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PRICE MOVEMENTS

MARCH 1962

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index declined 0.1 per cent from 129.8 to 129.7 between February and March 1962. Decreases in the Food and Transportation indexes offset increases in the Clothing, and Tobacco and Alcohol indexes. The Housing, Health and Personal Care, and Recreation and Reading indexes were unchanged.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	1962		
		March	February	January
All-Items	100	129.7	129.8	129.7
Food	27	124.4	125.0	124.8
Housing (2)	32	134.0	134.0	134.0
Clothing	11	112.9	111.8	111.6
Transportation	12	139.9	140.7	140.6
Health and Personal Care	7	157.2	157.2	156.8
Recreation and Reading	5	146.7	146.7	146.6
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	117.5	117.2	117.3

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

The Food index declined 0.5 per cent from 125.0 to 124.4, largely as a result of price decreases for beef ranging up to seven cents per pound for some cuts. Other price declines were generally limited to fats, turkey, bacon and a few fruits and vegetables, particularly bananas and lettuce. Prices were higher for most fresh vegetables, some fruits, eggs and whole milk.

The Housing index was unchanged at 134.0. The shelter component remained at its February level while a slight upward movement in the
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Prepared in Prices Division

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)¹ (1935-1939 = 100) The price index of 30 Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, edged up 0.7 per cent in the four-week period February 23rd to March 23rd. Prices for 11 commodities advanced and 5 declined, while 14 remained unchanged. Principal changes included increases for raw wool, linseed oil, sisal, fir timber, steers, raw sugar, hogs and oats, and decreases for iron ore, steel scrap, beef hides, raw rubber and cottonseed oil.

In the same four-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets moved up 0.5 per cent. The Animal Products index advanced 1.0 per cent reflecting higher prices for lambs, steers, and poultry on Eastern markets, and for hogs, eggs and raw wool at both Eastern and Western points. Showing lower were calves both East and West, and steers in the West. The Field Products index eased 0.4 per cent. Lower prices were reported for peas, rye, wheat and potatoes in the East, while prices advanced for flax, rye and hay in the West.

Indexes have been revised to incorporate final oats and barley prices for the crop year 1960-61, announced December 11, 1961 and January 10, 1962 respectively, and a 10 per cent bushel increase in the initial payment for Western wheat for the crop year 1961-62, announced March 1, 1962.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

(2)	1962 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Mar. 23rd	Mar. 16th	Mar. 9th	Mar. 2nd	Feb. 23rd	Mar. (P) 1962	Feb. 1962	Mar. 1961
Industrial Materials	249.4	248.9	248.8	247.7	247.6	249.0	246.2	240.2
Canadian Farm Products	218.8	217.4	217.6	217.6	217.7	217.9	219.2	219.4 ^r
Field	166.7	167.1	166.7	166.9	167.3	166.8	167.5	170.1 ^r
Animal	270.8	267.8	268.5	268.3	268.1	269.0	270.8	268.6
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada	232.7	230.5	230.7	230.1	230.7	231.3	233.3	235.4 ^r
Western Canada	204.8	204.3	204.5	205.2	204.7	204.5	205.1	203.3 ^r

1 - All 1962 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.

(2) - Index for week of March 30th not available.

(P) - Preliminary, average of last 3 weeks shown.

r - Revised figures.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES: The Investors Index of common stock prices, on the base 1935-39=100, moved up 0.6 per cent in the four-week period February 22nd to March 22nd. Among major groups, the Industrial index rose 0.9 per cent while Utilities and Banks declined 0.8 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively. Within Industrials, gains for five of the nine sub-groups were headed by Building Materials up 4.9 per cent from 533.2 to 559.5, Beverages up 3.4 per cent from 1,015.4 to 1,049.7, and Machinery and Equipment up 3.1 per cent from 674.4 to 695.2. Declines for four sub-groups were led by Oils, down 1.8 per cent from 247.4 to 242.9, and Textiles and Clothing down 1.4 per cent from 270.4 to 266.7. Two Utilities sub-groups moved lower, with Transportation down 2.3 per cent from 342.6 to 334.6 and Power and Traction down 1.7 per cent from 206.7 to 203.1. The remaining sub-group, Telephones, was unchanged at 157.2.

The index of Mining Stocks, on the base 1935-39=100, declined 0.4 per cent reflecting a decrease of 1.4 per cent for Golds and an increase of 0.5 per cent for Base Metals.

Two of the supplementary indexes on the base 1956=100 showed gains while two declined, as follows: Uraniums, up 1.8 per cent; Investment and Loan, up 0.8 per cent; Primary Oils and Gas, down 4.6 per cent; and Pipelines, down 0.8 per cent.

Weekly Security Price Indexes

	1962 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Mar. 22nd	Mar. 15th	Mar. 8th	Mar. 1st	Feb. 22nd	Mar. (P) 1962	Feb. 1962	Mar. 1961
(1935 - 1939 = 100)								
Investors Price Index								
87 Common Stocks	331.5	335.0	333.3	329.2	329.5	332.2	329.8	294.6
Industrials (68)	347.4	351.3	349.1	343.8	344.2	347.9	344.4	307.4
Utilities (13)	227.0	229.8	229.2	229.4	228.9	228.8	230.0	206.2
Banks (6)	414.5	415.5	416.2	413.3	415.7	414.9	415.8	371.8
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	135.0	136.4	136.2	137.2	135.5	136.2	136.4	112.3
Golds (21)	82.6	83.0	84.0	84.8	83.8	83.6	83.2	72.4
Base Metals (6)	255.1	258.8	255.7	257.3	253.9	256.7	257.9	203.6
(1956 = 100)								
5 Pipelines	153.3	155.5	155.6	154.7	154.6	154.8	154.1	127.6
5 Investment and loan	196.0	196.4	195.1	194.1	194.4	195.4	196.4	154.4
6 Uraniums	80.4	79.9	78.7	78.5	79.0	79.4	78.2	68.6
9 Primary Oil and Gas	70.7	72.4	73.5	76.2	74.1	73.2	73.9	60.0

(P) - Preliminary, average of 4 weeks.



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

household operation component was not sufficient to move the index. In shelter, both rent and home-ownership were unchanged. In household operation, declines in fuel and lighting, and supplies and services, were outweighed by price increases for furniture, floor coverings, textiles, and utensils and equipment.

The Clothing index rose 1.0 per cent from 111.8 to 112.9. Group indexes for men's, women's and children's wear were all higher, largely reflecting further upward movement from sales levels of previous months. Clothing services were up as a result of higher prices for laundry and dry cleaning. Shoe repair prices were slightly lower.

The Transportation index declined 0.6 per cent from 140.7 to 139.9 as lower prices were reported for new passenger cars, tires, lubrication, muffler replacement and brake relining in the automobile operation component. These offset somewhat higher prices for batteries and automobile repairs. Higher bus fares moved the local transportation index.

The Health and Personal Care, and Recreation and Reading indexes remained unchanged at their February levels of 157.2 and 146.7 respectively.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index rose 0.3 per cent from 117.2 to 117.5 as a result of higher prices for alcoholic beverages in Alberta.