

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Published by Authority of the Minister of Trade and Commerce

Vol. 46 No. 2

Price: 10 cents, \$1.00 a year

PRICE MOVEMENTS

FEBRUARY 1968

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada edged up by 0.1 per cent to 152.7 at the beginning of February from 152.6 at the beginning of January. The February 1968 index was 4.5 per cent above the February 1967 level of 146.1. Movements of the seven main component indexes were mixed, with increases in five of them ranging from 0.9 per cent to 0.1 per cent being largely offset by declines of 0.4 per cent in the Food index and of 0.5 per cent in the Transportation index. Among the indexes that registered upward movements, the Housing index rose 0.5 per cent, largely in response to higher home-ownership costs, the Clothing index increased by 0.4 per cent and the Recreation and Reading component advanced by 0.9 per cent.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weight (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1968		1967	Feb. 1968 From	
		Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan. 1968	Feb. 1967
ALL-ITEMS	100	152.7	152.6	146.1	+ 0.1	+ 4.5
Food	27	149.8	150.4	144.1	- 0.4	+ 4.0
Housing (2)	32	155.4	154.7	147.7	+ 0.5	+ 5.2
Clothing	11	134.0	133.4	129.1	+ 0.4	+ 3.8
Transportation	12	159.2	160.0	155.0	- 0.5	+ 2.7
Health and Personal Care	7	194.3	193.6	185.1	+ 0.4	+ 5.0
Recreation and Reading	5	171.8	170.2	163.6	+ 0.9	+ 5.0
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	136.4	136.3	126.8	+ 0.1	+ 7.6

- (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 30 Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, decreased 0.6 per cent to 254.0 from 255.5 in the three-week period February 2nd to February 23rd. Prices declined for seven commodities, advanced for three and remained unchanged for twenty. Principal changes included lower prices for raw cotton, raw sugar, steers, beef hides, raw wool and sisal and higher prices for hogs and raw rubber.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets declined 0.6 per cent to 251.1 from 252.6. The Field Products index moved down 0.9 per cent to 185.7 from 187.4 reflecting lower prices for potatoes on both Eastern and Western markets. Prices were higher for rye in the West. The Animal Products index declined 0.4 per cent to 316.5 from 317.8 as a result of lower prices for raw wool and steers on both markets and for eggs in the East and calves in the West. Higher prices were shown for lambs and hogs on both markets and for calves in the East and eggs in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1968 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes			
	Mar. 1st	Feb. 23rd	Feb. 16th	Feb. 9th	Feb. 2nd	Feb. (P) 1968	Jan. 1968	Feb. 1967	
Industrial Materials	A V A I L A B L E	254.0	253.7	254.7	255.5	253.7	253.5	254.0	
Canadian Farm Products		251.1	250.9	251.1	252.6	250.9	253.0	248.7	
Field		185.7	186.4	187.2	187.4	186.4	189.6	174.4	
Animal		316.5	315.4	315.1	317.8	315.4	316.3	322.9	
Regional Indexes:		N O T	268.3	268.2	269.2	270.8	268.2	274.0	275.7
Eastern Canada			233.8	233.6	233.1	234.3	233.6	231.9	221.6
Western Canada									

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 moved down 5.0 per cent to 164.2 from 172.8 in the four-week period January 25th to February 22nd. Indexes for all three major groups decreased, headed by Utilities down 6.3 per cent to 151.7 from 161.9, followed by Industrials down 5.1 per cent to 174.0 from 183.3, and by Finance down 2.0 per cent to 132.7 from 135.4. In Utilities, indexes for the five sub-groups decreased. The downward trend was led by Gas Distribution down 9.6 per cent to 362.7 from 401.0, followed by Electric Power down 8.0 per cent to 119.2 from 129.6. The smallest decrease was registered by Telephone, down 3.1 per cent to 102.6 from 105.9. Within Industrials, indexes for all thirteen sub-groups decreased. Decreases ranged from 10.0 per cent for Textiles and Clothing to 0.6 per cent for Non-metallic Minerals, the former to 153.1 from 170.2 and the latter to 92.6 from 93.2. Metal Fabricating declined 8.0 per cent to 95.2 from 103.5, followed by both Petroleum and Chemicals down 6.7 per cent to 163.9 from 175.7 and to 92.5 from 99.1 respectively. Printing and Publishing moved down 4.9 per cent to 646.3 from 679.6, closely followed by Pulp and Paper down 4.8 per cent to 96.4 from 101.3, and by Primary Metals down 4.6 per cent to 88.9 from 93.2. In Finance, indexes for both sub-groups decreased as Investment and Loan moved down 4.2 per cent to 122.3 from 127.7 and Banks eased 1.0 per cent to 137.8 from 139.2.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices decreased 1.9 per cent to 109.3 from 111.4 as Base Metals moved down 2.5 per cent to 80.8 from 82.9 and Golds eased 1.3 per cent to 161.2 from 163.4.

