

# DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

DECEMBER 1957

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

A decrease of 0.2 per cent in the Consumer Price Index between November and December 1957, from 123.3 to 123.1, marked the second consecutive month in which the index has declined. As in the previous month, the decrease was attributable to a decline in the Food index, which was partially offset by increases in the other groups. In the current month the Food index decreased 1.2 per cent from 120.2 to 118.8. The same percentage decrease in the food series was registered between October and November, and of the total decrease of 2.4 per cent between October and December, about one-half was seasonal. Among food items eggs were down 7 cents per dozen, with bacon, lettuce and imported fresh fruits also registering decreases. Smaller declines were shown for coffee, tea, sugar and margarine. Beef prices increased for the first time since August, and tomatoes and celery were higher in price. The Shelter index rose from 136.3 to 136.7 under the influence of both the rent and home-ownership components. The Clothing index was fractionally higher at 109.9 as the result of small scattered increases. A 0.1 per cent rise to 120.6 in the Household Operation index also reflected scattered price changes, with increases slightly more important than decreases. A relatively sharp increase in the Other Commodities and Services index from 127.7 to 128.4 was largely due to December prices of 1958 model cars, as compared with November prices of 1957 models. Gasoline prices were easier while toilet soap was higher.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
December 1957	123.1	118.8	136.7	109.9	120.6	128.4
November 1957	123.3	120.2	136.3	109.8	120.5	127.7
December 1956	120.4	117.5	133.5	108.6	118.6	122.9

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

(1)

The price index of 30 Industrial Materials moved up fractionally from 231.4 to 233.2 in the four-week period November 29th to December 27th. This change mainly reflected higher prices for tin and rubber which were influenced by political events in the Far East, and the weaker position of the Canadian dollar. In addition, a firmer tone was noted for a number of other commodities including linseed oil, steers, raw sugar, copper, wheat, sisal, bituminous coal, raw cotton, iron ore and bleached sulphite pulp. Partially offsetting declines occurred for hogs, domestic lead, steel scrap, beef hides, white lead and oats. Over the past year the composite index has declined 6.9 per cent from 250.4.

The index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets changed 0.9 per cent in the four weeks under review from 203.8 to 205.6 reflecting equal gains for the two major groups. Compared to 210.0 for the same week a year ago, however, the index is down 2.1 per cent. The index for Field Products moved up from 154.2 to 155.6 between November 29th and December 27th as small gains were reported for potatoes on both Eastern and Western markets and for raw leaf tobacco, peas, corn and wheat in the East. Animal Products rose from 253.4 to 255.6 when increases for calves, steers, lambs and Eastern cheesemilk overbalanced lower quotations for eggs, hogs, poultry in the East, and fluid milk in the West. Regional indexes were both higher, the Eastern series rising from 219.9 to 221.5 and the Western from 187.7 to 189.6.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1957 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 29th	Dec. 6th	Dec. 13th	Dec. 20th	Dec. 27th	Dec. 1956	Nov. 1957	Dec. P 1957
Industrial Materials.....	231.4	232.5	233.0	232.6	233.2	249.8	228.9	232.8
Canadian Farm Products .....	203.8	204.3	204.8	204.2	205.6	210.4	199.7	204.7
Field .....	154.2	154.3	155.2	155.4	155.6	164.4	153.7	155.1
Animal.....	253.4	254.4	254.3	253.1	255.6	256.4	245.7	254.4

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:**  
(1935-1939 = 100)

The Investors' Index of 95 common stocks fell 5.6 per cent between November 28th and December 26th, from 224.7 to 212.1.

At this level the index is 27.1 per cent below the 1957 weekly high of 290.8 touched June 13th, and 21.3 per cent below the final week of 1956. Losses were registered by all major groups: 75 Industrials fell 6.2 per cent from 233.8 to 219.3; 7 Banks 4.6 per cent from 243.0 to 231.9; and 13 Utilities 2.7 per cent from 177.1 to 172.4. All sub-groups but three showed losses, chief of which were Oils, Industrial Mines, Transportation, and Machinery and Equipment. Slight improvement occurred in Textiles and Clothing, Food and Allied Products, and Telephones.

A similar pattern occurred in Mining stocks. In the four-week period under review a fall of 7.3 per cent in the composite index from 93.9 to 87.0 brought the series to the lowest point since March 1954. Over the past year the index decline amounted to 33.4 per cent. For 6 Base Metals an index change of 9.8 per cent from 167.2 to 150.8 brought this series to its 1957 low and a drop of 44.1 per cent over the year. The index for 21 Gold stocks changed from 61.9 to 59.1 for a decline of 4.5 per cent and a drop of 15.3 per cent under the same week of 1956.

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

	1957 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 28th	Dec. 5th	Dec. 12th	Dec. 19th	Dec. 26th	Dec. 1956	Nov. 1957	Dec. 1957
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
95 Common Stocks .....	224.7	223.3	217.1	212.2	212.1	267.8	218.6	216.2
75 Industrials.....	233.8	232.3	225.3	219.3	219.3	281.7	226.2	224.0
13 Utilities.....	177.1	177.0	174.2	171.9	172.4	203.6	176.2	173.9
7 Banks .....	243.0	240.1	233.7	233.9	231.9	276.2	240.5	234.9
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks.....	93.9	94.0	89.0	87.5	87.0	129.4	93.4	89.4
21 Golds .....	61.9	62.6	59.7	58.4	59.1	68.9	61.2	60.0
6 Base Metals .....	167.2	166.0	156.1	154.1	150.8	267.8	167.0	156.8

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