



## PRICE MOVEMENTS

APRIL 1968

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:  
(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada rose by 0.6 per cent to 154.1 at the beginning of April from 153.2 at the beginning of March. Higher taxes on gasoline, cigarettes and alcoholic beverages in Quebec and Newfoundland, together with a one per cent rise in the Newfoundland sales tax level, accounted for approximately one-quarter of the advance over the preceding month. The April 1968 index was 4.3 per cent above the level of 147.8 recorded twelve months earlier. Six of the seven main component indexes rose by between 1.8 per cent and 0.3 per cent since the preceding month, with only the Recreation and Reading index registering a slight decline. Among the components that increased, the Food index rose by 0.7 per cent to regain its level of two months earlier, while prices advanced by 1.4 per cent in the Health and Personal Care component and by 1.8 per cent for Tobacco and Alcohol.

## Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weight (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1968		1967	April 1968 From	
		April	March	April	March 1968	April 1967
ALL-ITEMS	100	154.1	153.2	147.8	+ 0.6	+ 4.3
Food	27	149.8	148.7	144.0	+ 0.7	+ 4.0
Housing (2)	32	156.6	156.0	150.1	+ 0.4	+ 4.3
Clothing	11	136.3	135.6	131.9	+ 0.5	+ 3.3
Transportation	12	160.8	160.3	157.0	+ 0.3	+ 2.4
Health and Personal Care	7	197.0	194.3	190.0	+ 1.4	+ 3.7
Recreation and Reading	5	172.1	172.5	164.2	- 0.2	+ 4.8
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	140.9	138.4	127.7	+ 1.8	+ 10.3

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

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

Prices Division

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

(1935-1939 = 100)

The price index of Thirty Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, declined 0.6 per cent to 252.6 from 254.0 in the three-week period March 29th to April 19th. Prices decreased for ten commodities, advanced for one and remained the same for nineteen. Principal changes included lower prices for beef hides, linseed oil, raw sugar, raw cotton, raw wool and hogs.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced 0.6 per cent to 249.0 from 247.4. The Animal Products index moved up 1.2 per cent to 313.8 from 310.1 reflecting higher prices for calves and lambs on both Eastern and Western markets and for steers in the West. Lower prices were shown for raw wool on both markets, hogs in the East and fluid milk and eggs in the West. The Field Products index declined 0.2 per cent to 184.2 from 184.6 as a result of lower prices for hay and potatoes on the Eastern market, and rye and flax in the West. Higher prices were shown for barley in the East and potatoes and hay in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1968 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Apr. 26th	Apr. 19th	Apr. 12th	Apr. 5th	Mar. 29th	Apr. (P) 1968	Mar. 1968	Apr. 1967
Industrial Materials .....	A V A I L A B L E	252.6	252.8	253.3	254.0	252.6	253.0	252.5
Canadian Farm Products .....		249.0	248.6	248.0	247.4	249.0	249.0	262.1 <sup>r</sup>
Field .....		184.2	184.2	184.1	184.6	184.2	185.1	204.2 <sup>r</sup>
Animal .....		313.8	313.1	311.9	310.1	313.8	312.9	319.9
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada .....	N O T	264.1	264.2	263.8	263.5	264.1	266.7	269.6 <sup>r</sup>
Western Canada .....		233.9	233.1	232.1	231.2	233.9	231.3	254.5 <sup>r</sup>

<sup>1</sup> - 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. The April 1967 index reflects final payments for the crop year 1966-67 announced for barley and oats March 14th, 1968, and for wheat March 27th, 1968.

(P) - Preliminary.

r - Revised, see Note 1 above.



SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:  
(1956 = 100)

The Investors Index of common stock prices rose 9.5 per cent in the four-week period March 28th to April 25th, almost regaining the level of late January, its 1968 peak. All sub-indexes rose with the exception of Telephone which finished at the same level as the previous month. Construction registered the largest rise, finishing at its highest level of 1968; others which reached their highest levels of the year were Beverages, Printing and Publishing, Chemicals, Retail Trade and Banks. Banks also brought the Finance group up to its highest level of the year.

In the same period the Mining Index fell 3.6 per cent due mainly to a further decline of Gold stocks from their peak of March 14th.

