for the week of November 29th the Investors' Index of 95 common stocks advanced to 267.3 by the week of December 6th. Prices remained relatively steady in the following two weeks as the composite index stood at 267.2 for the week of December 20th. Among group changes the index for 75 industrial issues changed from 259.3 to 280.6 between the weeks of November 29th and December 20th while 13 Utilities advanced from 192.0 to 205.0 and 7 Banks from 258.8 to 276.5. All groups were higher led by Industrial Mines, Transportation, Building Materials, Machinery and Equipment, Pulp and Paper, Power and Traction, Beverages and Oils.

The composite index for 26 mining issues changed from 117.6 to 129.7 between the weeks of November 29th and December 20th with almost the entire increase occurring in the first week of December. The index for 21 Gold Stocks moved up from 64.1 to 69.3 while that for 5 Base Metals firmed from 240.1 to 268.1.

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

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 29th	Dec. 6th	Dec. 13th	Dec. 20th	Dec. 27th	Dec. 1955	Nov. 1956	Dec. (P) 1956
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
95 Common Stocks .....	247.6	267.3	267.1	267.2		247.6	262.3	267.2
75 Industrials.....	259.3	281.5	281.4	280.6	Not	257.0	276.0	281.2
13 Utilities.....	192.0	201.6	202.2	205.0	Avail-	204.2	200.3	202.9
7 Banks .....	258.8	276.6	273.0	276.5	able	253.4	268.8	275.4
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
26 Stocks.....	117.6	128.9	128.3	129.7		121.4	127.4	129.0
21 Golds .....	64.1	68.3	68.3	69.3		72.6	68.6	68.6
5 Base Metals.....	240.1	267.6	265.7	268.1		233.0	262.2	267.1

**P. Average of three weeks.**

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

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