Both supplementary price indexes declined with Primary Oils and Gas down 14.7 per cent to 191.2 from 224.2 and Uraniums down 10.6 per cent to 241.7 from 270.4.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

	Number of Stocks Priced	1968 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
		Feb. 22nd	Feb. 15th	Feb. 8th	Feb. 1st	Jan. 25th	Feb. (P) 1968	Jan. 1968	Feb. 1967
Investors Price Index:									
Total Index	114	164.2	162.6	162.4	168.1	172.8	164.3	174.4	168.8
Industrials	80	174.0	171.2	170.8	177.3	183.3	173.3	185.2	176.3
Utilities	20	151.7	152.4	153.5	158.9	161.9	154.1	162.3	160.9
Finance ¹	14	132.7	133.6	133.1	134.7	135.4	133.5	137.4	141.8
Banks	6	137.8	138.4	137.2	138.9	139.2	138.1	141.9	136.8
Mining Stock Price Index:									
Total Index	24	109.3	109.6	108.0	111.1	111.4	109.5	111.6	103.1
Golds	13	161.2	162.6	161.6	164.3	163.4	162.4	163.2	123.0
Base Metals	11	80.8	80.6	78.7	82.0	82.9	80.5	83.4	92.2
Supplementary Indexes:									
Uraniums	6	241.7	245.8	228.7	257.7	270.4	243.5	276.5	189.5
Primary Oils and Gas	6	191.2	192.7	190.0	209.7	224.2	195.9	228.1	154.3

¹ Composed of Banks and Investment and Loan.

(P) Preliminary.



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

The Food index declined by 0.4 per cent to 149.8 in February from 150.4 in January, largely as a result of lower meat prices. Price decreases were recorded for most beef and pork products and for chicken, while there were higher quotations for turkey and for fresh and frozen fish. Among staple items, bread prices declined by 1.6 per cent, while milk, butter and sugar prices were virtually unchanged from the previous month. With the exception of lettuce and celery prices which declined substantially, higher quotations were registered for most other produce items, particularly for onions, carrots, cabbage and tomatoes. The Food index in February 1968 was 4.0 per cent above its level of twelve months earlier.

The Housing index rose 0.5 per cent to 155.4 in February from 154.7 in January chiefly because of generally higher shelter costs. Home-ownership costs rose by 0.8 per cent in response to higher property taxes and dwelling insurance rates. Rents edged up in most cities, with the largest increases occurring in Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver. While fuel oil prices rose in a number of cities, other household operation items, notably furniture and floor coverings, were lower in price owing to mid-winter sales. The February 1968 Housing index was 5.2 per cent above that of February 1967.

The Clothing index rose by 0.4 per cent to 134.0 in February from 133.4 in January, as many items returned to regular prices from sale prices in the previous month. Notably higher price levels were recorded for women's wear, footwear and piece goods.

The Transportation index declined by 0.5 per cent to 159.2 in February from 160.0 a month earlier. Some lower automobile insurance rates together with seasonally lower train fares outweighed increases in local bus and taxi fares in a few cities. The Transportation index in February was 2.7 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Health and Personal Care index rose by 0.4 per cent to 194.3 in February from 193.6 in January. Increased prepaid medical care premiums in Alberta outweighed generally lower pharmaceutical prices. Personal care supplies and services edged up slightly in price. The February 1968 Health and Personal Care index was 5.0 per cent above its corresponding February 1967 level.

The Recreation and Reading component advanced by 0.9 per cent to 171.8 in February from 170.2 in January. Higher prices for camera film and magazine subscription rates were recorded. The Recreation and Reading component in February stood 5.0 per cent over its level of twelve months earlier.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index edged up 0.1 per cent to 136.4 in February from 136.3 in January, and was at a level 7.6 per cent higher than in February 1967.

NOTE

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

Price: \$4.00 Per Year; Single Copies 40 Cents