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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

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**THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:** (1949=100) The Consumer Price Index advanced 0.4 per cent from 121.1 to a new high of 121.6 between May and June 1957, largely as a result of higher food prices. The increase in the first half of this year approximates one per cent, and the index stands 3.2 per cent above the level of a year ago. Most of the May-June advance of 0.9 per cent in the Food index, from 116.7 to 117.7, resulted from strength in all meats, notably pork, although higher prices for fresh fruits, some fresh vegetables and milk also contributed to the rise. Declines in food prices were recorded for some canned and fresh vegetables and coffee. The Shelter index rose 0.4 per cent from 134.2 to 134.8 reflecting like movements in both home-ownership and rent components. Rent changes in this period are influenced by the traditional May first moving date. Other Commodities and Services rose fractionally from 126.3 to 126.5 as higher prices were reported for train and inter-urban bus fares, newspapers, pharmaceuticals and personal care items. Further seasonal declines in coal prices were more than sufficient to offset a scatter of minor increases in homefurnishings, supplies, dry cleaning, laundry and shoe repairs, and the Household Operation index declined slightly from 119.2 to 119.1. The Clothing index also registered a small decrease from 108.5 to 108.4, as women's and children's wear were lower, and men's wear and footwear somewhat higher.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
June 1957	121.6	117.7	134.8	108.4	119.1	126.5
May 1957	121.1	116.7	134.2	108.5	119.2	126.3
June 1956	117.8	112.5	132.6	108.6	116.7	120.6

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WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY) (1) The index of 30 Industrial Materials moved  
(1935-1939 = 100) down slightly between the weeks of May 31st and June 21st from 242.2 to 240.0. The change reflected price declines for domestic zinc, lead, copper, steers, white lead, spruce lumber, beef hides, galvanized steel sheets, tin, wheat, oats, bleached sulphite pulp, iron ore and raw cotton. Increases occurred for steel scrap, hogs, raw rubber and raw sugar. As in recent months, strength in Canadian funds vis-a-vis the United States dollar has been a depressant for those items affected by this factor.

Canadian Farm Product prices at terminal markets remained practically unchanged during the period under review, moving down 0.3 per cent from 208.4 to 207.8. This movement of the total index reflected offsetting major group movements in which a decrease for Field Products from 156.1 to 154.8 was partially balanced by an increase in Animal Products from 260.7 to 260.9. The decline in Field Products was due almost entirely to lower quotations on Eastern markets for most grains, potatoes and hay. Rye advanced in both Eastern and Western Canada. In Animal Products lamb prices advanced sharply reflecting the introduction of spring lambs while lesser gains were registered by hogs, eggs and fluid milk. These were partially offset by decreases for calves, steers and Eastern poultry and cheesemilk. Regionally, the Eastern composite index moved down from 225.0 to 222.9 while the Western series advanced from 191.9 to 192.7.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1957 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	May 31st	June 7th	June 14th	June 21st	June 28th	June 1956	May 1957	June P 1957
Industrial Materials.....	242.2	241.7	241.6	240.0	Not	248.5	242.3	241.1
Canadian Farm Products .....	208.4	208.2	209.6	207.8	avail-	224.2	206.4	208.5
Field .....	156.1	155.3	155.3	154.8	able	196.4	157.5	155.1
Animal.....	260.7	261.0	263.8	260.9		251.9	255.3	261.9

P - Preliminary, average of three 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 2.6 per cent from 290.5 to 283.0 between the weeks of May 30th and June 27th. All major groups declined as 75 Industrials dropped 2.8 per cent from 307.5 to 299.0; 13 Utilities 2.2 per cent from 219.8 to 214.9 and 7 Banks 1.1 per cent from 282.6 to 279.4. While an easier tone was evident in Utilities over the four-week period, weakness in the remaining two groups was concentrated in the latter half of the month. Sub-group declines, which occurred for all but three series, ranged from 8.3 per cent for Milling to 0.4 for Beverages and Building Materials. Moderate increases occurred for Machinery and Equipment, Textiles and Clothing, and Power and Traction.

Mining stocks, supported by strength in gold issues, moved upward during the period under review as the composite index changed from 123.0 to 123.6 for a net increase of 0.5 per cent. Over the same interval the sub-group index for 21 Golds stiffened 3.8 per cent, from 76.2 to 79.1 while 6 Base Metals weakened 2.0 per cent, from 230.3 to 225.6.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	Week Ended 1957					Monthly Average		
	May 30th	June 6th	June 13th	June 20th	June 27th	June 1956	May 1957	June 1957
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
95 Common Stocks .....	290.5	290.7	290.8	283.0	283.0	267.0	287.6	286.9
75 Industrials.....	307.5	308.0	308.3	298.6	299.0	283.0	304.8	303.5
13 Utilities.....	219.8	218.4	217.8	216.0	214.9	199.8	216.1	216.8
7 Banks .....	282.6	283.2	283.8	280.7	279.4	260.7	279.0	281.8
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks.....	123.0	124.9	128.4	124.6	123.6	136.4	124.2	125.4
21 Golds .....	76.2	81.2	82.1	80.2	79.1	76.7	76.2	80.6
6 Base Metals.....	230.3	224.8	234.3	226.1	225.6	273.1	234.2	227.7

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