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PRICE MOVEMENTS

FEBRUARY 1964

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index increased 0.2 per cent to 134.5 from 134.2 between January and February 1964. The February index was 1.8 per cent above the February 1963 index of 132.1. In the current period, most of the increase resulted from a 1.1 per cent rise in the Transportation index but indexes for Recreation and Reading, Tobacco and Alcohol, and Clothing also were higher. The Housing and the Health and Personal Care indexes were unchanged, while the Food index declined slightly.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	1964		1963	1963
		February	January	December	February
All-Items	100	134.5	134.2	134.2	132.1
Food	27	131.3	131.4	131.4	129.4
Housing (2)	32	137.3	137.3	137.0	135.9
Clothing	11	117.8	117.7	118.9	114.8
Transportation	12	142.6	141.1	140.6	139.6
Health and Personal Care	7	165.4	165.4	165.4	159.9
Recreation and Reading	5	152.3	152.1	151.4	148.6
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	119.4	118.5	118.5	118.0

(1) Component weights indicate the relative importance of item groups.

(2) This index is composed of shelter and household operation.

The Food index eased 0.1 per cent to 131.3 in February from 131.4 in January. Prices were higher for a number of foods including milk, flour, bread and other bakery products, coffee, most fresh fruits and vegetables and a few meats. Outweighing these increases were substantially lower prices for sugar,

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WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)¹
(1935-1939 = 100)

The price index of 30 Industrial Materials,

calculated as an unweighted geometric average, edged up 0.1 per cent from 261.0 to 261.2 in the three-week period January 31st to February 21st. Prices for seven commodities advanced, seven declined and sixteen remained unchanged. Principal changes included increases for tin, raw rubber, steers, beef hides, and fir timber and decreases for raw sugar, hogs, oats and iron ore.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced 0.6 per cent from 215.0 to 216.3. The Animal Products index rose 1.3 per cent from 263.6 to 267.1 as price increases for calves in the East and for steers on both Eastern and Western markets outweighed price declines for hogs both East and West, and for poultry on Eastern and calves on Western markets. The Field Products index declined 0.5 per cent from 166.4 to 165.5 reflecting lower prices for rye and hay on both Eastern and Western markets, and oats, potatoes and peas in the East. Prices moved higher for tobacco in the East and for potatoes in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1964 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Feb. 28th	Feb. 21st	Feb. 14th	Feb. 7th	Jan. 31st	Feb. (P) 1964	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1963
Industrial Materials	A	261.2	260.4	260.0	261.0	260.4	259.5	250.0
Canadian Farm Products	V	216.3	215.9	215.5	215.0	215.9	215.8	235.6 ^r
Field	A	165.5	165.8	165.8	166.4	165.8	167.3	197.4 ^r
Animal	I	267.1	266.1	265.1	263.6	266.1	264.2	273.8
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada	N	230.9	230.5	230.0	228.5	230.5	231.2	243.1 ^r
Western Canada	O	201.7	201.4	201.0	201.5	201.4	200.4	228.1 ^r

1 - All 1963 and 1964 indexes are subject to revision. For Canadian Farm Products, indexes from July 1962 are subject to revision as and when participation payments are announced for Western grains. The February 1963 index reflects final payments for wheat for the 1962-1963 crop year announced February 17, 1964.

(P) - Preliminary.

r - Revised, see note 1 above.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:

(1956 = 100)

The Investors Index of common stock prices on the base 1956=100, decreased 1.0 per cent from 146.1 to 144.6 in the four-week period January 30th to February 27th. All three major groups in the index declined as Finance dropped 1.4 per cent from 147.0 to 144.9, Industrials decreased 1.1 per cent from 147.1 to 145.5 and Utilities eased 0.7 per cent from 141.5 to 140.5. Within Finance, the index for Banks declined 2.8 per cent from 139.6 to 135.7 while Investment and Loan rose 0.9 per cent from 160.8 to 162.2. In Industrials, eleven of the thirteen sub-groups decreased and the remaining two increased. Principal changes included decreases for Retail Trade down 2.5 per cent from 195.5 to 190.7 and Industrial Mines down 2.4 per cent from 154.4 to 150.7 and increases for Chemicals up 2.9 per cent from 138.6 to 142.6. Within Utilities, four of the five sub-groups declined led by Gas Distribution down 1.6 per cent from 235.4 to 231.7 and Pipelines down 1.5 per cent from 163.7 to 161.3. Transportation edged up 0.7 per cent from 117.3 to 118.1.

The index of Mining stocks rose 2.4 per cent from 91.5 to 93.7 reflecting increases of 3.8 per cent for Base Metals from 84.2 to 87.4 and 0.3 per cent for Golds from 104.9 to 105.2.

Both supplementary indexes showed higher with Primary Oils and Gas up 3.8 per cent from 69.1 to 71.7 and Uraniums up 3.0 per cent from 87.0 to 89.6.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

	Number of Stocks Priced	1964 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
		Feb. 27th	Feb. 20th	Feb. 13th	Feb. 6th	Jan. 30th	Feb. 1964	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1963
Investors Price Index:									
Total Index	111	144.6	145.2	145.9	145.9	146.1	145.4	145.8	131.8
Industrials	77	145.5	146.1	147.0	146.9	147.1	146.4	146.2	129.0
Utilities	20	140.5	140.6	140.5	140.9	141.5	140.6	141.6	130.1
Finance ¹	14	144.9	146.2	147.2	147.1	147.0	146.4	148.6	147.7
Banks	6	135.7	137.2	138.2	138.4	139.6	137.4	141.3	138.2
Mining Stock Price Index:									
Total Index	24	93.7	92.5	91.5	91.2	91.5	92.2	90.3	92.9
Golds	16	105.2	105.5	105.6	104.9	104.9	105.3	104.5	111.6
Base Metals	8	87.4	85.4	83.7	83.7	84.2	85.0	82.5	82.7
Supplementary Indexes:									
Uraniums	6	89.6	88.1	86.9	85.0	87.0	87.4	86.4	91.7
Primary Oils and Gas	9	71.7	71.5	72.1	71.3	69.1	71.6	69.5	62.4

¹ Composed of Banks and Investment and Loan.



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

which declined for the third consecutive month, eggs, most cuts of beef and pork, and fats.

The Housing index was unchanged at 137.3 as a slight increase in the shelter component was not sufficient to move the index. In shelter, rent was unchanged but the home-ownership index increased. In the household operation component lower prices for furniture and floor coverings balanced increases for textiles and some household supplies and services.

The Clothing index increased 0.1 per cent to 117.8 from 117.7 as price increases for some items of women's clothing outweighed sale price reductions for men's suits and coats. Indexes for children's wear, footwear and clothing services were unchanged.

The Transportation index advanced 1.1 per cent to 142.6 from 141.1 as a result of a sharp increase in insurance rates in the automobile operation component.

The Health and Personal Care index remained at 165.4 with both the health care and personal care components unchanged. Lower prices for some pharmaceuticals were not sufficient to move the health care index and in personal care, price changes were moderate and offsetting.

The Recreation and Reading index moved up 0.1 per cent as both the recreation and reading components increased fractionally. In recreation, prices were higher for camera film and bicycles, while price increases for newspapers in Saint John and Halifax moved the reading index.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index advanced 0.8 per cent to 119.4 from 118.5 as both the tobacco and the alcoholic beverages components moved higher. Scattered increases in the price of cigarettes and cigarette tobacco occurred in several cities and liquor prices increased in Ontario, Quebec and some Atlantic provinces.

NOTE

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

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