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PRICE MOVEMENTS

MARCH 1964

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index increased 0.1 per cent to 134.6 at the beginning of March 1964 from 134.5 in February. The March index was 1.9 per cent above the March 1963 index of 132.1. Four of the seven main component groups were unchanged in the current period and three were higher with the Clothing index showing the largest increase.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	1964			1963
		March	February	January	March
All-Items	100	134.6	134.5	134.2	132.1
Food	27	131.3	131.3	131.4	128.9
Housing (2)	32	137.5	137.3	137.3	136.0
Clothing	11	118.6	117.8	117.7	115.6
Transportation	12	143.0	142.6	141.1	139.6
Health and Personal Care	7	165.4	165.4	165.4	159.9
Recreation and Reading	5	152.3	152.3	152.1	148.6
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	119.4	119.4	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 was unchanged from its February level of 131.3. Prices were higher for most fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, cookies and sweet biscuits, coffee, butter and shortening and some cuts of meat. Price decreases occurred for sugar, continuing a decline which began in December 1963, beef, pork chops, chicken and eggs.

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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, moved down 1.1 per cent from 261.7 to 258.8 in the four-week period February 28th to March 26th. Prices for six commodities declined, eight advanced and sixteen remained unchanged. Principal changes included decreases for tin, raw wool, hogs, linseed oil, and raw sugar, and increases for beef hides, raw rubber, domestic copper, steers, raw cotton, and fir timber.

In the same four-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets eased 0.05 per cent from 214.6 to 214.5. The Animal Products index declined 0.4 per cent from 264.3 to 263.3 reflecting lower prices for hogs and raw wool on both Eastern and Western markets, and for eggs and calves in the East. Prices were higher for steers both East and West, lambs and cheesemilk in the East, and for calves in the West. The Field Products index rose 0.4 per cent from 165.0 to 165.7 as prices increased for potatoes in both Eastern and Western markets and for peas and oats in the East. Prices were lower for rye both East and West, hay and tobacco in the East and for flax in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1964 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Mar. 26th	Mar. 20th	Mar. 13th	Mar. 6th	Feb. 28th	Mar. (P) 1964	Feb. 1964	Mar. 1963
Industrial Materials	258.8	259.2	258.9	259.4	261.7	258.9	258.6	250.3
Canadian Farm Products	214.5	214.6	215.1	214.8	214.6	215.1	215.9	233.6
Field	165.7	164.4	164.7	164.6	165.0	164.7	165.6	198.4
Animal	263.3	264.8	265.6	265.0	264.3	265.6	266.2	268.8
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada	226.4	226.8	227.8	227.1	227.9	227.8	230.4	242.0
Western Canada	202.5	202.3	202.4	202.5	201.3	202.4	201.4	225.3

1 - All 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.

(P) - Preliminary.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:

(1956 = 100)

The Investors Index of common stock prices on the base 1956=100, advanced 3.2 per cent from 144.6 to 149.2 in the four-week period February 27th to March 26th. Among the three major groups, Industrials rose 4.4 per cent from 145.5 to 151.9 and Utilities rose 1.3 per cent from 140.5 to 142.3 while Finance remained unchanged at 144.9. Within Industrials, twelve of the thirteen sub-groups advanced led by Chemicals up 9.8 per cent from 142.6 to 156.6, and Textiles and Clothing up 6.2 per cent from 248.7 to 264.2. Construction declined 5.6 per cent from 62.1 to 58.6. In Utilities, three of the five sub-groups showed gains while two declined. Principal changes were Transportation up 4.8 per cent from 118.1 to 123.8 and Telephones down 1.2 per cent from 122.8 to 121.3. Within Finance, the index for Investment and Loan rose 0.9 per cent from 162.2 to 163.6 while Banks declined 0.6 per cent from 135.7 to 134.9.

In the same period, the index of Mining stocks advanced 3.2 per cent from 93.7 to 96.7 reflecting increases of 3.8 per cent for Base Metals from 87.4 to 90.7 and 2.4 per cent for Golds from 105.2 to 107.7.

Both supplementary indexes showed higher. Uraniums increased 1.1 per cent from 89.6 to 90.6 and Primary Oils and Gas rose 0.7 per cent from 71.7 to 72.2.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

	Number of Stocks Priced	1964 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
		Mar. 26th	Mar. 19th	Mar. 12th	Mar. 5th	Feb. 27th	Mar. 1964	Feb. 1964	Mar. 1963
Investors Price Index:									
Total Index	110	149.2	147.9	146.0	145.3	144.6	147.1	145.4	132.3
Industrials	76	151.9	150.3	148.0	147.1	145.5	149.3	146.4	129.0
Utilities	20	142.3	141.3	140.0	139.7	140.5	140.8	140.6	131.9
Finance ¹	14	144.9	144.2	143.9	143.7	144.9	144.2	146.4	148.7
Banks	6	134.9	134.7	135.0	133.2	135.7	134.4	137.4	139.8
Mining Stock Price Index:									
Total Index	24	96.7	97.3	96.4	95.0	93.7	96.4	92.2	92.9
Golds	16	107.7	109.0	107.9	105.9	105.2	107.6	105.3	109.6
Base Metals	8	90.7	90.9	90.1	89.1	87.4	90.2	85.0	83.7
Supplementary Indexes:									
Uraniums	6	90.6	90.2	90.1	90.6	89.6	90.4	87.4	89.5
Primary Oils and Gas	8	72.2	72.5	72.8	71.2	71.7	72.2	71.6	63.4

¹ Composed of Banks and Investment and Loan.



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

The Housing index increased 0.1 per cent to 137.5 from 137.3 as indexes for both the shelter and household operation components were higher. The shelter index rose 0.1 per cent as rent was unchanged and home-ownership prices increased slightly. The household operation index increased 0.2 per cent mainly as a result of higher prices for furniture, floor coverings and textiles. Prices for utensils and equipment were lower.

The Clothing index advanced 0.7 per cent to 118.6 from 117.8 as higher prices for men's, women's and children's wear, footwear and clothing services outweighed decreases in prices for piece goods.

The Transportation index at 143.0 was 0.3 per cent higher than the February index of 142.6. An increase in the Ontario gasoline tax from thirteen to fifteen cents a gallon, substantially higher license fees and increased prices for tires and batteries, moved the automobile operation component. Local transportation increased as a result of higher bus fares in a few cities.

The Health and Personal Care index was unchanged at 165.4. The health care component was unchanged and an increase in the personal care group was not sufficient to move the index.

The Recreation and Reading index remained at its February level of 152.3 as price increases for television repairs were offset by decreases for bicycles.

The index for Tobacco and Alcohol was unchanged at 119.4, despite a slight increase in prices of alcoholic beverages.

NOTE

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

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