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PRICE MOVEMENTS

FEBRUARY 1963

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
 (1949=100)

Between January and February 1963, the Consumer Price Index edged up 0.1 per cent from 132.0 to 132.1. The February index was 1.8 per cent above the February 1962 index of 129.8. In the current period, increases in the Food, Clothing, Health and Personal Care, and Tobacco and Alcohol indexes offset a decline in the Transportation index. The Housing, and Recreation and Reading indexes were unchanged.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	1963		1962	1962
		February	January	December	February
All-Items	100	132.1	132.0	131.9	129.8
Food	27	129.4	129.0	127.8	125.0
Housing (2)	32	135.9	135.9	135.7	134.0
Clothing	11	114.8	114.7	115.8	111.8
Transportation	12	139.6	139.8	140.2	140.7
Health and Personal Care	7	159.9	159.8	159.8	157.2
Recreation and Reading	5	148.6	148.6	148.2	146.7
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	118.0	117.8	117.8	117.2

- (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 129.0 to 129.4 mainly as a result of substantial increases for most fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly imported items, including citrus fruits, bananas, lettuce and cabbage; in contrast, imported fresh tomatoes were at slightly lower levels than in January. Prices for oranges were at their highest levels in almost twenty-five years with

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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, eased 0.4 per cent in the four-week period January 25th to February 22nd. Prices for 7 commodities declined and 7 advanced, while 16 remained unchanged. Principal changes included decreases for beef hides, hogs, steers, raw rubber, oats and crude oil, and increases for raw sugar, sisal, rayon and raw cotton.

In the same four-week period the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets moved down 1.1 per cent. The Animal Products index declined 2.9 per cent as lower prices were reported for hogs and steers on both Eastern and Western markets, and for calves in the West. Prices were higher for eggs and lambs both East and West, and for poultry in the East and raw wool in the West. The Field Products index advanced 2.1 per cent reflecting sharply higher potato prices and, in the East, moderate increases for hay and peas. Showing lower were rye on both markets, corn and wheat in the East, and hay in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1963 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Feb. 22nd	Feb. 15th	Feb. 8th	Feb. 1st	Jan. 25th	Feb. (P) 1963	Jan. 1963	Feb. 1962
Industrial Materials	252.0	251.7	252.2	252.8	252.9	251.7	250.8	246.2
Canadian Farm Products	226.1	224.1	225.7	224.9	228.5	224.1	227.0	220.7
Field	175.2	174.3	173.4	172.2	171.6	174.3	170.7	170.6
Animal	277.1	273.8	278.0	277.7	285.4	273.8	283.3	270.8
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada	246.6	243.0	244.5	243.9	247.5	243.0	244.9	233.3
Western Canada	205.7	205.2	206.9	206.0	209.6	205.2	209.2	208.2

1 - All 1962 and 1963 indexes are subject to revision. For Canadian Farm Products, indexes from July 1961 are subject to revision as and when participation payments are announced for Western grains.

(P) - Preliminary.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:

(1956 = 100)

The Investors Index of common stock prices, on the base 1956=100, decreased 1.9 per cent in the three-week period January 31st to February 21st from 134.4 to 131.9. The three major groups in the index declined as Finance dropped 3.2 per cent from 152.4 to 147.5, Industrials moved down 1.9 per cent from 131.6 to 129.1 and Utilities eased 0.3 per cent from 130.5 to 130.1. Within Finance, indexes for both sub-groups dropped as Banks fell 3.4 per cent from 143.3 to 138.4 and Investment and Loan decreased 2.8 per cent from 169.5 to 164.7. In Industrials, indexes for nine sub-groups decreased and the remaining four increased. Principal changes included decreases for Industrial Mines down 5.0 per cent from 133.2 to 126.6, Construction down 2.8 per cent from 81.5 to 79.2, Retail Trade down 2.8 per cent from 168.0 to 163.3 and Petroleum down 2.6 per cent from 99.3 to 96.7, and increases for Non-metallic Minerals up 7.7 per cent from 116.3 to 125.3 and Textiles and Clothing up 7.2 per cent from 176.8 to 189.6. Within Utilities four sub-groups declined and one rose. The losses were headed by Pipelines and Telephones, both down 1.2 per cent from 145.7 to 144.0, and 123.9 to 122.4 respectively. The index for Gas Distribution advanced 2.9 per cent from 195.8 to 201.4.

