



PRICE MOVEMENTS

JULY 1959

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949=100) The Consumer Price Index was unchanged at 125.9 between June and July 1959 and stood 1 per cent above the July 1958 level of 124.7. In the current period, a drop in the Other Commodities and Services index balanced increases in the Food, Shelter, Clothing, and Household Operation indexes.

Further sharp declines in gasoline prices combined with seasonally lower prices for new passenger cars resulted in a 0.4 per cent decrease in the Other Commodities and Services index, from 135.4 to 134.9. Higher prices for prepaid health care occurred in the Maritime Provinces.

The Food index was up 0.1 per cent from 119.1 to 119.2 as both increases and decreases, mostly fractional in nature, occurred on a wide range of items. Significant price changes were limited to potatoes and grapefruit. Beef and pork prices were quite steady.

Small increases in both the rent and home-ownership components moved the Shelter index up 0.1 per cent from 141.5 to 141.7. An increase of 0.5 per cent in the Clothing index, from 109.2 to 109.7, reflected prices up from previous sale price levels for a number of items, including men's suits and coats and children's shoes.

The Household Operation index rose 0.2 per cent from 122.5 to 122.7 as a result of minor price increases on a variety of items, including household utensils and equipment, supplies, household help, domestic gas, and electricity. Household appliances showed mixed results with gas stoves and electric refrigerators up and electric stoves, washing machines, and vacuum cleaners at lower price levels.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
July 1959	125.9	119.2	141.7	109.7	122.7	134.9
June 1959	125.9	119.1	141.5	109.2	122.5	135.4
July 1958	124.7	121.4	138.4	109.9	120.6	130.4

(1)

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

The price index of 30 industrial raw materials moved fractionally down between June 26th and July 23rd, reflecting offsetting price changes for a number of commodities. The index of 241.0 for July 24th stands 4.6 per cent above 230.5 for the same week of 1958. Price declines in the period included raw wool, sisal, raw sugar, domestic electrolytic copper and fir timber. Items showing higher were led by raw rubber, cottonseed oil, steers and linseed oil.

In the same four weeks, the index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced less than one per cent. In Animal Products a 1.0 per cent rise reflected higher prices for steers; eggs, cheesemilk and raw wool in the East; and calves on Western markets. These were partially balanced by declines for lambs and hogs; calves and poultry in the East, and in the West for raw wool, eggs and fluid milk. In Field Products, increases registered for Western flax, rye and hay and Eastern potatoes were almost offset by lower prices for most Eastern grains and hay, and for Western potatoes. Regional indexes both advanced fractionally, the Eastern from 243.5 to 245.7 and the Western from 199.2 to 200.6.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1959 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	June 26th	July 3rd	July 10th	July 17th	July 24th	July 1958	June 1959	July (P) 1959
Industrial Materials.....	241.7	241.7	242.4	241.3	241.0	229.4	241.7	241.6
Canadian Farm Products	221.3	221.8	221.8	223.0	223.1	226.0	221.9	222.4
Field	172.3	172.2	172.1	172.6	173.1	172.6	173.1	172.5
Animal.....	270.3	271.5	271.4	273.4	273.1	279.3	270.6	272.4

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)

An advance of 4.5 per cent between June 25th and July 23rd for the Investors' Index of 92 common stocks was the largest increase since May 1958. Gains were shared by the three major groups, with increases of 5.9 for 7 Banks, 4.5 for 72 Industrials, and 3.1 for 13 Utilities. Two sub-groups showed more than average strength: 14 Building Materials rose 9.8 per cent from 536.5 to 589.0, and 2 Industrial Mines moved up 7.1 per cent from 191.7 to 205.3. Only one sub-group, Food and Allied Products, moved against the trend with a decline of 1.8 per cent from 272.7 to 267.8.

The index of 27 Mining issues gained 3.1 per cent in the same four-week period, reflecting gains of 4.9 per cent for 6 Base Metals and 1.4 for 21 Golds.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1959 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	June 25th	July 2nd	July 9th	July 16th	July 23rd	July 1958	June 1959	July (P) 1959
Investors' Price Index								
92 Common Stocks	269.4	274.1	278.0	280.0	281.5	243.8	269.5	278.4
72 Industrials.....	275.2	280.9	284.9	287.3	287.6	253.3	274.4	285.2
13 Utilities.....	198.3	200.5	203.5	203.3	204.5	189.5	201.6	203.0
7 Banks	376.7	376.8	381.8	384.4	399.1	275.4	379.0	385.5
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks.....	117.1	120.1	121.2	120.0	120.7	103.2	119.4	120.5
21 Golds	86.3	88.2	87.4	86.0	87.5	72.1	87.0	87.3
6 Base Metals.....	187.6	193.1	198.5	197.7	196.7	174.7	193.4	196.5

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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