



## PRICE MOVEMENTS

DECEMBER 1959

**THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:** (1949=100) The Consumer Price Index declined 0.3 per cent from 128.3 to 127.9 between November and December 1959. A year ago the index stood at 126.2. Over the year 1959, the index averaged 126.5, or 1.1 per cent above the 1958 level of 125.1. The current month's movement was due entirely to a drop of 1.1 per cent in foods as the other four group indexes recorded little or no change. The Clothing and Other Commodities and Services indexes were both unchanged while the Shelter and Household Operation indexes were up fractionally.

The Food index moved from 123.8 to 122.4 to stand almost at the December 1958 level of 122.2. The sharpest drop in egg prices in some years accounted for most of this change, as Grade A large eggs decreased 14.4 cents to 48.3 cents a dozen - the lowest since March 1950 and the lowest December price since 1944. Imported fruits, orange juice, pork and chicken were also lower. Fresh vegetables, particularly tomatoes and cabbage, were higher.

The Shelter index increased 0.1 per cent from 142.6 to 142.7 as rents were unchanged and home-ownership rose slightly. The Clothing index was unchanged at 111.4 as price increases for footwear and a scatter of children's items were balanced by sale prices for women's winter coats. The Household Operation index rose 0.2 per cent from 123.5 to 123.7. Slightly higher prices were reported for coal, utensils and equipment, household supplies, laundry, dry cleaning, and shoe repairs. The Other Commodities and Services index, unchanged at 136.9, showed little or no price movement on most items.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
December 1959	127.9	122.4	142.7	111.4	123.7	136.9
November 1959	128.3	123.8	142.6	111.4	123.5	136.9
December 1958	126.2	122.2	139.9	110.5	122.0	133.4

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

The price index of 30 industrial materials moved up fractionally between November 27th and December 18th. In the three-week period price increases were recorded for eight commodities, headed by major gains for beef hides and rosin, and lesser increases for sisal and bituminous coal, while declines for seven items were led by raw rubber, steers, linseed oil and oats. The most significant changes over the year, as reflected by comparison with the index of 233.7 in the closing week of 1958, were as follows:

Increases:	Rosin	Decreases:	Cotton, raw
	Rubber, raw		Steers
	Fir timber		Sugar, raw
	Sisal		Hogs
	Beef hides		Lead, domestic
	Wool, raw		
	Zinc, domestic		

Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets eased 0.7 per cent in the same three-week comparison. Animal Products moved down 1.4 per cent reflecting lower prices for steers and eggs, both East and West, and for Eastern cheesemilk, which were partially offset by price gains for calves, and for poultry, lambs and butterfat in the East. A fractional gain for Field Products reflected increases for tobacco, most Eastern grains, and Western hay, which were almost balanced by declines for potatoes, Eastern barley and Western flax and rye. Both regional indexes moved lower, the Eastern 0.9 per cent from 236.2 to 234.0 and the Western 0.4 per cent from 195.7 to 195.0.

**Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)**

	1959 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 27th	Dec. 4th	Dec. 11th	Dec. 18th	Dec. 25th	Dec. 1958	Nov. 1959	Dec. (P) 1959
Industrial Materials.....	240.9	243.8	243.0	241.8	NOT AVAILABLE	233.8	240.8	242.9
Canadian Farm Products .....	216.0	216.3	217.5	214.5		217.6	217.1	216.1
Field .....	165.9	166.4	166.4	166.6		156.6	165.1	166.5
Animal.....	266.1	266.2	268.6	262.4		278.7	269.1	265.7

(P) - Preliminary, average of three 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 advanced 3.7 per cent in the four-week period November 26th to December 24th. Increases for major groups were: 72 Industrials 4.5 per cent, 13 Utilities 1.3 per cent, and 7 Banks 0.1 per cent. Sub-group gains were led by Oils, up 7.7 per cent from 164.9 to 177.6; Machinery and Equipment, up 7.3 per cent from 707.7 to 759.1, and Industrial Mines, up 3.9 per cent from 203.2 to 211.2. Two sub-groups moved against the trend to show small declines: Textiles and Clothing, from 208.4 to 206.8 and Food and Allied Products, from 227.9 to 227.7.

The index of 27 Mining stocks moved up 2.5 per cent in the period under review, reflecting increases of 3.3 per cent for 6 Base Metals, and 1.8 per cent for 21 Gold stocks.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 - 100)

	1959 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 26th	Dec. 3rd	Dec. 10th	Dec. 17th	Dec. 24th	Dec. 1958	Nov. 1959	Dec. (P) 1959
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
92 Common Stocks .....	253.5	255.5	262.1	264.4	262.9	259.1	252.8	261.2
72 Industrials.....	259.9	262.0	269.2	272.8	271.7	266.8	259.2	268.9
13 Utilities.....	187.9	189.2	191.8	190.9	190.4	195.8	186.9	190.6
7 Banks .....	342.4	343.7	354.7	351.3	342.7	328.0	342.5	348.1
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks.....	110.9	110.3	112.9	112.6	113.7	116.1	112.6	112.4
21 Golds .....	81.5	80.9	81.9	82.2	83.0	80.6	82.6	82.0
6 Base Metals.....	178.2	177.6	183.9	182.1	184.1	197.5	181.3	181.9

(P) Preliminary: average of four weeks.

N.B. Enquiries concerning indexes in this release should be directed to the Prices Division.

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