

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA



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

Vol. 35 No. 3 (For release 10 a.m., April 4, 1957) Price: \$1.00 per year, 10¢ per copy

PRICE MOVEMENTS

MARCH 1957

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949 = 100)

The Consumer Price Index remained unchanged at 120.5 between February and March 1957, continuing a period

of steadiness dating from November 1956. A year ago the index stood at 116.4. Current decreases in the Food index were sufficient to offset increases in the other four group indexes. Foods declined from 117.2 to 116.4 as price decreases occurred for margarine, coffee, processed cheese, potatoes, grapefruit and beef. Prices were slightly higher for a number of canned fruits and fresh vegetables. Pork also was somewhat higher and egg prices were up fractionally after reaching the lowest level in two years in February. Small increases in both the rent and home-ownership components moved the Shelter index from 133.8 to 134.0. The Clothing index rose from 107.4 to 108.2 as a result of higher prices for men's and women's wear, footwear and piece goods. An increase in the Household Operation index, from 119.1 to 119.5, reflected price increases for furniture, floor coverings, textiles, utensils and equipment, laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repairs. The Other Commodities and Services index increased from 123.8 to 124.2 as higher prices were reported for automobile repairs and local transportation fares. Gasoline prices increased mainly in Ontario, and tire prices were lower in a number of cities.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
March 1957	120.5	116.4	134.0	108.2	119.5	124.2
February 1957	120.5	117.2	133.8	107.4	119.1	123.8
March 1956	116.4	109.1	131.6	108.7	116.8	119.9

8002-503-37

Prepared in Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division

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

The index of 30 Industrial Material prices

changed only fractionally between February 22nd and March 22nd from 248.0 to 247.7. Sharp decreases were reported for hogs, oats, sisal and steel scrap while slightly lower prices occurred for linseed oil, wheat, raw cotton, bleached sulphite pulp and iron ore. On the other hand substantial price increases were registered for raw wool, raw rubber and raw sugar, while lesser advances were noted for steers, beef hides and tin.

Farm product prices at terminal markets were 2.1 per cent lower at 206.5 on March 22nd compared to 211.0 four weeks earlier. The Animal Products index fell 3.2 per cent from 261.3 to 253.0 as livestock showed a net decline, with decreases for hogs and Western calves partially offset by gains for Eastern steers, calves and lambs. Other changes in this group were fractional declines for eggs and Eastern cheesemilk and increases for raw wool, Eastern poultry and Western fluid milk. In the Field Products sector, for which the index moved down 0.4 per cent from 160.7 to 160.1, there was a general lowering of prices for most Eastern grains and Western rye and flax while potatoes were down in both the East and West. Hay registered the only increase in this group, advancing moderately in the East.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb. 22nd	Mar. 1st	Mar. 8th	Mar. 15th	Mar. 22nd	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1957	Mar. P 1957
Industrial Materials	248.0	248.1	247.3	247.4	247.7	248.8	248.4	247.6
Canadian Farm Products	211.0	207.5	206.5	207.2	206.5	201.5	210.1	206.9
Field	160.7	160.4	160.7	160.6	160.1	171.9	161.3	160.4
Animal	261.3	254.5	252.2	253.8	253.0	231.1	259.0	253.4

P-preliminary

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

The Investors' Index of 95 common stocks rallied slightly in March to show a 2.9 per cent gain from 261.8 to 269.3 in the four-week period from February 28th to March 28th. This compared with a rise of 7.4 per cent between the weeks ending February 23rd and March 22nd, 1956. Major group index movements over the past four weeks were all upward, with increases of 4.1 per cent for Utilities, 3.6 per cent for Banks, and 2.6 per cent for Industrials. Among sub-groups showing increases, gains were led by Transportation, up 11.1 per cent, Pulp and Paper (5.5) and Power and Traction (5.4). Losses were sustained by several groups including Milling which fell 4.0 per cent, followed by minor declines for Beverages, Telephones and Foods and Allied Products.

The composite index of 27 mining issues advanced 1.2 per cent from 121.7 to 123.2 in the period under review as 6 Base Metals moved up 2.6 per cent from 242.2 to 248.5. The index for 21 Gold Stocks showed a 0.7 per cent loss from 69.0 to 68.5.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb. 28th	March 7th	March 14th	March 21st	March 28th	March 1956	Feb. 1957	March 1957
Investors' Price Index								
95 Common Stocks	261.8	266.0	265.5	269.1	269.3	267.9	263.2	267.5
75 Industrials.....	275.0	279.6	279.1	283.1	282.2	280.3	276.0	281.0
13 Utilities.....	203.9	207.3	207.8	209.5	212.3	210.2	203.6	209.2
7 Banks	262.3	264.9	262.3	265.9	271.8	276.8	271.3	266.2
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks.....	121.7	123.3	123.5	123.1	123.2	134.4	122.2	123.3
21 Golds	69.0	67.9	68.1	68.0	68.5	79.4	69.3	68.1
6 Base Metals	242.2	250.2	250.3	249.3	248.5	260.2	243.2	249.6

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHEQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010751096