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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

JANUARY 1957

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:  
(1949 = 100)

The Consumer Price Index remained practically unchanged between December and January moving from 120.4 to 120.3

as decreases in the Food and Clothing indexes outweighed increases in the other three main groups. The Food component decreased from 117.5 to 117.1 as appreciably lower prices for eggs and imported fresh fruits and vegetables, combined with lesser decreases for pork items, coffee and chocolate bars, proved more important than fractional increases recorded by a lengthy list of food items. Clothing decreased from 108.6 to 107.6 as seasonally lower prices for items of winter wear, notably women's fur and cloth coats, outweighed increases for several items of men's wear. An increase in the Household Operation index from 118.6 to 119.0 was due to firmer prices for coal coupled with slight increases in household help and homefurnishings. Other Commodities and Services moved from 122.9 to 123.1 due mainly to a further increase in automobiles, following complete pricing of 1957 models. In addition, slight advances appeared in personal care items. Increases in both the rent and home-ownership components were responsible for the slight gain in the Shelter index from 133.5 to 133.6.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
January 1957	120.3	117.1	133.6	107.6	119.0	123.1
December 1956	120.4	117.5	133.5	108.6	118.6	122.9
January 1956	116.8	111.5	131.3	108.6	116.5	119.0

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Prepared in Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division

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

The index of thirty industrial raw material prices advanced slightly from 250.4 to 251.5 between December 28th and January 25th as partially offsetting price changes occurred for approximately half of the component items. Changes were substantial for two items as raw sugar advanced and raw rubber dropped. In addition, gains were registered by beef hides, hogs, crude oil, sisal, raw cotton and structural shapes, while moderate declines were noted for zinc, linseed oil, steers, lead, tin, oats and bleached sulphite pulp.

The index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced from 210.0 to 211.0 in the four weeks December 28th to January 25th, for a gain of 0.5 per cent. Field Products in the same period rose 0.6 per cent from 164.6 to 165.6. Partially offsetting price changes were noteworthy in this group as potato prices advanced in the East but declined in the West. Also higher were Eastern peas, and corn and Western rye while lower quotations were reported for Eastern wheat, hay and rye and Western flax. The index for Animal Products gained 0.4 per cent from 255.4 to 256.5 reflecting firmer prices for hogs, fluid milk, Western lambs, and butterfat, Eastern calves and cheesemilk. Sharp declines were noted for Western calves, and eggs on both markets, while more moderate recessions occurred for steers and Eastern poultry.

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

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	1956		1957			Jan. 1956	Dec. 1956	Jan. P 1957
	Dec. 28th	Jan. 4th	Jan. 11th	Jan. 18th	Jan. 25th			
<b>Industrial Materials .....</b>	250.4	250.0	249.4	249.9	251.5	246.1	249.8	250.2
<b>Canadian Farm Products .....</b>	210.0	211.7	212.3	211.6	211.0	197.6	210.3	211.6
<b>Field .....</b>	164.6	166.1	167.0	166.7	165.6	160.2	164.4	166.4
<b>Animal .....</b>	255.4	257.4	257.6	256.4	256.5	235.0	256.2	257.0

P-preliminary

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

Common stock prices, reflecting a traditional pattern, rallied in January, although as the month closed not all gains were maintained. From a level of 269.5 for the week of December 27th the Investors' Index for 95 representative issues advanced to a peak of 275.9 by the week of the 10th but subsequently reacted to 272.2 by the 24th where it held a net gain of 1.0 per cent. Major group increases were: Banks 4.3 per cent, from 278.9 to 290.8; 13 Utilities 1.0 per cent, from 205.6 to 207.6; and 75 Industrials 0.7 per cent, from 283.2 to 285.2. Increases in sub-groups were led by Textiles and Clothing 10.8 per cent, Power and Traction 5.8 per cent and Industrial Mines 4.0 per cent. On the other hand Transportation declined 4.1 per cent followed by modest decreases for Machinery and Equipment, Pulp and Paper, Building Materials and Oils.

The composite index of 27 mining issues fell 1.9 per cent, from 130.6 to 128.1 in the period under review. The decline reflected a 3.7 per cent drop in 6 Base Metals from 269.7 to 259.7 which overbalanced a 1.1 per cent rise from 69.8 to 70.6, for 21 Gold Stocks.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	1956		1957					
	Dec. 27th	Jan. 3rd	Jan. 10th	Jan. 17th	Jan. 24th	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1956	Jan. (P) 1957
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
95 Common Stocks .....	269.5	274.2	275.9	274.7	272.2	248.5	267.8	274.2
75 Industrials .....	283.2	288.9	290.1	288.0	285.2	257.0	281.7	288.0
13 Utilities .....	205.6	205.4	208.3	208.8	207.6	206.5	203.6	207.5
7 Banks .....	278.9	284.8	289.9	294.1	290.8	260.0	276.2	289.9
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks .....	130.6	132.1	131.1	130.4	128.1	125.2	129.4	130.4
21 Golds .....	69.8	70.5	70.4	70.9	70.6	75.8	68.9	70.6
6 Base Metals .....	269.7	273.1	270.0	266.7	259.7	238.1	267.8	267.4

P. Preliminary average of four weeks.

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

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