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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:  
 (1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada increased by 0.5 per cent to 151.8 at the beginning of December from 151.0 at the beginning of November. The December 1967 index was 4.0 per cent above the December 1966 level of 145.9. Of the seven major components, the largest contributor to the rise was the Tobacco and Alcohol component which advanced by 3.3 per cent, partially as a result of the recent increase in excise taxes on these products. An advance of 1.1 per cent was registered in the Transportation index, while the Food and Housing components advanced by 0.4 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively. Clothing prices increased marginally and there was a fractional decline in the Recreation and Reading index. The Health and Personal Care component remained unchanged at its November level.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	1967			1966
		December	November	October	December
All-Items	100	151.8	151.0	150.5	145.9
Food	27	148.6	148.0	147.8	144.7
Housing (2)	32	153.8	153.4	153.1	147.2
Clothing	11	134.7	134.5	133.7	129.7
Transportation	12	159.6	157.9	157.9	152.6
Health and Personal Care	7	193.8	193.8	193.2	184.5
Recreation and Reading	5	169.7	170.5	169.4	161.5
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	133.0	128.7	128.6	126.5

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

The Food index rose 0.4 per cent to 148.6 in December from 148.0 in November, reflecting price increases for a number of staple food items.

Prices Division

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WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)<sup>1</sup>

(1935-1939 = 100)

The price index of 30 Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, increased 0.3 per cent to 256.3 from 255.5 in the four-week period December 1st to December 29th. Prices advanced for seven commodities, declined for five and remained unchanged for eighteen. Principal changes included increases for raw sugar, domestic copper, linseed oil, and raw rubber, while decreases were shown for hogs, tin, and raw cotton.

In the same four-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets declined 0.5 per cent to 255.2 from 256.5. The Animal Products index moved down 0.8 per cent to 324.1 from 326.6 as a result of lower prices for hogs on both Eastern and Western markets, and for raw wool in the East and eggs and steers in the West. Higher prices were shown for lambs and calves on both markets. The Field Products index decreased 0.2 per cent to 186.2 from 186.5 reflecting lower prices for potatoes on both markets. Prices increased for barley and wheat on the Eastern market and for flax in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Dec. 29th	Dec. 22nd	Dec. 15th	Dec. 8th	Dec. 1st	Dec. (P) 1967	Nov. 1967	Dec. 1966
Industrial Materials .....	256.3	256.0	256.2	255.7	255.5	256.2	252.9	254.7
Canadian Farm Products .....	255.2	254.6	256.3	256.4	256.5	256.3	254.6	249.2
Field .....	186.2	186.2	186.2	186.7	186.5	186.2	186.1	172.9
Animal .....	324.1	323.1	326.4	325.2	326.6	326.4	323.1	325.5
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada .....	272.7	272.2	274.2	275.1	273.0	274.2	272.3	276.7
Western Canada .....	237.6	237.1	238.4	237.7	240.1	238.4	236.9	221.7

1 - All 1967 indexes are subject to revision. For Canadian Farm Products, indexes subsequent to July 1966 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 eased 0.3 per cent to 174.0 from 174.5 in the four-week period November 30th to December 28th. Among the three major groups, Utilities decreased 2.5 per cent to 162.6 from 166.8, Industrials eased 0.2 per cent to 184.7 from 185.0, while Finance rose 2.5 per cent to 136.4 from 133.1. In Utilities, indexes for all five sub-groups decreased. Transportation showing the largest decrease, moved down 3.4 per cent to 184.5 from 192.0, closely followed by Gas Distribution down 3.2 per cent to 374.5 from 386.8. Both Pipelines and Telephones registered the same decrease of 2.7 per cent to 185.7 from 190.8 and to 104.4 from 107.3 respectively. Within Industrials, indexes for nine sub-groups decreased and four increased. Decreases ranged from 5.2 per cent for Textiles and Clothing to 1.1 per cent for Foods, the former to 174.2 from 183.8 and the latter to 199.5 from 201.8. Increases were led by Primary Metals up 3.2 per cent to 96.0 from 93.0, followed by Metal Fabricating up 2.2 per cent to 105.7 from 103.4. In Finance, indexes for both sub-groups increased as Banks rose 3.7 per cent to 140.5 from 135.5 and Investment and Loan edged up 0.2 per cent to 128.1 from 127.9.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices moved up 5.0 per cent to 109.9 from 104.7 as Golds advanced 12.6 per cent to 160.3 from 142.3 and Base Metals decreased 2.1 per cent to 82.3 from 84.1.

