

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA



Published by Authority of the Hon. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce

Vol. 35 No.10 (For release 10 a.m., November 4, 1957) Price: \$1.00 per year, 10¢ per copy

PRICE MOVEMENTS

OCTOBER 1957

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index remained almost unchanged between September and October, moving from 123.3 to 123.4. A year ago the index was at a level of 119.8. In the current month a decline in the Food index from 121.9 to 121.7 was not quite sufficient to balance increases in the other four component groups. Substantially lower prices were reported for pork, with lesser declines for beef, most fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, margarine, coffee and eggs. These declines were partially offset by higher prices for milk in a number of cities, butter, cereal items, tomatoes and oranges. The Shelter index moved from 135.6 to 135.9 as a result of further continued increases in both the rent and home-ownership components. Price increases for new seasonal lines, particularly women's and girls' winter coats, were largely responsible for moving the Clothing index from 108.3 to 108.7. A rise in the Household Operation index from 119.8 to 120.1 resulted from scattered increases in fuel, floor coverings, household supplies and appliances. In appliances, lower prices were reported for electric refrigerators and ranges, with price increases showing up on washing machines and vacuum cleaners. The fuel index was affected by higher prices for coal and lower fuel oil prices in parts of Eastern Canada. Further general increases in doctors, dentists and optometrists fees, as well as higher prepaid health care rates in the Maritimes, moved the Other Commodities and Services index from 127.1 to 127.4.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
October 1957	123.4	121.7	135.9	108.7	120.1	127.4
September 1957	123.3	121.9	135.6	108.3	119.8	127.1
October 1956	119.8	117.4	133.3	108.5	117.7	121.6

8002-503-107

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, 1957.

(1)
WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)
 (1935-1939 = 100)

The price index of 30 Industrial Materials decreased a further 1.0 per cent in the four-week period September 27th to October 24th, from 235.3 to 232.9. This downward trend has continued for nine months, lowering the index 7.5 per cent. Steel scrap and raw sugar again registered substantial price declines, followed by smaller decreases for hogs, steers, lead, tin, white lead, oats, wheat, raw rubber and iron ore. Higher prices were reported for beef hides, linseed oil, raw cotton, bleached sulphite pulp and copper. Items entering international trade reflected the slightly weaker foreign exchange position of the Canadian dollar.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets were almost unchanged at 200.6 in the week of October 24th, compared to 200.8 for September 26th. Price changes scattered throughout the index were for the most part minor. The Field Product index moved down from 153.0 to 152.7 reflecting losses for Eastern potatoes, corn and oats which were almost balanced by increases for Western flax and rye, and Eastern peas and wheat. In Animal Products, for which the index fell from 248.9 to 248.5, declines were reported for hogs, lambs, and steers in the East, and for Western fluid milk and eggs. Substantially higher quotations were recorded for calves and Eastern eggs, with lesser increases for Western steers and Eastern fluid milk and cheesemilk.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1957 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 27th	Oct. 3rd	Oct. 10th	Oct. 17th	Oct. 24th	Oct. 1956	Sept. 1957	Oct. ^P 1957
Industrial Materials.....	235.3	233.5	233.9	233.8	232.9	247.7	236.4	233.5
Canadian Farm Products	200.8	199.2	199.8	200.8	200.6	208.1	208.5	200.1
Field	153.0	152.7	152.8	152.7	152.7	159.9	153.2	152.7
Animal.....	248.9	245.7	246.8	248.9	248.5	256.2	263.8	247.5

P-Preliminary, average of weeks.

(1) All 1957 indexes subject to revision. Canadian Farm Products subsequent to July 1956 are subject to further major revisions as and when interim and/or participation payments are announced. For further details see "Prices and Price Indexes, Monthly".

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES Common stock prices again dropped sharply in October, affecting (1935-1939 = 100) in varying degree all groups and sub-group indexes. Between September 26th and October 24th, the series fell for three successive weeks to new 1957 lows, from which there was modest recovery in the fourth week. Net loss for the Investors' Total Index of 95 issues in October was 7.5 per cent, from 231.0 to 213.7; for 75 Industrials 8.2 per cent from 240.9 to 221.2; for 13 Utilities 6.4 per cent from 184.9 to 173.0; and for 7 Banks 2.4 per cent from 237.9 to 232.2. Sub-groups showing significant declines included Industrial Mines, Oils, Power and Traction, Transportation, Machinery and Equipment and Building Materials.

Major declines for Mining stocks were shared by both component groups. The composite index of 27 issues fell to its lowest point since June 1954, losing 12.1 per cent over the four weeks, from 102.1 to 89.7. For 21 Gold issues, the index fell 13.1 per cent from 69.3 to 60.2 and for 6 Base Metals 11.3 per cent from 177.2 to 157.2.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1957 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 26th	Oct. 3rd	Oct. 10th	Oct. 17th	Oct. 24th	Oct. 1956	Sept. 1957	Oct. (P.) 1957
Investors' Price Index								
95 Common Stocks	231.0	234.8	222.3	210.1	213.7	270.3	242.2	220.2
75 Industrials.....	240.9	245.1	230.3	218.1	221.2	284.8	252.8	228.7
13 Utilities.....	184.9	185.6	179.4	170.0	173.0	205.1	191.2	177.0
7 Banks	237.9	245.5	240.7	222.3	232.2	275.3	252.2	235.2
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks.....	102.1	103.3	97.5	91.1	89.7	133.5	104.6	95.4
21 Golds	69.3	69.7	64.8	60.9	60.2	72.5	71.4	63.9
6 Base Metals.....	177.2	180.3	172.4	160.1	157.2	273.3	180.7	167.5

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.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010751103