



## PRICE MOVEMENTS

APRIL 1961

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index was unchanged at 129.1 between March and April 1961. Declines in the Food, and Recreation and Reading components balanced increases in the Clothing, Health and Personal Care, and Tobacco and Alcohol components. The Housing and Transportation components were unchanged.

The April indexes reflect the Nova Scotia sales tax changes which became effective in April as well as the gasoline tax changes in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

## Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

|                          | Component Weights (1) | 1961  |       |          |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------|
|                          |                       | April | March | February |
| All-Items                | 100                   | 129.1 | 129.1 | 128.9    |
| Food                     | 27                    | 123.9 | 124.0 | 124.0    |
| Housing (2)              | 32                    | 133.2 | 133.2 | 133.1    |
| Clothing                 | 11                    | 111.9 | 111.8 | 111.5    |
| Transportation           | 12                    | 141.0 | 141.0 | 141.1    |
| Health and Personal Care | 7                     | 155.3 | 154.4 | 154.6    |
| Recreation and Reading   | 5                     | 145.5 | 146.6 | 146.7    |
| Tobacco and Alcohol      | 6                     | 115.8 | 115.7 | 115.7    |

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

The Food index declined 0.1 per cent from 124.0 to 123.9 as prices of food for consumption at home decreased 0.2 per cent but restaurant meals increased 0.3 per cent. Lower prices were reported for eggs, beef, pork, veal, turkey, powdered skim milk, bananas, grapefruit and chocolate bars. Prices were higher for most fats, oranges, cereal products other than bread, apples and most fresh, canned and frozen vegetables, particularly fresh tomatoes and lettuce.

The Housing index was unchanged at 133.2. A fractional increase in the shelter component, combined with no change in the household operation component, was not sufficient to change the combined index. The shelter

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Prepared in Prices Division

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

The index of industrial materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average of 30 prices, edged 0.8 per cent higher in the three-week period March 31st to April 21st. A major price increase occurred for steel scrap with lesser advances for fir timber, raw wool, cottonseed oil, raw sugar, raw rubber, tin and linseed oil. Commodities showing lower prices were sisal, steers, and beef hides.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian farm products at terminal markets moved down 0.9 per cent. The Animal Products index declined 1.4 per cent reflecting lower prices for poultry in the East, eggs, cheesemilk and hogs in the West and calves and steers both East and West. Prices advanced for raw wool, both East and West, and for lambs, eggs and hogs in the East. The Field Products index was down 0.2 per cent as lower prices for potatoes on both Eastern and Western markets, corn in the East, and rye in the West, were almost balanced by price increases for peas in the East and flax in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

|                             | 1961 Week Ended |           |           |          |           | Monthly Average |           |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
|                             | Apr. 28th       | Apr. 21st | Apr. 14th | Apr. 7th | Mar. 31st | Apr. (P) 1961   | Mar. 1961 | Apr. 1960 |
| Industrial Materials .....  | AVAILABLE       | 242.8     | 242.2     | 241.7    | 240.8     | 242.2           | 240.1     | 241.7     |
| Canadian Farm Products .... | AVAILABLE       | 212.4     | 212.9     | 214.4    | 214.4     | 213.2           | 216.2     | 222.2     |
| Field .....                 | AVAILABLE       | 163.2     | 162.7     | 163.1    | 163.5     | 163.0           | 162.4     | 188.3     |
| Animal .....                | AVAILABLE       | 261.6     | 263.1     | 265.7    | 265.4     | 263.5           | 269.9     | 256.2     |
| Regional Indexes:           |                 |           |           |          |           |                 |           |           |
| Eastern Canada .....        | NOT AVAILABLE   | 231.6     | 232.1     | 233.8    | 234.0     | 232.5           | 236.1     | 244.6     |
| Western Canada .....        | NOT AVAILABLE   | 193.2     | 193.8     | 195.0    | 194.9     | 194.0           | 196.2     | 199.8     |

(1) - All 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 grains.

(P) - Preliminary, average of 3 weeks.

**SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:** The Investors Index of 92 common stock prices, on the base 1935-1939 = 100, moved up 4.4 per cent in the four-week period March 30th to April 27th. Increases for major groups were: 71 Industrials, 5.0 per cent; 14 Utilities, 2.8 per cent; and 7 Banks, 1.3 per cent. Eight sub-groups within Industrials showed gains, with all-time highs reached in the second week for Pulp and Paper at 1,301.7, and in the last week for Beverages and Industrial Mines at 830.3 and 290.6 respectively. Sub-group gains over the four weeks were led by Industrial Mines, up 9.6 per cent from 265.1 to 290.6, and Textiles and Clothing, up 6.6 per cent from 197.9 to 210.9. Building Materials declined 0.6 per cent from 487.3 to 484.5. Within Utilities, Telephones rose 5.7 per cent from 130.7 to 138.2, Transportation moved up 0.1 per cent from 291.9 to 292.2, while Power and Traction eased 0.4 per cent from 222.8 to 221.9.