The index of Mining Stocks declined 2.8 per cent from 95.0 to 92.3 reflecting a decrease of 5.2 per cent in Base Metals from 86.3 to 81.8 and an increase of 0.5 per cent in Golds from 110.8 to 111.4.

In the supplementary indexes, Uraniums rose 4.3 per cent from 89.4 to 93.2 and Primary Oils and Gas dropped 2.9 per cent from 64.8 to 62.9.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

	Number of Stocks Priced	1963 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
		Feb. 28th	Feb. 21st	Feb. 14th	Feb. 7th	Jan. 31st	Feb. (P) 1963	Jan. 1963	Feb. 1962
Investors Price Index:									
Total Index	110	131.9	132.8	132.8	134.4	132.5	133.2	140.6	
Industrials	76	129.1	130.0	130.0	131.6	129.7	129.8	137.0	
Utilities	20	130.1	130.3	130.4	130.5	130.3	130.0	133.8	
Finance ¹	14	147.5	149.1	149.2	152.4	148.6	153.3	166.6	
Banks	6	138.4	140.0	139.5	143.3	139.3	143.7	150.8	
Mining Stock Price Index:									
Total Index	24	92.3	93.9	94.6	95.0	93.6	92.1	100.9	
Golds	16	111.4	112.6	112.8	110.8	112.3	105.3	109.8	
Base Metals	8	81.8	83.7	84.6	86.3	83.4	84.9	96.0	
Supplementary Indexes:									
Uraniums	6	93.2	91.9	90.9	89.4	92.0	86.8	78.2	
Primary Oils and Gas	8	62.9	63.3	62.5	64.8	62.9	65.9	73.9	

¹ Composed of Banks and Investment and Loan.

(P) - Preliminary, average of 3 weeks.



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

canned and frozen orange juices also close to previous peaks. Sugar prices continued to rise and at the beginning of February were almost at the 1957 peak of 12.8 cents per pound but far below the record level of 22.9 cents per pound reached in August 1920. Egg prices were lower and beef prices continued to show fairly substantial price declines. Sirloin steak, for example, which reached an all-time peak of \$1.16 per pound in October 1962 stood at \$1.03 in February. Fresh pork prices were up somewhat while cured pork declined slightly.

The Housing index was unchanged at 135.9 as the household operation component was unchanged and a fractional increase in the shelter component was not sufficient to move the index. In shelter, the home-ownership index continued its slight but steady upward movement while rents maintained their noticeable stability, unchanged at 143.8 for the ninth successive month and little changed from their February 1962 and February 1961 levels of 143.5 and 143.2 respectively. In household operation, price increases for fuel, particularly fuel oil and higher prices for textiles and household supplies balanced lower prices for furniture, floor coverings and utensils and equipment.

The Clothing index rose a fractional 0.1 per cent from 114.7 to 114.8 as higher prices for men's wear and piece goods outweighed lower prices for women's and children's wear, and footwear.

The Transportation index declined 0.1 per cent from 139.8 to 139.6 as a result of lower prices for gasoline and automobile insurance. In the latter item, lower rates were reported for several cities, including Montreal, which offset rate increases in other cities including Toronto and Vancouver.

The Health and Personal Care index increased 0.1 per cent from 159.8 to 159.9 with price increases for personal care items outweighing lower prices for prescription drugs in pharmaceuticals.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index rose 0.2 per cent from 117.8 to 118.0 due to price increases for cigarettes. The Recreation and Reading index was unchanged at 148.6.

NOTE

For comprehensive detail on these and other price statistics, see Prices and Price Indexes (Monthly), Catalogue No. 62-002.

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