



## PRICE MOVEMENTS

FEBRUARY 1961

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index declined 0.2 per cent from 129.2 to 128.9 between January and February 1961. A year ago the index was 127.2. The current decrease resulted entirely from a drop of 0.8 per cent in the Food index as the other four component indexes were unchanged.

Lower prices for citrus fruits, fresh tomatoes, eggs, lettuce and beef outweighed price increases for other meats, apples and some fresh vegetables and the Food index moved from 124.4 to 123.4.

The Shelter index was unchanged at 144.7 with the rent component continuing at the January level while minor price changes within the home-ownership component were offsetting.

The Clothing index remained at 111.6 as price increases in women's wear were offset by lower prices for men's and children's wear, and footwear.

Higher prices for fuel and textiles balanced lower prices for furniture, floor coverings, some utensils and household supplies, and the Household Operation index was unchanged at 123.3.

The Other Commodities and Services index, unchanged at 138.3, reflected price increases for transportation, recreation, and tobacco which were offset by lower prices for pharmaceuticals and personal care items.

As previously announced, a revision of the Consumer Price Index is being completed to bring the items included in the index, and their relative importance, in line with more current family purchases as reported in the family expenditure survey of 1957. Publication of the index on the revised basis will begin with the March 1961 index, to be released in the next issue of Price Movements. The index will continue on the time base 1949 = 100.

## Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
February 1961	128.9	123.4	144.7	111.6	123.3	138.3
January 1961	129.2	124.4	144.7	111.6	123.3	138.3
February 1960	127.2	120.8	142.9	109.8	123.2	137.0

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Prepared in Prices Division

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)<sup>1</sup> (1935-1939 = 100) The price index of 30 industrial materials moved up 1.3 per cent in the four-week period January 27th to February 24th. Major price increases occurred for steel scrap and beef hides with lesser advances for cotton-seed oil, raw cotton, linseed oil, raw wool, oats and tin. Commodities showing lower prices were raw sugar, hogs and steers.

In the same four-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets eased 0.6 per cent. The Field Products index moved down 0.8 per cent as lower prices reported for potatoes and tobacco in the East were outweighed by price increases for rye and flax in the West, and for oats, peas and corn in the East. The index for Animal Products eased 0.5 per cent reflecting lower prices for hogs and steers in the East and calves in the West. Prices were higher for eggs, chiefly in the East, calves in the East, and for lambs and steers in the West.

On February 14th announcement was made covering the crop year August 1959-July 1960 of a 10 cent per bushel final payment for Western wheat and an interim payment for oats.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1961 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 27th	Feb. 3rd	Feb. 10th	Feb. 17th	Feb. 24th	Feb. 1960	Jan. 1961	Feb. (P) 1961
Industrial Materials.....	236.4	236.9	237.4	239.1	239.5	241.8	235.4	238.2
Canadian Farm Products ....	221.7	220.6	220.8	220.4	220.3	215.8	221.1	220.5
Field .....	164.0	163.8	163.5	163.2	162.7	179.6	163.7	163.3
Animal.....	279.3	277.4	278.1	277.6	277.9	252.0	278.5	277.8
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada .....	244.6	242.5	242.3	241.8	241.1	234.8	243.5	241.9
Western Canada .....	198.8	198.7	199.3	199.0	199.5	196.8	198.7	199.1

(1) - All 1960 and 1961 indexes are subject to revision. For Canadian Farm Products, indexes from July 1959 are subject to revision as and when participation payments are announced for Western wheat, oats and barley.

(P) - Preliminary, average of weeks.

**SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:** The Investors Index of 93 common stock prices, on the base 1935-1939 = 100, advanced 3.5 per cent in the four-week period January 26th to February 23rd. Increases for major groups were: 72 Industrials, 3.9 per cent; 14 Utilities, 2.2 per cent; and 7 Banks, 2.2 per cent. All nine sub-groups within Industrials showed gains, with Pulp and Paper and Beverages reaching all-time highs in the fourth week at 1,246.6 and 764.4 respectively. Gains were led by Oils, up 8.5 per cent from 198.1 to 215.0; Pulp and Paper, up 3.9 per cent from 1,199.7 to 1,246.6; and Beverages, up 3.6 per cent from 738.0 to 764.4. All three sub-groups within Utilities moved higher over the four weeks, led by Transportation, up 3.1 per cent from 279.9 to 288.6.

The index of 27 Mining Stocks declined 5.0 per cent in the period under review, reflecting a decrease of 10.9 per cent for 21 Golds, which was partially offset by an increase of 1.0 per cent for 6 Base Metals.

In the same period, three of the supplementary indexes, on the base 1956 = 100, showed gains as follows: 9 Primary Oils and Gas, up 24.2 per cent; 5 Investment and Loan, up 8.2 per cent; and 5 Pipelines, up 4.7 per cent. A decline of 2.1 per cent was recorded for 7 Uraniums.

Weekly Security Price Indexes

	1961 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 26th	Feb. 2nd	Feb. 9th	Feb. 16th	Feb. 23rd	Feb. 1960	Jan. 1961	Feb. 1961
(1935 - 1939 = 100)								
<b>Investors Price Index</b>								
93 Common Stocks .....	278.0	283.3	283.3	286.7	287.8	249.9	276.6	285.3
Industrials ..... (72)	287.5	293.2	292.9	298.1	298.7	257.9	286.0	295.7
Utilities ..... (14)	202.1	205.9	205.3	205.7	206.6	186.8	200.7	205.9
Banks ..... (7)	359.2	363.6	367.7	360.5	367.2	316.3	358.7	364.8
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks .....	115.6	113.1	109.8	110.7	109.8	110.4	115.5	110.8
Golds ..... (21)	83.3	78.6	75.4	75.5	74.2	82.0	83.9	75.9
Base Metals ..... (6)	189.4	192.1	188.4	191.2	191.3	175.6	188.0	190.8
(1956 = 100)								
5 Pipelines .....	115.4	120.8	121.3	120.9	120.8	110.4	116.4	121.0
5 Investment and loan .....	138.0	142.1	142.1	147.8	149.3	110.8	136.7	145.3
7 Uraniums .....	67.0	66.7	65.9	65.1	65.6	62.8	65.2	65.8
9 Primary Oil and Gas .....	46.6	52.6	54.6	55.1	57.9	56.9	46.4	55.0

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