Of the two supplementary price indexes, Primary Oils and Gas rose 4.9 per cent to 223.5 from 213.0 and Uraniums increased 2.1 per cent to 277.2 from 271.5.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

	Number of Stocks Priced	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
		Dec. 28th	Dec. 21st	Dec. 14th	Dec. 7th	Nov. 30th	Dec. 1967	Nov. 1967	Dec. 1966
<b>Investors Price Index:</b>									
Total Index .....	114	174.0	172.4	172.4	175.5	174.5	173.6	173.7	154.6
Industrials .....	80	184.7	183.5	183.5	186.3	185.0	184.5	183.7	161.8
Utilities .....	20	162.6	160.2	159.7	164.9	166.8	161.8	166.6	149.1
Finance <sup>1</sup> .....	14	136.4	134.4	134.5	136.2	133.1	135.4	133.6	126.1
Banks .....	6	140.5	138.1	138.1	139.7	135.5	139.1	134.2	122.6
<b>Mining Stock Price Index:</b>									
Total Index .....	24	109.9	107.7	105.9	104.5	104.7	107.0	104.0	95.6
Golds .....	13	160.3	154.9	149.2	144.1	142.3	152.1	139.6	116.9
Base Metals .....	11	82.3	81.8	82.2	82.8	84.1	82.3	84.6	83.9
<b>Supplementary Indexes:</b>									
Uraniums .....	6	277.2	268.7	264.7	263.6	271.5	268.6	273.4	189.8
Primary Oils and Gas .....	6	223.5	224.6	213.4	220.1	213.0	220.4	197.8	151.5

<sup>1</sup> Composed of Banks and Investment and Loan.



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

The price of fresh milk and of other dairy products, including cheese and ice cream, moved up generally. Bread prices also increased, as did most other bakery and cereal products. Among miscellaneous grocery items, sugar prices advanced by over two per cent while infants' food rose to a slightly lesser extent. On the other hand, both tea and coffee prices declined somewhat since the preceding month and butter and margarine prices also decreased marginally. Among produce items higher quotations for cabbage, carrots, lettuce, tomatoes and citrus fruits outweighed price decreases for bananas and celery. Meats, on average, were lower in price in December with the most notable declines occurring for bacon and other pork products, and for poultry.

The Housing index increased by 0.3 per cent to 153.8 in December, due to higher shelter and household operation costs. Rents rose generally with the largest increases occurring in Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. Home-ownership costs edged up, largely as a result of higher repair expenses. Household operation costs rose slightly as higher prices for fuel, furniture, and utensils outweighed declines for floor coverings and some household textiles.

The Clothing index edged up 0.1 per cent to 134.7 from 134.5 in the preceding month due to marginal increases in men's and women's wear, footwear, piece goods, and clothing services. These upward movements were partially offset by declines in children's wear prices.

The Transportation index advanced by 1.1 per cent to 159.6 in December from 157.9 in November, largely due to the introduction of 1968 automobile prices which were higher than those of the year-end prices of 1967 models. Minor price rises also occurred for motor oil and for automobile lubrication. A substantial increase in Edmonton bus fares also contributed to the advance in the Transportation index.

The Health and Personal Care index remained unchanged at its November level of 193.8, with slightly lower prices for toilet soap, razor blades and toothpaste offsetting rises in the price of cleansing tissues and of men's haircuts in two cities.

The Recreation and Reading index declined by 0.5 per cent to 169.7 from 170.5 in the preceding month, mainly as a result of variations in magazine subscription rates.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index advanced by 3.3 per cent to 133.0 in December from 128.7 in November, reflecting, in part, the higher excise taxes imposed on these products. Price rises were registered in all surveyed cities for cigarettes and tobacco. For alcoholic beverages, however, higher prices were recorded only at those locations where increases became effective by the middle of December.

NOTE

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

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