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PRICE MOVEMENTS

AUGUST 1958

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949=100) The Consumer Price Index advanced 0.4 per cent from 124.7 to 125.2 between July and August 1958. This was largely due to a one per cent increase in the Food index from 121.4 to 122.6, which approximated the usual July-August seasonal increase. The Shelter and Other Commodities and Services indexes also contributed to the overall increase, while Clothing and Household Operation eased slightly. Fresh tomato prices which normally drop quite sharply between the first weeks of July and August, were unusually strong and increased in the period under review, although most other fresh vegetables experienced seasonal declines. Apple prices reflected initial marketings of the new crop, while imported bananas and oranges were up. Beef prices continued to moderate slightly, and pork prices edged up. Eggs eased 4 cents a dozen.

The Shelter index rose from 138.4 to 139.1 reflecting increases in rents, mortgage interest rates and property taxes. A fractional increase in the Other Commodities and Services index from 130.4 to 130.6 resulted from small price increases in a variety of commodities; pharmaceuticals, personal care items, gasoline, taxi fares and film. The Clothing index declined from 109.9 to 109.6 as the result of summer sales, particularly in women's and children's wear. A fractional drop in the Household Operation index from 120.6 to 120.5 reflected sale prices for furniture, floor coverings and some textiles, which were partially offset by slight increases in household supplies and coal.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
August 1958	125.2	122.6	139.1	109.6	120.5	130.6
July 1958	124.7	121.4	138.4	109.9	120.6	130.4
August 1957	122.6	120.2	135.3	108.2	119.7	126.9

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

The price index of 30 basic industrial raw materials edged gradually lower over the four-week period July 25th to August 22nd, from 230.5 to 228.5. In the four-week comparison twelve items were lower, led by linseed oil, hogs, steers and cottonseed oil. Gains for six items were headed by sisal, beef hides and copper, while twelve commodities were unchanged. For items entering international trade, prices were slightly firmer due to the somewhat weaker position of the Canadian vis-a-vis the United States dollar.

Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets were lower in the four weeks under review as both major groups declined, and the total index moved down 3.4 per cent from 219.5 to 212.0. In Animal Products, a 4.3 per cent drop from 279.9 to 267.8 reflected price decreases for most livestock items, wool and poultry, offset partially by increases for calves, eggs, and Western butterfat and fluid milk. Field Products declined 1.9 per cent from 159.2 to 156.2, as price losses were registered by potatoes, particularly on Western markets, Western flax and rye, and Eastern oats, peas and barley. Eastern corn was up slightly. The regional breakdown showed indexes both lower as the Eastern series fell 3.7 per cent from 237.2 to 228.4 and the Western 3.2 per cent from 201.9 to 195.5.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1958 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	July 25th	Aug. 1st	Aug. 8th	Aug. 15th	Aug. 22nd	Aug. 1957	July 1958	Aug. (P) 1958
Industrial Materials.....	230.5	229.9	229.4	229.3	228.5	238.6	229.4	229.3
Canadian Farm Products	219.5	219.5	217.3	215.9	212.0	212.6	219.4	216.2
Field	159.2	158.6	157.5	156.5	156.2	153.8	159.4	157.2
Animal.....	279.9	280.3	277.2	275.3	267.8	271.3	279.3	275.2

P - Preliminary, average of weeks.

- (1) All 1958 indexes subject to revision. Canadian Farm Products subsequent to July 1957 are subject to further major revisions as and when interim and/or final participation payments are announced. For further details see "Prices and Price Indexes, Monthly".

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES: The Investors' Index of 95 common stocks registered a slight net gain in August, rising from 250.1 to 252.2 between July 31st and August 28th. This further recovery brings the index level for August to 251.6, 2.9 per cent below the same month of a year ago. Among major group increases, 13 Utilities rose 2.9 per cent from 191.2 to 196.8, while fractional gains lifted the index for 7 Banks from 278.5 to 280.7 and that for 75 Industrials from 260.9 to 262.1. Eight sub-groups were higher, headed by Power and Traction, Pulp and Paper, and Milling, while four groups declined slightly: Oils, Transportation, Food and Allied Products, and Industrial Mines.

The composite index of 27 Mining issues edged up from 105.5 to 105.8, reflecting an increase of 2.2 per cent for 21 Golds, from 72.6 to 74.2, which was offset by a loss of 1.4 per cent for 6 Base Metals from 180.8 to 178.2.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1958 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	July 31st	Aug. 7th	Aug. 14th	Aug. 21st	Aug. 28th	Aug. 1957	July 1958	Aug. 1958
Investors' Price Index								
95 Common Stocks	250.1	251.3	252.4	250.3	252.2	259.0	243.8	251.6
75 Industrials	260.9	262.1	263.1	260.0	262.1	272.4	253.3	261.8
13 Utilities	191.2	192.5	194.0	194.1	196.8	200.6	189.5	194.4
7 Banks	278.5	278.3	279.7	282.9	280.7	260.2	275.4	280.4
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	105.5	106.9	106.1	105.9	105.8	109.5	103.2	106.2
21 Golds	72.6	75.0	73.8	74.1	74.2	73.2	72.1	74.3
6 Base Metals	180.8	180.0	180.2	178.8	178.2	192.6	174.7	179.3

N.B. Enquiries concerning indexes in this release should be directed to The Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division.



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Faint, illegible text and table structure, possibly a statistical table or report. The table has multiple columns and rows, but the content is too light to transcribe accurately.