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PRICE MOVEMENTS

MARCH 1966

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada increased 0.2 per cent to 142.4 at the beginning of March 1966 from 142.1 in February. The March index was 3.7 per cent higher than the March 1965 index of 137.3. In the current period, the increase was mainly a result of increases in the Food and Clothing indexes although the indexes for Housing and Recreation and Reading were slightly higher than in February. The indexes for Transportation, Health and Personal Care, and Tobacco and Alcohol were unchanged.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	1966			1965
		March	February	January	March
All-Items	100	142.4	142.1	141.2	137.3
Food	27	143.4	142.5	140.6	133.3
Housing (2)	32	143.3	143.1	142.9	140.2
Clothing	11	124.2	123.3	122.7	120.4
Transportation	12	150.0	150.0	149.1	145.6
Health and Personal Care	7	178.1	178.1	178.1	173.5
Recreation and Reading	5	156.6	156.4	155.4	153.4
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	123.4	123.4	123.1	121.9

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

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

The Food index of 143.4 was 0.6 per cent above the February index of 142.5. Price movements for food were mixed. Higher prices for bread, eggs, most cuts of meat, most fresh vegetables, some fresh fruits, lard and shortening outweighed lower prices for sirloin and round steak, chicken, fresh tomatoes, bananas, oranges, and instant coffee.

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Prices Division

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

The price index of 30 Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, decreased 1.1 per cent to 266.9 from 269.8 in the four-week period February 25th to March 25th, 1966. Prices declined for twelve commodities, advanced for three and remained unchanged for fifteen. Principal changes included decreases for hogs, beef hides, linseed oil, tin, raw sugar, steers and raw rubber, and increases for cottonseed oil and raw wool.

In the same four-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products moved down 2.6 per cent to 247.3 from 254.0. The Animal Products index decreased 5.8 per cent to 309.7 from 328.7. Prices were lower for hogs and steers on both markets while higher prices were shown for eggs and raw wool on both Eastern and Western markets and for poultry, calves and lambs in the East. The Field Products index rose 3.2 per cent to 185.0 from 179.3. Prices were higher for potatoes and oats in the East and for hay in the West. Lower prices were shown for tobacco, barley and corn in the East and for rye and flax in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1966 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Mar. 25th	Mar. 18th	Mar. 11th	Mar. 4th	Feb. 25th	Mar. (P) 1966	Feb. 1966	Mar. 1965
Industrial Materials	266.9	266.5	268.5	270.0	269.8	266.5	267.9	256.3
Canadian Farm Products	247.3	247.4	250.0	252.1	254.0	247.4	255.0	225.0
Field	185.0	181.6	178.7	178.2	179.3	181.6	178.6	180.3
Animal	309.7	313.1	321.4	326.1	328.7	313.1	331.4	269.7
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada	274.8	274.1	275.3	278.1	280.5	274.1	281.1	243.3
Western Canada	219.9	220.6	224.7	226.2	227.6	220.6	229.0	206.7

1 - All 1966 indexes are subject to revision. For Canadian Farm Products, indexes subsequent to July 1964 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 decreased 1.4 per cent from 177.3 to 174.8 in the four-week period February 24th to March 24th. Indexes for all three major groups decreased as Finance declined 4.1 per cent from 149.0 to 142.9 followed by Utilities down 1.4 per cent from 175.0 to 172.6 and by Industrials down 1.0 per cent from 183.6 to 181.8. In Finance, indexes for both sub-groups declined with Investment and Loan down 5.8 per cent from 167.5 to 157.8 and Banks down 3.1 per cent from 139.2 to 134.9. In Utilities, indexes for four of the five sub-groups decreased, led by Electric Power down 2.5 per cent from 162.4 to 158.3, closely followed by Telephone down 2.0 per cent and by Pipelines down 1.9 per cent; Transportation went up 1.0 per cent. Within Industrials, indexes for ten of the thirteen sub-groups decreased and three increased. The downward trend was headed by Textiles and Clothing down 7.2 per cent from 362.8 to 336.7 followed by Retail Trade down 2.7 per cent, Foods down 2.5 per cent, Metal Fabricating down 2.4 per cent and Petroleum down 2.2 per cent. Pulp and Paper increased 2.7 per cent from 145.3 to 149.2. Printing and Publishing, and Primary Metals showed minor gains.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices declined 5.2 per cent from 120.1 to 113.9, reflecting decreases of 7.1 per cent for Golds from 141.3 to 131.3, and 3.9 per cent for Base Metals from 108.5 to 104.3.

Of the two supplementary price indexes, Primary Oils and Gas declined 13.6 per cent from 126.9 to 109.6 and Uraniums advanced 4.2 per cent from 146.7 to 152.9.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

	Number of Stocks Priced	1966 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
		Mar. 24th	Mar. 17th	Mar. 10th	Mar. 3rd	Feb. 24th	Mar.(P) 1966	Feb. 1966	Mar. 1965
Investors Price Index:									
Total Index	111	174.8	172.8	175.2	176.9	177.3	174.9	180.4	180.0
Industrials	77	181.8	179.1	181.5	183.9	183.6	181.6	186.7	185.3
Utilities	20	172.6	171.3	174.0	174.0	175.0	173.0	178.3	171.6
Finance ¹	14	142.9	143.5	145.5	146.2	149.0	144.5	152.4	164.2
Banks	6	134.9	135.9	136.8	137.8	139.2	136.4	142.4	152.2
Mining Stock Price Index:									
Total Index	24	113.9	113.7	115.7	118.5	120.1	115.4	122.0	119.0
Golds	16	131.3	132.9	136.1	140.2	141.3	135.1	144.8	139.2
Base Metals	8	104.3	103.2	104.5	106.6	108.5	104.6	109.5	108.0
Supplementary Indexes:									
Uraniums	6	152.9	151.8	153.0	148.5	146.7	151.6	150.8	109.7
Primary Oils and Gas	6	109.6	110.6	112.8	120.0	126.9	113.2	119.4	96.2

¹ Composed of Banks and Investment and Loan.

(P) - Preliminary, average of four weeks.



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

The Housing index edged up 0.1 per cent to 143.3 from 143.1 with upward movements in both the shelter and household operation components. Within shelter, the rent and home-ownership components rose fractionally. The household operation component increased slightly as prices for furniture, carpets, and cotton sheets rose from last month's sales levels. Prices were higher for utensils and equipment and household supplies.

The Clothing index advanced 0.7 per cent to 124.2 from 123.3 as widespread price increases were reported for men's wear, women's wear, children's wear and footwear. Prices for laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repair services were also higher.

The Transportation index was unchanged at 150.0. Lower prices for new automobiles were offset by scattered increases in repair items, tires, licenses, and gasoline.

The Health and Personal Care index remained unchanged at 178.1 despite a slight decrease in the personal care supplies component.

The Recreation and Reading index edged up 0.1 per cent to 156.6 from 156.4. The recreation component rose fractionally with higher prices for television repairs and bicycles. The reading component remained at its February level of 172.4.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index was unchanged at 123.4.

NOTE

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

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