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PRICE MOVEMENTS

AUGUST 1961

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index increased a fractional 0.1 per cent from 129.0 to 129.1 between the beginning of July and August 1961. Increases in the Food, Transportation, Recreation and Reading, and Tobacco and Alcohol components more than balanced decreases in the Clothing, and Health and Personal Care components. The Housing component was unchanged.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	1961		
		August	July	June
All-Items	100	129.1	129.0	129.0
Food	27	125.3	124.9	123.5
Housing (2)	32	132.9	132.9	132.9
Clothing	11	112.1	112.2	112.5
Transportation	12	139.0	138.7	141.2
Health and Personal Care	7	154.6	155.1	155.0
Recreation and Reading	5	145.4	145.0	145.8
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	116.1	115.8	115.8

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

The Food index rose 0.3 per cent from 124.9 to 125.3 as a result of price increases for bread combined with higher prices, some seasonally, for eggs, some fresh and canned fruits, coffee, powdered skim milk, pork and some beef cuts. Lower prices were reported for most fresh vegetables, particularly potatoes and tomatoes, and for oranges, bananas, weiners, turkey and some cuts of beef.

The Housing index was unchanged at 132.9 as a fractional upward movement occurred in the household operation component but the shelter component was unchanged. In household operation, higher prices for fuel, floor coverings, textiles and household supplies offset sale prices for furniture and power lawnmowers. In shelter, the rent index declined as a result of lower prices

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Prepared in Prices Division

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)¹ The index of thirty industrial raw materials
(1935-1939=100)

edged up 0.4 per cent over the three-week period July 28th to August 18th, reflecting price increases for oats, beef hides, raw rubber, tin, raw wool, steers and hogs. Price declines were reported for raw cotton, raw sugar, and linseed oil.

Over the same three weeks, the index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets was unchanged at 214.6. The Field Products index moved down 0.6 per cent reflecting price declines in the East for potatoes and peas, which outweighed price increases for barley, rye and corn on Eastern markets, and potatoes and rye in the West. The Animal Products index moved up 0.4 per cent reflecting sharply higher prices for calves in the East, and more moderate advances for steers both East and West, and for raw wool in the West. Prices were lower, both East and West, for lambs, hogs, and eggs, and in the East for raw wool.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1961 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Aug. 25th	Aug. 18th	Aug. 11th	Aug. 4th	July 28th	Aug. (P) 1961	July 1961	Aug. 1960
Industrial Materials.....	A V A I L A B L E	248.3	247.4	246.9	247.3	247.5	247.7	240.8
Canadian Farm Products		214.6	212.2	214.6	214.6	213.8	216.2	216.3
Field		162.6	162.7	165.8	163.6	163.7	165.5	160.9
Animal.....		266.6	261.8	263.5	265.6	264.0	266.8	271.7
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada		232.7	229.5	234.1	233.1	232.1	237.5	235.2
Western Canada	N O T	196.5	195.0	195.1	196.2	195.5	194.9	197.4

(1) - All 1961 indexes are subject to revision. For Canadian Farm Products, indexes from July 1960 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 91 common stock prices, on the base 1935-39 = 100, moved up 2.3 per cent in the four-week period July 27th to August 24th. Two major group indexes showed gains, as 6 Banks advanced 3.8 per cent and 71 Industrials 2.5 per cent, while the index of 14 Utilities declined 0.4 per cent. For Banks a new high of 412.9 was touched in the third week. Within Industrials the indexes for eight sub-groups increased with Food and Allied Products up 8.0 per cent from 316.6 to 341.9, Beverages up 7.1 per cent from 877.1 to 939.3, and Textiles and Clothing up 4.2 per cent from 224.7 to 234.1. Three sub-groups reached all-time highs during the period under review: Industrial Mines in the first week at 340.0, Pulp and Paper in the second week at 1394.4, and Beverages in the fourth week at 939.3. Machinery and Equipment eased 0.4 per cent lower from 733.6 to 730.5. Within Utilities, the Transportation sub-group declined 1.8 per cent from 321.6 to 315.8, Telephones were down 0.1 per cent from 146.6 to 146.4, while the index for Power and Traction remained unchanged at 214.4.

The index of 27 Mining stocks rose 2.4 per cent in the same four-week period, reflecting increases of 4.8 per cent for 21 Golds and 0.7 per cent for 6 Base Metals.

Of the supplementary indexes on the base 1956 = 100, two showed gains as 9 Primary Oils and Gas rose 5.1 per cent and 5 Investment and Loan were up 2.8 per cent. Declines of 1.8 per cent for 5 Pipelines and 0.3 per cent for 7 Uraniums were recorded.

Weekly Security Price Indexes

	1961 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Aug. 24th	Aug. 17th	Aug. 10th	Aug. 3rd	July 27th	Aug. (P) 1961	July 1961	Aug. 1960
(1935 - 1939 = 100)								
Investors Price Index								
91 Common Stocks	326.7	328.2	328.5	327.1	319.4	327.6	319.3	249.3
Industrials(71).....	343.2	344.6	345.3	343.5	334.8	344.2	335.0	255.3
Utilities(14).....	218.6	220.6	222.5	221.1	219.4	220.7	219.7	191.6
Banks(6).....	411.0	412.9	405.7	407.5	395.9	409.3	391.4	322.9
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	135.2	136.5	136.6	134.4	132.0	135.7	129.0	101.4
Golds(21).....	84.8	84.5	85.7	83.8	80.9	84.7	77.2	71.4
Base Metals(6).....	250.7	255.6	253.2	250.3	249.0	252.4	247.4	169.9
(1956 = 100)								
5 Pipelines	131.9	133.0	134.0	135.7	134.3	133.6	133.8	99.8
5 Investment and loan	190.1	188.7	189.0	188.5	184.9	189.1	185.2	123.3
7 Uraniums	72.5	74.2	73.4	72.5	72.7	73.2	71.8	55.1
9 Primary Oil and Gas	56.1	58.4	59.2	57.4	53.4	57.8	53.8	44.4

(P) Preliminary, average of 4 weeks.



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

for tenant repairs while the home-ownership index increased because of higher property taxes.

The slight decline of 0.1 per cent in the Clothing index, from 112.2 to 112.1, resulted largely from sale prices in women's wear, notably cotton street dresses. Scattered price movements were offsetting in men's and children's wear. Footwear prices were unchanged while piece goods declined fractionally.

The Transportation index increased 0.2 per cent from 138.7 to 139.0 as a result of higher gasoline prices in the automobile operation component.

The Health and Personal Care index declined 0.3 per cent from 155.1 to 154.6 due to a decrease in the health care component. Lower prices for prescriptions and vitamins in the pharmaceutical index outweighed price increases for other items in this group. The personal care component was unchanged as higher prices for shaving cream, toothbrushes and face powder were balanced by lower prices for toothpaste and cleansing tissues.

The Recreation and Reading index rose 0.3 per cent from 145.0 to 145.4. The reading index was unchanged but the recreation index rose as a result of higher prices for admissions to professional football games in eastern and western Canada.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index rose 0.3 per cent from 115.8 to 116.1 with higher prices in both components.