



## PRICE MOVEMENTS

MARCH 1961

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1949=100)

Consumer prices between February and March 1961, increased 0.2 per cent from 128.9 to 129.1, as measured by a revised Consumer Price Index which is based on 1957 rather than 1947-48 expenditure patterns. Increases in the Housing and Clothing indexes offset decreases in the Transportation, Health and Personal Care, and Recreation and Reading indexes. The Food, and Tobacco and Alcohol indexes were both unchanged. The revised index is based on a new "market basket" in which the items included in the index, and their weights, have been revised in accordance with family purchasing habits in 1957. Previously the items and weights of the index were based on purchasing patterns in 1947-48. The time base 1949=100 has been retained and the index on the revised basis continues to express prices in current months as a percentage of prices in 1949.

The new 1957 weighted indexes for January, February, and March 1961 are presented in the Table on page 4 for All-Items and for the seven (previously five) principal component groups. Weights representing the relative importance of the component groups are included in the Table.

The new index has been linked to and is identical with the previously published 1947-48 weighted index at January 1961. For February 1961, the new index is also identical to the previously published index, although indexes for component groups within the index are slightly different. The index based on the 1947-48 weighting pattern has been discontinued, and beginning with this issue of Price Movements, indexes for current months will be the 1957 weighted indexes.

A complete description of the 1957 weighted index is contained in The Consumer Price Index for Canada (1949=100) - Revision Based on 1957 Expenditures. (1) The publication also includes a comparison of the 1957 weighted indexes and the 1947-48 weighted indexes for the period January 1957 - December 1960.

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(1) D.B.S. Catalogue No. 62-518 available from Publications Distribution, D.B.S. Price 75 cents.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)<sup>1</sup>  
(1935-1939=100)

The price index of 30 industrial materials moved

up 0.7 per cent in the four-week period February 24th to March 24th. Price advances for 13 commodities included a sharp rise for beef hides and lesser increases for cottonseed oil, fir timber, raw rubber, domestic zinc, tin, raw sugar and linseed oil. Hogs registered a sharp decline.

In the same four-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets moved down 3.0 per cent. The Animal Products index fell 4.5 per cent as prices declined on both Eastern and Western markets for livestock and butterfat, and in the East for eggs and cheesemilk. Prices were higher for eggs in the West. The Field Products index eased 0.4 per cent reflecting price declines for potatoes in the West, and wheat and oats in the East, and higher prices for rye and flax in the West, and peas in the East.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1961 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb. 24th	Mar. 3rd	Mar. 10th	Mar. 17th	Mar. 24th	Mar. 1960	Feb. 1961	Mar. (P) 1961
Industrial Materials.....	239.4	239.9	241.0	241.7	241.0	240.4	238.1	240.9
Canadian Farm Products ....	220.2	219.0	217.7	215.7	213.7	217.4	220.5	216.5
Field .....	162.7	162.5	162.2	162.0	162.1	182.6	163.3	162.2
Animal.....	277.8	275.5	273.3	269.5	265.2	252.2	277.7	270.9
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada.....	241.0	239.9	238.0	235.1	233.1	237.5	241.9	236.5
Western Canada.....	199.5	198.1	197.5	196.4	194.2	197.4	199.1	196.6

(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 4 weeks.

**SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:** The Investors Index of 93 common stock prices, on the base 1935-1939=100, moved up 3.6 per cent in the four-week period February 23rd to March 23rd. Increases for major groups were: 72 Industrials, 4.3 per cent; 7 Banks, 1.8 per cent; and 14 Utilities, 0.3 per cent. All nine sub-groups within Industrials advanced, with Pulp and Paper and Industrial Mines reaching all-time highs in the fourth week at 1,299.1 and 268.2 respectively. Gains were led by Industrial Mines, up 6.6 per cent from 251.6 to 268.2; Beverages, up 5.3 per cent from 764.4 to 804.8; and Building Materials, up 5.2 per cent from 472.0 to 496.5. Two sub-groups within Utilities moved higher over the four weeks, led by Transportation, up 4.1 per cent from 288.6 to 300.5 and Power and Traction, up 0.3 per cent from 220.5 to 221.1. Telephones declined 0.9 per cent from 133.1 to 131.9.

