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PRICE MOVEMENTS

APRIL 1957

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index increased 0.3 per cent from 120.5 to 120.9 between March and April 1957. This new peak stands 3.7 per cent above the April 1956 level of 116.6. An advance of 0.7 per cent in the Other Commodities and Services index from 124.2 to 125.1 was responsible for most of the current month's movement. Substantial increases for prepaid health care, coupled with lesser increases in doctors, dentists and optical care fees moved the group index. The Food component increased 0.3 per cent from 116.4 to 116.7 as increases outweighed decreases. Sharply higher prices were recorded for tomatoes, lettuce, cabbage and lesser increases for fresh fruits, sugar, bread, chocolate bars and beef. Potatoes and celery were lower in price, as were tea, coffee, eggs, bananas and pork. Clothing, reflecting to some degree new seasonal lines, increased 0.3 per cent from 108.2 to 108.5. Footwear and a number of men's and children's items were higher. A decrease of 0.1 per cent in the Household Operation index from 119.5 to 119.4 followed lower prices for most appliances; furniture, floor coverings, textiles and utensils and equipment were somewhat higher. The Shelter series remained unchanged at 134.0.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
April 1957	120.9	116.7	134.0	108.5	119.4	125.1
March 1957	120.5	116.4	134.0	108.2	119.5	124.2
April 1956	116.6	109.7	131.9	108.7	116.6	120.1

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

The index of 30 Industrial Material prices changed 0.4 per cent between March 29th and

April 26th, from 247.6 to 246.6. Declines for beef hides and steel scrap were substantial and these, together with minor losses for Western wheat, oats and tin, were sufficient to overbalance increases for raw sugar, raw wool, raw rubber, steers, sisal, raw cotton, iron ore and bleached sulphite pulp.

Canadian Farm Product prices at terminal markets were generally firmer in April as the composite index advanced 0.5 per cent in the four weeks under review, from 206.6 to 207.6. A gain of 0.7 per cent for Animal Products, from 253.8 to 255.5, reflected increases for hogs, steers, lambs and wool, Eastern eggs and Western whole milk for fluid sales, which offset declines for calves, Western eggs and Eastern poultry and milk. Field Products likewise were slightly stronger, showing a 0.3 rise from 159.4 to 159.8 as higher prices were quoted for potatoes and barley in the East which were sufficient to overbalance losses for potatoes on Western markets and Eastern wheat, hay, oats and corn. Regional indexes were higher as the Eastern series changed from 224.6 to 225.5 and the Western index from 188.7 to 189.7.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1957 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	March 29th	April 5th	April 12th	April 19th	April 26th	April 1956	March 1957	April p 1957
Industrial Materials	247.6	246.7	246.8	247.5	246.6	248.9	247.0	246.9
Canadian Farm Products	206.6	207.2	207.8	207.3	207.6	204.4	206.8	207.5
Field	159.4	159.2	160.6	160.0	159.8	176.9	160.2	159.9
Animal	253.8	255.2	255.0	254.7	255.5	231.9	253.4	255.1

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SECURITY PRICE INDEXES: (1935-1939 = 100) The Investors' Index of 95 common stocks advanced 5.4 per cent in the four-week period March 28th-April 25th, from 269.3 to 283.8, thus recouping losses suffered since September 6th when the index stood at 288.2. The latest index is now 4.7 per cent below the peak of 297.8 touched August 9th. Gains for major groups were 6.6 per cent for 75 Industrials, from 282.2 to 300.8; 7 Banks 2.2 per cent from 271.8 to 277.7; and 13 Utilities 0.1 per cent from 212.3 to 212.6. All sub-groups but one were stronger, led by Food and Allied Products (up 11.6 per cent), Machinery and Equipment (8.8) and Oils (8.0). The Power and Traction group moved down fractionally.

The composite index of 27 Mining issues was 3.4 per cent higher, moving from 123.2 to 127.4. Chiefly responsible was the 8.2 per cent rise for 21 Gold Stocks, from 68.5 to 74.1, with 6 Base Metals rising 0.4 per cent from 248.5 to 249.5.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	Week Ended 1957					Monthly Average		
	March 28th	April 4th	April 11th	April 18th	April 25th	April 1956	March 1957	April 1957
Investors' Price Index								
95 Common Stocks	269.3	272.2	276.6	282.7	283.8	273.0	267.5	278.8
75 Industrials.....	282.2	285.5	291.0	299.4	300.8	286.2	281.0	294.2
13 Utilities.....	212.3	212.1	212.7	212.7	212.6	209.3	209.2	212.5
7 Banks.....	271.8	276.7	279.1	276.6	277.7	288.7	266.2	277.5
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks.....	123.2	126.0	128.6	130.1	127.4	136.8	123.3	128.0
21 Golds	68.5	69.2	72.7	73.5	74.1	78.8	68.1	72.4
6 Base Metals	248.5	256.0	256.7	259.6	249.5	269.7	249.6	255.4

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