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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

JANUARY 1958

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949=100) A rise of 0.2 per cent in the Consumer Price Index, from 123.1 to 123.4 between December 1957 and January 1958, brought the index back to the October 1957 high, following two declines totalling the same amount in November and December. Increases in both the Food and Other Commodities and Services indexes were responsible for most of the current month's movement. Foods rose from 118.8 to 119.4 as beef prices continued to show strength, with some cuts up 4 cents a pound. Imported citrus fruits and lamb were up substantially, while most fresh vegetables and veal showed lesser increases. Price declines were few; eggs registered a further decrease of 3 cents a dozen, and pork was down fractionally. Higher prices for newspapers in twelve Canadian cities, combined with advances in hospital rates in Winnipeg, more than offset somewhat lower prices for new passenger cars and gasoline as Other Commodities and Services rose from 128.4 to 129.1. Mixed price trends in Household Operation items left the index slightly higher at 120.8 compared with 120.6 in December. Coal prices were higher but fuel oil and domestic gas declined; a number of furniture items moved to slightly lower levels with living room suites at higher prices; appliances, particularly refrigerators, registered price declines but household supplies and services were up. The Shelter index declined fractionally from 136.7 to 136.6 as rents were unchanged and the home-ownership component eased slightly. The Clothing index dropped more than a point, from 109.9 to 108.8, as annual January sales were reflected in lower prices for men's suits and coats, women's cloth and fur coats and girl's winter coats. Footwear prices edged up.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
January 1958	123.4	119.4	136.6	108.8	120.8	129.1
December 1957	123.1	118.8	136.7	109.9	120.6	128.4
January 1957	120.3	117.1	133.6	107.6	119.0	123.1

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Prepared in Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division

(1)

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

The price index of 30 Industrial Materials eased fractionally from 233.2 to 232.6 between December 27th and January 24th, as offsetting price changes occurred for a number of commodities. Most significant declines were noted for copper, steel scrap, cottonseed oil, and linseed oil, while oats, bleached sulphite pulp, wheat and raw cotton also weakened. Beef hides, steers, hogs, sisal, tin, iron ore, raw sugar, and raw rubber worked higher.

Canadian Farm Product prices at terminal markets rose 2.4 per cent from 205.6 to 210.6 in the four-week period December 27th to January 24th. Strength was relatively greater in Animal Products as this index advanced 2.9 per cent from 255.6 to 259.0. Quotations were higher for most livestock items and Eastern butterfat, while eggs and Western fluid milk moved lower. An increase of 1.6 per cent from 155.7 to 158.2 for Field Products reflected price increases for potatoes and hogs, Eastern peas and wheat. Lower prices in the group were noted for rye and flax in the West and corn on Eastern markets. Regional indexes were both higher; the Eastern series moved up 2.9 per cent from 221.6 to 228.1, and that for the West 1.8 per cent from 189.6 to 193.1.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1958 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Dec. 27th	Jan. 3rd	Jan. 10th	Jan. 17th	Jan. 24th	Jan. 1957	Dec. 1957	Jan. P 1958
Industrial Materials.....	233.2	233.2	233.0	232.6	232.6	251.1	231.8	232.8
Canadian Farm Products .....	205.6	207.5	206.8	208.8	210.6	211.6	204.6	208.4
Field .....	155.7	156.1	156.8	157.8	158.2	166.0	155.4	157.2
Animal.....	255.6	259.0	256.8	259.9	263.0	257.2	253.7	259.7

P - Preliminary, average of four 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)

Common stock prices registered a slightly firmer tone in the opening month of 1958 as the Investors' Index of 95 issues advanced 2.5 per cent between the weeks of December 26th and January 30th from 212.1 to 217.5. Utilities rose 5.1 per cent from 172.4 to 181.2, chiefly reflecting strength in Transportation issues. Banks changed 2.1 per cent from 231.9 to 236.7 while 75 Industrials stiffened 2.1 per cent from 219.3 to 223.9. Among sub-group indexes, Transportation stocks registered the largest gain with an advance of 12.4 per cent followed by Food and Allied Products 5.5; Industrial Mines 5.0 per cent; Beverages 4.4 per cent, and Power and Traction 3.9 per cent. Three groups were slightly weaker on balance, viz. Milling, Textiles and Clothing, and Oils.

Mining stocks recovered from the low of 87.0 for the last week of December to show a net gain of 8.9 per cent to 94.7 by January 30th. Chiefly responsible was strength in Golds, which was reflected in a 13.0 per cent increase in the sub-group index, from 59.1 to 66.8. Base Metals firmed 5.1 per cent from 150.8 to 158.5.

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

	1957	1958 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Dec. 26th	Jan. 2nd	Jan. 9th	Jan. 16th	Jan. 23rd	Jan. 30th	Jan. 1957	Dec. 1957	Jan. 1958
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>									
95 Common Stocks .....	212.1	212.6	214.8	216.7	215.4	217.5	273.7	216.2	215.4
75 Industrials .....	219.3	220.3	221.7	223.5	221.7	223.9	287.3	224.0	222.2
13 Utilities .....	172.4	172.0	177.6	180.4	179.3	181.2	207.5	173.9	178.1
7 Banks .....	231.9	229.0	232.2	233.0	235.7	236.7	289.9	234.9	233.3
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>									
27 Stocks .....	87.0	89.0	90.3	90.5	93.2	94.7	129.9	89.4	91.5
21 Golds .....	59.1	60.7	62.6	62.9	67.2	66.8	70.6	60.0	64.0
6 Base Metals .....	150.8	153.9	153.8	153.8	152.8	158.5	265.7	156.8	154.6



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