The index of 27 Mining stocks rose 6.7 per cent in the period under review, reflecting increases of 8.5 per cent for 6 Base Metals and 4.4 per cent for 21 Golds.

In the same period, three of the supplementary indexes, on the base 1956 = 100, showed gains as follows: 5 Pipelines, up 6.7 per cent; 5 Investment and Loan, up 4.4 per cent; and 9 Primary Oils and Gas, up 0.3 per cent. A decline of 1.8 per cent was recorded for 7 Uraniums.

Weekly Security Price Indexes

|                                 | 1961 Week Ended |           |           |          |           | Monthly Average |           |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                 | Apr. 27th       | Apr. 20th | Apr. 13th | Apr. 6th | Mar. 30th | Apr. 1961       | Mar. 1961 | Apr. 1960 |
| (1935 - 1939 = 100)             |                 |           |           |          |           |                 |           |           |
| <b>Investors Price Index</b>    |                 |           |           |          |           |                 |           |           |
| 92 Common Stocks .....          | 308.8           | 305.9     | 305.3     | 299.0    | 295.7     | 304.8           | 294.6     | 248.8     |
| Industrials (71) .....          | 324.4           | 321.3     | 320.1     | 312.7    | 308.9     | 319.6           | 307.4     | 256.7     |
| Utilities (14) .....            | 211.6           | 208.1     | 209.0     | 206.6    | 205.8     | 208.8           | 206.2     | 188.2     |
| Banks (7) .....                 | 376.9           | 378.1     | 380.0     | 375.6    | 371.9     | 377.6           | 371.8     | 309.1     |
| <b>Mining Stock Price Index</b> |                 |           |           |          |           |                 |           |           |
| 27 Stocks .....                 | 118.8           | 118.6     | 115.8     | 113.0    | 111.3     | 116.6           | 112.3     | 105.1     |
| Golds (21) .....                | 73.6            | 72.7      | 71.7      | 70.5     | 70.5      | 72.1            | 72.4      | 78.4      |
| Base Metals (6) .....           | 222.3           | 223.8     | 216.7     | 210.2    | 204.8     | 218.2           | 203.6     | 166.4     |
| (1956 = 100)                    |                 |           |           |          |           |                 |           |           |
| 5 Pipelines .....               | 139.7           | 139.5     | 139.4     | 133.0    | 130.9     | 137.9           | 127.6     | 107.2     |
| 5 Investment and loan .....     | 166.9           | 163.3     | 165.6     | 163.4    | 159.9     | 164.8           | 154.4     | 114.6     |
| 7 Uraniums .....                | 69.8            | 69.4      | 70.0      | 70.9     | 71.1      | 70.0            | 68.6      | 58.9      |
| 9 Primary Oil and Gas .....     | 60.7            | 59.6      | 59.3      | 60.1     | 60.5      | 59.9            | 60.0      | 53.4      |



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

index was higher as a result of price increases for some items of home-ownership. The rent index was unchanged, as the stability which has been evident in this series for some months continued. In the household operation index, lower prices for some household appliances offset higher prices for furniture, floor coverings, textiles, and utensils and equipment.

The Clothing index increased 0.1 per cent from 111.8 to 111.9 as a result of higher prices for men's, women's, and children's wear, and piece goods. Clothing services, which include laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repairs, and footwear were unchanged.

The Transportation index was unchanged at 141.0 with little or no price movement in the automobile operation, local transportation or travel indexes. In automobile operation, tax increases for gasoline in a number of cities were largely offset by substantial price decreases in several cities, particularly Toronto. Automobile licenses cost more in a number of cities.

The Health and Personal Care index rose 0.6 per cent from 154.4 to 155.3. Higher professional fees occurred for dentists' and doctors' services and for optical care. In personal care, prices of supplies were lower as decreases for toilet soap outweighed slightly higher prices for other items.

The Recreation and Reading index declined 0.8 per cent from 146.6 to 145.5. The reading index was unchanged but the recreation index decreased as a result of lower prices for television sets, radios, phonograph records and bicycles.

The fractional increase of 0.1 per cent in the Tobacco and Alcohol index from 115.7 to 115.8 resulted entirely from price changes in Saint John for both beer and liquor.