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PRICE MOVEMENTS

NOVEMBER 1968



THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada rose by 0.4 per cent to 157.5 in November from 156.8 in October. The November 1968 index stood at a level 4.3 per cent higher than in November 1967. Over one-third of the latest monthly increase was brought about by higher prices for two specific items, namely, new automobiles and postage rates. However, although the 1969 model prices, adjusted for quality change, were 1.8 per cent higher on average than at the end of the previous model year, prices were virtually unchanged from a year ago when the 1968 models were first introduced. The relatively important Food and Housing indexes each rose by 0.4 per cent, while several other components including those for clothing, transportation, and recreation and reading also shared in the general advance. The Health and Personal Care index edged up by 0.3 per cent, while the Tobacco and Alcohol index remained unchanged since the previous month.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1968		1967	Nov. 1968 From	
		Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	Oct. 1968	Nov. 1967
ALL-ITEMS	100	157.5	156.8	151.0	+ 0.4	+ 4.3
Food	27	153.0	152.4	148.0	+ 0.4	+ 3.4
Housing (2)	32	161.0	160.3	153.4	+ 0.4	+ 5.0
Clothing	11	138.8	138.1	134.5	+ 0.5	+ 3.2
Transportation	12	162.7	161.6	157.9	+ 0.7	+ 3.0
Health and Personal Care	7	201.0	200.3	193.8	+ 0.3	+ 3.7
Recreation and Reading	5	180.1	177.4	170.5	+ 1.5	+ 5.6
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	141.1	141.1	128.7	-	+ 9.6

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

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

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Prices Division

8201-503

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)¹

(1935-1939 = 100)

The price index of Thirty Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, advanced to 260.0 from 258.4 in the three-week period November 1st to November 22nd. Prices increased for eight commodities, decreased for four and were unchanged for eighteen. Principal changes included higher prices for raw sugar, tin, hogs, raw rubber and beef hides, while lower prices were shown for linseed oil, raw cotton, steers and oats.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced 1.2 per cent to 262.1 from 258.9. The Vegetable Products index moved up 1.2 per cent to 183.0 from 180.9 on price increases for oats, tobacco and hay on the Eastern market and for flax in the West. Lower prices were shown for potatoes on both Eastern and Western markets and for rye in the West. The Animal Products index also rose 1.2 per cent to 341.1 from 336.9 on higher prices for hogs and calves on both Eastern and Western markets and for eggs, fluid milk and lambs in the East. Prices were lower for steers in the East, and for lambs and eggs in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1968 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Nov. 29th	Nov. 22nd	Nov. 15th	Nov. 8th	Nov. 1st	Nov. (P) 1968	Oct. 1968	Nov. 1967
Industrial Materials	A V A I L A B L E	260.0	259.0	258.6	258.4	259.0	254.9	253.0
Canadian Farm Products		262.1	260.7	258.8	258.9	260.7	260.1	254.6
Field		183.0	182.3	180.5	180.9	182.3	181.3	186.1
Animal		341.1	339.2	337.2	336.9	339.2	339.0	323.1
Regional Indexes:	N O T							
Eastern Canada		280.6	278.1	275.6	275.0	278.1	276.9	272.3
Western Canada		243.5	243.4	242.0	242.8	243.4	243.4	236.9

1 - All 1968 indexes are subject to revision. For Canadian Farm Products, indexes subsequent to July 1967 are subject to revision as and when participation payments are announced for Western grains.

(P) - Preliminary.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1956 = 100)

During the four-week period October 31st to November 28th, the Investors Index rose 3.7 per cent to a record 199.8. The three major groups, Industrials, Utilities and Finance all reached record highs with increases of 3.1 per cent, 1.9 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively. Within Industrials, indexes for nine sub-groups increased and four decreased. The major increases were 8.8 per cent for Metal Fabricating, 8.6 per cent for Pulp and Paper, and 6.6 per cent for Printing and Publishing. Chemicals dropped 6.8 per cent and Foods fell 3.8 per cent but the other two decreases were small. In Utilities, Transportation and Gas Distribution reached all-time highs. In Finance, Banks registered its sharpest rise since April, 13.3 per cent, to a record high of 214.4 while Investment and Loan edged up 0.2 per cent.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices rose slightly, as the rise in Gold stocks during the period of monetary speculation just outweighs the decline in Base Metals.

