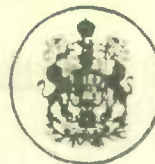


# DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

MAY 1957

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

The Consumer Price Index increased 0.2 per cent from 120.9 to 121.1 between April and May 1957. A year ago the index

stood at 116.6. In the current month, a further substantial increase in the Other Commodities and Services index, from 125.1 to 126.3, accounted for almost all of the change in the total index. In this group prices advanced for a wide variety of items: theatre admissions, street car and bus fares, haircuts and hairdressing, newspapers, beer and automobile insurance rates. The Food index was unchanged at 116.7. A sharp increase in tomatoes, and higher prices for apples, corn flakes and beef were balanced by decreases for coffee, tea, most pork cuts and some fresh vegetables. The Clothing index was also unchanged at 108.5. Scattered increases for such items as women's and girls' dresses were offset by lower sale prices for women's spring coats and men's shoes. The Household Operation index decreased from 119.4 to 119.2 as a result of seasonal declines for coal which were partially offset by small scattered increases among homefurnishings and household supplies. The Shelter index rose from 134.0 to 134.2 as both the rent and home-ownership components advanced fractionally.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
May 1957	121.1	116.7	134.2	108.5	119.2	126.3
April 1957	120.9	116.7	134.0	108.5	119.4	125.1
May 1956	116.6	109.3	132.1	108.8	116.5	120.5

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

The index of 30 Industrial Material prices at wholesale moved slightly lower over the four-week period April 26th to May 24th, from 246.1 to 242.4, for a decline of 1.5 per cent. Commodities showing decreases were zinc, raw sugar, cottonseed oil, lead, Douglas fir lumber, linseed oil, white lead, raw rubber, sisal, steel sheets, tin, wheat, iron ore and bleached sulphite pulp. Beef hides increased sharply, followed by lesser gains for hogs, imported bituminous coal and raw cotton. Strength in Canadian funds continues to be a factor for those items affected by foreign exchange rates.

Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets were slightly higher on balance in the period under review as the index moved from 207.6 to 208.2. The Animal Products index increased 1.6 per cent from 255.5 to 259.5, reflecting higher prices for hogs; calves and lambs in the East; and steers on Western markets; which were only partially offset by lower quotations for eggs; Western fluid milk, lambs and calves; and Eastern poultry, cheesemilk and butterfat. An index decline of 1.8 per cent for Field Products from 159.8 to 157.0, reflected lower prices for potatoes, rye, Western flax, and Eastern wheat, peas and corn. Eastern hay prices improved slightly. Regional total indexes moved in opposite directions as the Eastern series advanced from 189.7 to 191.6 while the Western index changed from 225.5 to 224.2.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1957 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	April 26th	May 3rd	May 10th	May 17th	May 24th	May 1956	April 1957	May P 1957
Industrial Materials .....	246.1	244.8	244.2	242.6	242.4	247.8	246.2	243.5
Canadian Farm Products .....	207.6	205.8	207.0	207.2	208.2	211.8	207.5	207.0
Field .....	159.8	158.5	157.6	157.5	157.0	185.6	159.9	157.6
Animal .....	255.5	253.2	256.4	257.0	259.5	238.0	255.1	256.5

P - Preliminary

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

The Investors' Index of 95 common stock prices advanced 2.2 per cent, from 283.8 to 290.0, in the four-week period April 25th to May 23rd. This latest increase brought the level to 2.6 per cent under the post-war peak of 297.8 touched on August 9th, 1956. Moderate strength was apparent in all major groups: 75 Industrials moved from 300.8 to 307.4 and 7 Banks from 277.7 to 283.8, for net gains of 2.2 per cent each, while 13 Utilities advanced 1.9 per cent from 212.6 to 216.7. Among sub-groups, Milling stocks advanced substantially, bringing the index up 16.1 per cent, while Oils rose 5.8, Beverages 5.1, Power and Traction 5.1, and Building Materials 4.2 per cent. Slight weakness occurred in Industrial Mines, Textiles and Clothing, Telephones, and Machinery and Equipment.

The composite index of 27 Mining issues receded 2.0 per cent from 127.4 to 124.8 in the four weeks under review. The 5.9 per cent decline in Base Metals, from 249.5 to 234.9, over-balanced a gain of 3.5 per cent for 21 Gold Stocks from 74.1 to 76.7.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	Week Ended 1957					Monthly Average		
	April 25th	May 2nd	May 9th	May 16th	May 23rd	May 1956	April 1957	May <sup>P</sup> 1957
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
95 Common Stocks .....	283.8	285.3	285.1	287.1	290.0	268.5	278.8	286.9
75 Industrials.....	300.8	303.0	302.0	304.3	307.4	282.9	294.2	304.2
13 Utilities.....	212.6	212.7	214.7	216.6	216.7	204.2	212.5	215.2
7 Banks .....	277.7	274.9	277.2	276.6	283.8	271.7	277.5	278.1
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks.....	127.4	126.2	123.4	123.6	124.8	136.5	128.0	124.5
21 Golds .....	74.1	75.2	76.3	76.4	76.7	78.8	72.4	76.2
6 Base Metals .....	249.5	242.8	231.1	231.8	234.9	268.5	255.4	235.2

P - Average of four weeks



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