

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA



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

Vol. 34 No. 5 (For release 10 a.m., June 4, 1956) Price: \$1.00 per year, 10¢ per copy

PRICE MOVEMENTS

MAY 1956

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
(1949 = 100)

The Consumer Price Index remained unchanged at 116.6 between the beginning of April and May 1956. A year ago the index stood at 116.4, and in May 1954 it was 115.5. Current decreases in the Food and Household Operation indexes were counterbalanced by slight increases in the Shelter, Clothing and Other Commodities and Services series. The Food index declined from 109.7 to 109.3, as sharply lower prices were reported for tomatoes, along with lesser declines for coffee and some fresh vegetables and meats. Prices were higher for eggs, fresh and canned fruits, potatoes and most cuts of beef. Both rent and home-ownership components contributed to the upward movement of the Shelter index from 131.9 to 132.1. The Clothing index moved from 108.7 to 108.8, as slight increases in footwear and children's wear were partially offset by a decrease in women's spring coats. The Household Operation index moved from 116.6 to 116.5 under the influence of a seasonal decrease in coal prices and lower insurance rates for household effects. Increased prices were reported for household supplies, kitchen utensils, and some items of furniture, as were higher telephone rates in some centres. The Other Commodities and Services index rose from 120.1 to 120.5. Prices of theatre admissions, haircuts and hairdressing advanced while prices of new automobiles and automobile insurance rates declined.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
May 1956	116.6	109.3	132.1	108.8	116.5	120.5
April 1956	116.6	109.7	131.9	108.7	116.6	120.1
May 1955	116.4	112.3	128.8	107.9	116.4	118.3

8002-503-56

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, 1956.

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

Industrial material prices rose fractionally
in the four-week period April 27th to May 25th,

from 248.8 to 249.1. Items registering price advances were steers and hogs at Toronto, oats, cottonseed oil, sisal, bituminous coal, raw sugar and wheat. Declines occurred in beef hides, raw rubber, raw cotton, linseed oil, iron ore, sulphite woodpulp, and tin ingots. Weakness in several commodities reflected further weakness in the United States dollar.

The index of Canadian Farm Product prices at terminal markets rose 5.8 per cent in the period under review, from 201.0 to 212.7. Field Products gained 7.2 per cent as the index changed from 169.2 to 181.4, reflecting further sharp price increases for potatoes, particularly on Eastern markets. Moderate advances also occurred in Ontario barley, wheat and corn, while lower quotations were received for rye, Western hay and flax. In Animal Products, up 4.8 per cent from 232.9 to 244.0, higher prices were reported for Eastern spring lambs; steers and hogs, both East and West; Eastern poultry and Western eggs. Partially offsetting price declines occurred in calves, Eastern eggs, Western lambs, fluid milk and Eastern cheesemilk.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1956 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Apr. 27th	May 4th	May 11th	May 18th	May 25th	May 1955	Apr. 1956	May ^p 1956
Industrial Materials	248.8	248.0	248.2	248.5	249.1	233.2	248.9	248.4
Canadian Farm Products	201.0	201.7	206.1	210.0	212.7	220.9 ^r	200.4	207.6
Field.....	169.2	169.8	174.6	181.7	181.4	198.5 ^r	168.7	176.9
Animal.....	232.9	233.7	237.6	238.4	244.0	243.4	232.0	238.4

p - preliminary

r - revised to incorporate final payment for Western wheat, oats and barley for crop year Aug. 1954-July 1955. These revisions will be published in Prices and Price Indexes, May 1956.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES
(1935-1939 = 100)

The Investors' Index of 96 common stocks declined 3.8 per cent from 270.8 to 260.6 in the four-week period April 26th to May 24th. The week-to-week movement was again one of initial strength followed by continued weakness in the last three weeks. Two of the three major groups showed declines of similar magnitude: 76 Industrials receded 3.6 per cent from 283.9 to 273.7, while 13 Utilities fell 3.0 per cent from 206.5 to 200.4. The Bank group, however, which has declined for five straight weeks, fell 7.1 per cent in the four-week comparison, from 288.1 to 267.7. All sub-groups were lower with the exception of Power and Traction, which rose fractionally. Declines were led by Transportation, down 8.2 per cent, Building Materials 7.8 per cent, Beverages 6.4 per cent, Textiles and Clothing 5.8 per cent, and Milling 4.9 per cent. The composite index of 26 mining issues declined 2.6 per cent in the period under review, from 136.9 to 133.3. Losses occurred in both groups: 21 Golds fell 3.2 per cent from 79.0 to 76.5, and 5 Base Metals 2.3 per cent from 269.5 to 263.4.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1956 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Apr. 26th	May 3rd	May 10th	May 17th	May 24th	May 1955	Apr. 1956	May ¹ 1956
Investors' Price Index								
96 Common Stocks	270.8	276.2	272.5	269.5	260.6	222.1	273.0	269.7
76 Industrials.....	283.9	291.4	287.6	284.4	273.7	227.8	286.2	284.3
13 Utilities.....	206.5	207.2	206.3	205.1	200.4	191.7	209.3	204.8
7 Banks	288.1	283.0	273.6	269.1	267.7	234.4	288.7	273.4
Mining Stock Price Index								
26 Stocks.....	136.9	139.5	137.7	137.8	133.3	114.2	136.8	137.1
21 Golds	79.0	81.0	80.0	79.3	76.5	72.8	78.8	79.2
5 Base Metals.....	269.5	273.5	269.8	271.6	263.4	209.0	269.7	269.6
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index	not pub- lished	116.5	116.2	115.5	115.5	96.2	112.1	115.9

1. Average of four weeks.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010751086