Of the two supplementary price indexes, Primary Oils and Gas reached a record high of 260.4 while Uraniums showed a decrease of 2.9 per cent from the previous month.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from Oct. 31st	Monthly average		
	Nov. 28th	Nov. 21st	Nov. 14th	Nov. 7th	Oct. 31st		Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Nov. 1967
Investors Price Index 114	199.8	193.6	197.2	193.2	192.6	+ 3.7	196.0	193.1	173.7
Industrials 80	203.7	196.7	200.1	196.5	197.5	+ 3.1	199.2	198.2	183.7
Industrial mines 4	200.5	191.8	198.1	194.8	197.4	+ 1.6	196.3	199.5	208.8
Foods 11	245.6	249.3	255.0	251.5	255.3	- 3.8	250.4	251.4	203.2
Beverages 7	308.7	297.6	296.3	290.2	291.3	+ 6.0	298.2	292.6	238.8
Textiles and clothing 5	171.1	170.8	177.1	174.4	172.8	- 1.0	173.4	178.5	197.1
Pulp and paper 7	131.5	121.4	122.2	120.5	121.1	+ 8.6	123.9	120.8	113.7
Printing and pub. 4	718.7	677.9	686.4	674.7	674.2	+ 6.6	689.4	672.0	703.7
Primary metals 8	113.5	109.8	114.1	110.6	111.2	+ 2.1	112.0	106.6	95.4
Metal fabricating 9	155.2	155.2	149.6	146.2	142.7	+ 8.8	151.6	143.8	106.7
Non-metallic minerals 4	132.1	124.9	131.1	129.4	129.1	+ 2.3	129.4	128.8	104.6
Petroleum 7	192.6	187.2	189.9	186.3	187.2	+ 2.9	189.0	192.1	167.0
Chemicals 4	122.5	122.7	129.0	129.6	131.5	- 6.8	126.0	129.2	109.7
Construction 4	105.2	105.4	103.8	99.6	103.5	+ 1.6	103.5	99.3	62.6
Retail trade 6	291.3	290.9	298.5	296.0	296.7	- 1.8	294.2	301.2	269.5
Utilities 20	186.2	183.9	188.8	183.0	182.7	+ 1.9	185.5	182.3	166.6
Pipelines 5	197.4	197.3	200.2	196.9	198.5	- 0.6	198.0	201.3	190.2
Transportation 4	238.6	230.5	238.9	229.6	230.6	+ 3.5	234.4	226.6	192.2
Telephone 3	112.5	111.2	112.7	108.8	107.7	+ 4.5	111.3	108.8	107.5
Electric power 3	147.9	144.8	147.8	144.9	140.7	+ 5.1	146.4	139.5	133.3
Gas distribution 5	460.7	459.5	481.4	461.2	467.3	- 1.4	465.7	460.9	384.0
Finance 14	198.3	190.6	195.4	189.8	181.6	+ 9.2	193.5	181.8	133.6
Banks 6	214.4	203.9	209.0	199.9	189.2	+ 13.3	206.8	189.5	134.2
Investment and loan 8	166.5	164.2	168.6	169.6	166.2	+ 0.2	167.2	166.5	131.8
Mining Stock Price Index 24	116.8	118.0	118.7	113.7	116.5	+ 0.3	116.8	115.0	104.0
Golds 13	164.4	167.7	163.9	154.1	161.0	+ 2.1	162.5	160.5	139.6
Base metals 11	90.7	90.7	94.0	91.6	92.1	- 1.5	91.8	90.0	84.6
Uraniums Price Index 4	255.0	263.7	264.2	262.5	262.7	- 2.9	261.4	265.4	273.4
Primary Oils and Gas 6	258.5	256.5	260.4	251.4	245.5	+ 5.3	256.7	244.7	197.8



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

The Food index increased by 0.4 per cent to 153.0 in November from 152.4 in October. The price of milk rose by close to two per cent, largely as a result of substantial increases in most Quebec cities. Several other staple items, including bread, breakfast cereals, sugar and butter rose markedly in price, while eggs and margarine declined. Among produce items, higher prices for tomatoes, celery, and grapefruit offset lower quotations for lettuce and bananas. Meat prices also registered mixed movements: beef steaks, bacon, ham and chicken were lower in price while beef and pork roasts, turkey and fish were somewhat higher. The November 1968 Food index was 3.4 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Housing index rose by 0.4 per cent to 161.0 in November from 160.3 in October. Shelter costs were generally higher, especially for rents, which increased most in Toronto, Calgary and Halifax. Home-ownership costs also edged up due to increased prices for new houses and repairs. A 0.5 per cent increase in the household operation group was almost entirely attributable to the greater than thirty per cent advance in postage rates. Homefurnishings registered marginal declines due to sales on certain items, while household utensils and equipment, including hardware, edged up fractionally. The November 1968 Housing index was 5.0 per cent higher than its corresponding level in November 1967.

The Clothing index increased by 0.5 per cent to 138.8 in November from 138.1 in the preceding month. Men's wear prices rose by 1.2 per cent, largely due to increases in men's overcoats, but women's wear, by contrast, declined by 0.4 per cent as a result of reduced quotations for women's coats and other items of outerwear. Higher prices for children's wear, footwear, and piece goods replaced earlier sales on many of these items. The Clothing index was 3.2 per cent above its level of a year ago.

The Transportation index increased by 0.7 per cent to 162.7 in November from 161.6 in the previous month, largely due to the introduction of 1969 automobile prices which were higher than those of the year-end prices of 1968 models. Minor price rises also occurred for gasoline in Toronto and for motor oil in a number of cities. The Transportation index was 3.0 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Health and Personal Care index moved up by 0.3 per cent to 201.0 in November from 200.3 in October, with higher prices recorded for toiletries generally, and for men's and women's hairdressing in a number of major cities. The Health and Personal Care index was 3.7 per cent higher than twelve months previous.

The Recreation and Reading index advanced by 1.5 per cent to 180.1 in November from 177.4 a month earlier. Higher cinema admissions and prices for sports equipment, including hockey skates and sticks, were the main contributors to the rise. The Recreation and Reading index was 5.6 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index remained unchanged since the preceding month. At its October level of 141.1, it was 9.6 per cent higher than a year ago.

NOTE

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

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