The index of 27 Mining stocks, 1935-1939=100, rose 1.5 per cent in the same four-week period, reflecting an increase of 5.9 per cent for 6 Base Metals and a decline of 3.2 per cent for 21 Golds.

Four supplementary indexes on the base 1956=100 showed gains as follows: 7 Uraniums, 12.5 per cent; 5 Pipelines, 9.1 per cent; 5 Investment and Loan, 7.1 per cent; and 9 Primary Oils and Gas, 3.1 per cent.

Weekly Security Price Indexes

	1961 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb. 23rd	Mar. 2nd	Mar. 9th	Mar. 16th	Mar. 23rd	Mar. 1960	Feb. 1961	Mar. (P) 1961
(1935 - 1939 = 100)								
<b>Investors Price Index</b>								
93 Common Stocks .....	287.8	292.5	291.0	295.9	298.1	242.3	285.3	294.4
Industrials (72) .....	298.7	304.7	303.3	308.6	311.5	249.3	295.7	307.0
Utilities (14) .....	206.6	205.9	204.8	207.0	207.3	184.5	205.9	206.2
Banks (7) .....	367.2	371.2	367.3	375.0	373.8	305.8	364.8	371.8
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks .....	109.8	111.2	111.4	116.0	111.5	107.4	110.8	112.5
Golds (21) .....	74.2	73.2	71.2	75.3	71.8	82.5	75.9	72.9
Base Metals (6) .....	191.3	198.2	203.6	209.1	202.5	164.4	190.8	203.4
(1956 = 100)								
5 Pipelines .....	120.8	121.8	123.3	130.4	131.8	109.6	121.0	126.8
5 Investment and loan .....	149.3	149.5	149.5	153.2	159.9	110.5	145.3	153.0
7 Uraniums .....	65.6	66.0	65.0	67.1	73.8	58.8	65.8	68.0
9 Primary Oil and Gas .....	57.9	59.7	59.6	60.7	59.7	55.0	55.0	59.9

(P) Preliminary, average of four weeks.



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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (Continued from Page 1)  
(1949=100)

## Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	1961		
		March	February	January
All-Items	100	129.1	128.9	129.2
Food	27	124.0	124.0	124.4
Housing (2)	32	133.2	133.1	133.2
Clothing	11	111.8	111.5	111.6
Transportation	12	141.0	141.1	141.1
Health and Personal Care	7	154.4	154.6	155.0
Recreation and Reading	5	146.6	146.7	146.3
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	115.7	115.7	115.8

- (1) Component weights indicate the relative importance of item groups.  
(2) This index is composed of shelter and household operation.

The detail of February - March consumer price changes is provided below. The Food index was unchanged at 124.0. Lower prices were reported for beef, poultry, canned salmon, powdered skim milk, coffee, cheese, grapefruit, fresh tomatoes, lettuce and celery. These price decreases were balanced by higher prices for eggs, pork, fats and a number of other fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly apples and carrots.

The Housing index rose 0.1 per cent, from 133.1 to 133.2, reflecting a small increase in the household operation index. The shelter index was unchanged. In the household operation group, prices were higher for fuel oil and furniture but price decreases occurred for some items of household supplies. In shelter, both the rent and home-ownership indexes were unchanged.

The Clothing index increased 0.3 per cent from 111.5 to 111.8 as a result of higher prices for women's and children's wear, footwear and piece goods. Price decreases were reported for some clothing services while men's wear and jewellery indexes were unchanged.

The Transportation index declined 0.1 per cent, from 141.1 to 141.0, with a decrease in the automobile operation index outweighing an increase in the local transportation index. The travel index covering train, bus and plane fares was unchanged. In the automobile operation group, prices were lower for new passenger cars, body repairs and brake relining but gasoline, tire and battery prices were up. Street car and bus fares in local transportation were higher in several cities.

The slight decline of 0.1 per cent in the Health and Personal Care index, from 154.6 to 154.4, resulted entirely from lower prices for some personal care items as the health care index was unchanged.

The Recreation and Reading index declined 0.1 per cent, from 146.7 to 146.6, reflecting a decrease in the recreation index resulting from lower prices for bicycles. The reading index was unchanged.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index was unchanged at 115.7.