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PRICE MOVEMENTS

FEBRUARY 1958

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index advanced 0.2 per cent from 123.4 to a new high of 123.7 between January and February 1958. An increase in the Food index accounted for most of the current change, with upward movements in Shelter and Other Commodities and Services also contributing to the overall rise. Both the Clothing and Household Operation indexes remained unchanged.

The Food index rose from 119.4 to 119.9 as increases were registered for most items of fruit, vegetables and meats. Advances were greatest for oranges, fresh tomatoes and beef. The only decline of consequence was a further drop of 4 cents per dozen in egg prices. Other Commodities and Services moved from 129.1 to 129.5 mainly on the strength of further widespread increases in hospital rates, which averaged 3 per cent. Fractionally higher prices were reported for pharmaceuticals and personal care items, including toothpaste, toilet soap and shaving cream. The Shelter index edged up from 136.6 to 136.9 following slight advances in both the rent and home-ownership components.

The Clothing index remained unchanged at 108.8 as lower prices for rayon piece goods and a wide range of children's clothing balanced higher prices for some items of men's and women's wear. The Household Operation index, unchanged at 120.8, also reflected slight and offsetting price movements as textiles and household supplies were higher and furniture and floor coverings were at lower levels.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
February 1958	123.7	119.9	136.9	108.8	120.8	129.5
January 1958	123.4	119.4	136.6	108.8	120.8	129.1
February 1957	120.5	117.2	133.8	107.4	119.1	123.8

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(1)

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

The price index of 30 Industrial Materials was almost unchanged at 233.1 in the week of February 21st compared to 232.9 for the week ending January 31st. Higher prices for steers provided most of the upward influence, with offsetting decreases recorded for linseed oil, raw cotton, raw sugar, and sisal.

Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets rose 2.3 per cent from 212.4 to 217.2 in the three-week period January 31st to February 21st. Chiefly responsible were increases in Animal Products for which the index advanced 3.3 per cent from 266.6 to 275.5. Calves were sharply higher, followed by lesser increases for other livestock items, and eggs. In the East butterfat was slightly lower. The Field Products group index edged up from 158.2 to 158.9 reflecting gains for potatoes, Western hay and Eastern corn which were almost balanced by declines in the East for peas and wheat. Regional indexes both registered increases as the Eastern series changed 2.6 per cent from 230.7 to 236.7 and the Western index 1.8 per cent from 194.2 to 197.7.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1958 Week Ended				Monthly Average		
	Jan. 31st	Feb. 7th	Feb. 14th	Feb. 21st	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1958	Feb. ^(P) 1958
Industrial Materials.....	232.9	232.4	231.9	233.1	248.4	231.8	232.5
Canadian Farm Products ...	212.4	211.5	212.7	217.2	213.2	208.4	213.8
Field	158.2	158.0	157.3	158.9	167.4	157.5	158.1
Animal.....	266.6	265.0	268.1	275.5	259.0	259.3	269.5

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 stock prices moved moderately lower in February as the index declined 1.2 per cent from 217.5

for January 30th to 214.9 at February 27th. Major group indexes presented a mixed picture as 75 Industrials eased down 1.8 per cent from 223.9 to 219.9; 13 Utilities was unchanged at 181.2; and 7 Banks rose 2.3 per cent from 236.7 to 242.2. Losses for four sub-groups, Transportation (6.1 per cent), Machinery and Equipment (5.7), Oils (3.9) and Industrial Mines (1.5) overbalanced increases for 8 sub-groups which ranged down from 12.2 per cent for Milling to 1.2 per cent for Food and Allied Products.

The composite index of 27 Mining stocks was practically unchanged, moving from 94.7 to 94.8 in the four weeks under review. An increase of 3.7 per cent for 21 Gold stocks, from 66.8 to 69.3, overbalanced a decline of 3.3 per cent for 6 Base Metals from 158.5 to 153.2.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1958 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 30th	Feb. 6th	Feb. 13th	Feb. 20th	Feb. 27th	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1958	Feb. 1958
Investors' Price Index								
95 Common Stocks	217.5	222.6	217.3	218.3	214.9	263.2	215.4	218.3
75 Industrials.....	223.9	229.5	222.9	223.0	219.9	276.0	222.2	223.8
13 Utilities.....	181.2	184.0	181.7	183.0	181.2	203.6	178.1	182.5
7 Banks	236.7	242.0	244.0	252.6	242.2	271.3	233.3	245.2
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks.....	94.7	96.6	94.8	95.1	94.8	122.2	91.5	95.3
21 Golds	66.8	67.8	67.9	68.3	69.3	69.3	64.0	68.3
6 Base Metals.....	158.5	162.7	156.5	156.3	153.2	243.2	154.6	157.2

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