



PRICE MOVEMENTS

OCTOBER 1959

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949=100) Canada's Consumer Price Index advanced 0.7 per cent from 127.1 to 128.0 between September and October 1959. Although all five group indexes contributed to this current movement, a further seasonal increase of 1.5 per cent in foods accounted for most of it. Increases in the other four component groups averaged 0.3 per cent.

The rise in the Food index from 122.4 to 124.2, as in the July-September period was largely seasonal, and placed the October 1959 index less than 1 per cent above the October 1958 level. A sharp seasonal gain in egg prices which normally occurs in late summer, combined with usual seasonal price advances for fresh tomatoes and lettuce. Milk prices increased a cent per quart in some Ontario cities to produce the first price change in this item in nearly two years. While potato prices were lower, they remained above October levels of recent years. Other fresh vegetables were off slightly, and beef and pork prices were steady.

A rise of 0.6 per cent in the Clothing index, from 109.8 to 110.5, reflected prices of new season's lines of women's and girls' winter coats and girls' snow suits, up from last season's year-end levels. Some small price increases occurred in other lines and footwear prices continued to edge upwards. The Household Operation index increased 0.2 per cent from 123.1 to 123.4. Appliance prices were mixed as new models started to appear on the market. Refrigerators, electric stoves, and irons were lower with washing machines and vacuum cleaners at somewhat higher levels. Price changes on furniture were attributable to prices rising from previous month's sale levels. Price increases also occurred on such household items as light bulbs, soap flakes, dishes, and brooms. The Other Commodities and Services index was up 0.2 per cent from 135.2 to 135.5 following slight scattered increases.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
October 1959	128.0	124.2	142.4	110.5	123.4	135.5
September 1959	127.1	122.4	142.0	109.8	123.1	135.2
October 1958	126.0	123.4	139.6	109.9	121.3	131.8

(1)

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

The index of 30 industrial raw material prices

eased 0.5 per cent between September 25th and

October 23rd, to 243.0. At this level the index stood 5.7 and 4.3 per cent respectively above the comparable weeks in October 1957 and 1958. Commodities showing lower were beef hides and steers followed by lesser declines for hogs, spruce lumber, wheat, cotton, and raw wool. Price increases were recorded for oats, linseed oil, domestic zinc, raw rubber, and steel sheets.

In the same period the index of Canadian farm products at terminal markets declined 2.1 per cent as losses in Animal Products overbalanced gains for Field Products. For Animal Products the 4.8 per cent decline reflected lower prices for all livestock items, particularly calves on the Winnipeg market. Eggs showed sharply lower, while fluid milk prices rose moderately. In Field Products the 2.7 per cent increase was caused by sharp gains for potatoes and flax followed by Western rye and Eastern grains, except corn which declined. Regional indexes were lower: the Eastern fell 1.8 per cent from 239.3 to 234.9 and the Western fell 2.4 per cent from 201.1 to 196.3.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 25th	Oct. 2nd	Oct. 9th	Oct. 16th	Oct. 23rd	Oct. 1958	Sept. 1959	Oct. (P) 1959
Industrial Materials.....	244.3	243.8	242.9	243.0	243.0	228.2	243.7	243.2
Canadian Farm Products	220.2	216.9	214.7	215.2	215.6	211.8	219.0	215.6
Field	160.5	160.0	160.2	162.3	164.8	154.3	161.0	161.8
Animal.....	279.9	273.8	269.3	268.1	266.4	269.3	277.0	269.4

(P) - Preliminary, average of weeks.

(1) - All 1959 indexes subject to revision. Canadian Farm Products subsequent to July 1958 are subject to further major revisions as and when interim and/or final participation payments are announced for Western wheat, oats, and barley. For further details see "Prices and Price Indexes, Monthly".

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:

(1935-1939 = 100)

The Investors' Index of 92 common stock prices moved down 1.0 per cent in the five-week period September 24th to October 29th. Among major groups, 7 Banks fell 4.7 per cent while 72 Industrials and 13 Utilities showed fractional losses. Sub-groups presented a mixed picture with 7 declines headed by Food and Allied Products, down 7.5 per cent from 252.8 to 233.9, and Milling down 4.8 per cent from 216.8 to 206.3. Of the five sub-groups registering gains, four were fractionally higher while Industrial Mines advanced 4.4 per cent from 185.5 to 193.6.

The index of 27 mining stocks rose 2.8 per cent in the same period, reflecting gains of 4.3 and 1.5 per cent respectively for 6 Base Metals and 21 Golds.

Weekly Security Price indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1959 Week Ended						Monthly Average		
	Sept. 24th	Oct. 1st	Oct. 8th	Oct. 15th	Oct. 22nd	Oct. 29th	Oct. 1958	Sept. 1959	Oct. 1959
Investors' Price Index									
92 Common Stocks	254.9	255.2	253.0	252.4	249.5	252.3	262.1	255.4	252.5
72 Industrials.....	260.0	260.0	257.7	256.9	254.0	258.4	272.8	261.6	257.4
13 Utilities.....	187.4	188.5	187.4	187.4	186.2	187.0	197.2	188.9	187.3
7 Banks	360.4	361.7	358.1	359.1	351.1	343.4	305.0	347.6	354.7
Mining Stock Price Index									
27 Stocks.....	109.5	112.0	114.0	112.1	110.4	112.6	114.4	111.5	112.2
21 Golds	80.7	82.1	84.4	83.4	81.7	81.9	74.7	82.0	82.7
6 Base Metals.....	175.4	180.5	181.9	177.7	176.2	183.0	205.1	179.2	179.9

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