



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Published by Authority of the Hon. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce

Price: \$1.00 per year - 10¢ per copy

Vol. 37 No. 5 (For release 10 a.m., June 4, 1959)

PRICE MOVEMENTS

MAY 1959

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949=100) The Consumer Price Index edged up 0.2 per cent between April and May moving from 125.4 to 125.6. This follows five months of fractional declines totalling 0.7 per cent, which were mostly seasonal, recorded between November 1958 and April 1959. The current index stands 0.4 per cent above the May 1958 index of 125.1. The latest movement was due to increases of 0.9 per cent in the Other Commodities and Services index and 0.4 per cent in the Shelter index, which were partially offset by a decrease of 0.7 per cent in the Food index. The Clothing index gained fractionally while the Household Operation index moved down slightly.

The Other Commodities and Services index rose from 133.7 to 134.9 as higher prices were reported for cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, liquor, men's haircuts, women's hairdressing, automobile tires, and theatre admissions. Some of these price changes reflected recent federal tax increases. Gasoline prices were down sharply as "price wars" occurred in a number of Ontario cities. The Shelter index increased from 140.5 to 141.0 with the rent component unchanged but home-ownership higher. The decrease in the Food index from 119.3 to 118.5 reflected further declines in beef and slightly lower prices for coffee, eggs, sugar, lard, and some pork cuts. Fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly potatoes, were higher.

The Clothing index increased 0.1 per cent from 109.6 to 109.7 as men's and women's footwear showed some price increases and other price changes were generally limited to items up from previous sale price levels. The Household Operation index was down a fractional 0.1 per cent from 122.6 to 122.5 as seasonal decreases in coal prices more than balanced some price increases in textiles, utensils and equipment and household supplies.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
May 1959	125.6	118.5	141.0	109.7	122.5	134.9
April 1959	125.4	119.3	140.5	109.6	122.6	133.7
May 1958	125.1	122.7	137.9	110.0	120.7	130.6

8201-503-59

Prepared in Prices Division

(1)
WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY) (1935-1939 = 100) The price index of 30 industrial raw materials declined fractionally between April 24th and May 22nd, from 242.7 to 242.1. Beef hide prices sharply reversed their recent strong upward trend and minor declines were reported for a number of items. Increases occurred for sisal, raw rubber, zinc and spruce lumber.

The index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced 2.4 per cent from 213.9 to 219.1 in the four weeks under review. In Field Products the 7.3 per cent rise from 156.7 to 168.2 was almost entirely attributable to higher potato prices, particularly on Eastern markets. Eastern wheat was also higher while modest declines included other Eastern grains and tobacco. In Animal Products the index fell slightly from 271.1 to 269.9 reflecting lower prices for steers, eggs and Eastern butterfat and a seasonal decline for Western fluid milk, which more than offset increases for calves, Eastern lambs and poultry. Regional indexes were higher, the Eastern rising 4.3 per cent from 230.1 to 240.1 and the Western from 197.7 to 198.0.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1959 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	April 24th	May 1st	May 8th	May 15th	May 22nd	May 1958	April 1959	May (P) 1959
Industrial Materials.....	242.7	242.6	242.4	242.2	242.1	226.7	240.4	242.3
Canadian Farm Products	213.9	214.8	216.9	219.4	219.1	226.5	213.7	217.6
Field	156.7	158.3	162.6	167.6	168.2	164.6	156.4	164.2
Animal.....	271.1	271.3	271.3	271.1	269.9	288.3	271.0	270.9

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 Western wheat, oats and barley. For further details see "Prices and Price Indexes, Monthly".

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:

(1935-1939 = 100)

The Investors' Index of 93 common stocks fluctuated narrowly in May as slight weakness in the opening week was followed by continued moderate strength. Over the four-week period April 30th to May 28th the index registered a fractional net gain, moving from 267.3 to 268.2. While the three major groups displayed different week-to-week movements, all advanced slightly over the period: 7 Banks rose 1.6 per cent from 366.8 to 372.7; 13 Utilities edged up from 202.8 to 203.5 and 73 Industrials moved from 272.3 to 272.8. Sub-group advances were headed by a gain of 9.9 per cent for Machinery and Equipment and 5.8 per cent for Milling. Seven sub-groups showed moderate losses, led by declines of 3.2 per cent for Power and Traction and Food and Allied Products and 3.1 per cent for Oils.

In the same period, the composite index of 27 Mining stocks showed a 1.0 per cent increase from 119.8 to 121.0 as a 4.0 per cent rise for 21 Golds, from 85.2 to 88.6, overbalanced a 1.9 per cent loss for 6 Base Metals from 198.9 to 195.1.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1959 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	April 30th	May 7th	May 14th	May 21st	May 28th	May 1958	April 1959	May 1959
Investors' Price Index								
93 Common Stocks	267.3	266.5	267.0	267.2	268.2	227.8	265.8	267.2
73 Industrials	272.3	270.5	271.0	271.8	272.8	235.2	271.7	271.5
13 Utilities	202.8	204.8	204.5	204.3	203.5	183.0	201.3	204.3
7 Banks	366.8	369.8	371.8	367.5	372.7	258.1	357.1	370.4
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	119.8	118.3	118.4	120.4	121.0	99.3	120.6	119.5
21 Golds	85.2	85.1	85.8	88.3	88.6	72.5	85.5	87.0
6 Base Metals	198.9	194.2	192.9	193.9	195.1	160.7	201.2	194.0

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010751122