Both supplementary indexes rose, Uraniums 9.3 per cent and Primary Oils and Gas 7.7 per cent, to their highest levels since the weeks of February 1st and February 22nd respectively.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from Mar. 28th	Monthly average			
	Apr. 25th	Apr. 18th	Apr. 10th	Apr. 4th	Mar. 28th		Apr. 1968	Mar. 1968	Apr. 1967	
Investors Price Index .....	114	171.3	172.3	167.7	165.2	156.5	+ 9.5	169.1	157.7	174.8
Industrials .....	80	181.3	182.0	177.1	174.7	165.9	+ 9.3	178.8	167.2	180.4
Industrial mines .....	4	212.2	213.3	209.4	208.5	202.4	+ 4.8	210.8	203.1	187.5
Foods .....	11	180.7	181.1	180.4	178.4	175.1	+ 3.2	180.2	178.1	215.8
Beverages .....	7	256.9	256.9	247.7	243.6	233.4	+ 10.1	251.3	235.5	238.4
Textiles and clothing .....	5	140.6	134.6	119.4	125.8	121.1	+ 16.1	130.1	130.4	243.7
Pulp and paper .....	7	95.9	98.9	95.5	97.7	88.9	+ 7.9	97.0	87.9	147.6
Printing and pub. ....	4	689.6	706.9	679.2	654.4	613.8	+ 12.3	682.5	610.7	581.0
Primary metals .....	8	91.2	88.7	85.1	84.7	81.2	+ 12.3	87.4	83.2	115.8
Metal fabricating .....	9	104.5	105.9	103.4	102.8	93.0	+ 12.4	104.2	94.1	117.8
Non-metallic minerals .....	4	90.1	89.1	88.9	87.1	83.0	+ 8.6	88.8	85.8	138.7
Petroleum .....	7	163.6	161.6	160.4	156.2	146.4	+ 11.7	160.4	150.6	147.0
Chemicals .....	4	101.1	105.0	100.5	95.0	92.8	+ 8.9	100.4	92.4	151.0
Construction .....	4	75.2	66.4	61.2	61.8	58.0	+ 29.7	66.2	58.7	65.8
Retail trade .....	6	282.5	284.3	272.8	268.9	249.0	+ 13.5	277.1	247.9	247.6
Utilities .....	20	153.8	156.2	154.2	152.1	144.1	+ 6.7	154.1	146.1	170.6
Pipelines .....	5	161.7	165.0	167.4	162.1	150.4	+ 7.5	164.0	155.6	180.5
Transportation .....	4	171.3	177.8	170.1	164.8	160.3	+ 6.9	171.0	164.8	221.1
Telephone .....	3	103.5	105.3	105.6	104.5	103.5	-	104.7	101.9	120.6
Electric power .....	3	126.3	122.3	118.6	120.5	113.2	+ 11.6	121.9	117.2	143.0
Gas distribution .....	5	370.3	382.4	373.2	370.3	335.7	+ 10.3	374.0	336.5	333.4
Finance .....	14	145.3	145.9	139.5	136.2	126.8	+ 14.6	141.7	126.1	152.6
Investment and loan .....	8	125.4	127.2	123.5	120.6	114.9	+ 9.1	124.2	116.3	155.2
Banks .....	6	155.3	155.4	147.5	144.1	132.7	+ 17.0	150.6	131.0	151.1
Mining Stock Price Index .....	24	102.7	102.8	102.3	102.0	106.5	- 3.6	102.4	109.6	99.9
Golds .....	13	149.8	150.9	150.7	146.4	159.8	- 6.3	149.4	163.3	122.8
Base metals .....	11	76.9	76.5	75.8	77.6	77.3	- 0.5	76.7	80.2	87.4
Uraniums Price Index <sup>(1)</sup> .....	4	259.5	258.7	245.1	241.8	237.5	+ 9.3	251.3	239.4	222.1
Primary Oils and Gas .....	6	192.6	189.0	189.9	188.2	178.8	+ 7.7	189.9	174.3	165.9

(1) Revision of this index has reduced the number of stocks priced.



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

The Food index rose by 0.7 per cent to 149.8 in April from 148.7 in March, reflecting higher prices for milk, eggs, and a number of produce items. The price of milk rose 2.0 per cent in April as increases were recorded in Toronto, Hamilton and Saint John. A number of other staple goods including bread, flour, sugar and butter remained virtually unchanged in price. After declining for five successive months, egg prices rose by nearly six per cent. Among produce items, fresh fruits rose for the fifth consecutive month with notably higher quotations recorded for apples, bananas, and grapefruit. Fresh vegetables also rose, on balance, as higher prices for onions, tomatoes and lettuce outweighed declines for carrots and celery. Continuing their downward trend of the past few months, beef and pork prices were lower, while slightly higher quotations were registered for fish and poultry. The Food index in April 1968 was 4.0 per cent above its level of twelve months earlier.

The Housing index rose 0.4 per cent to 156.6 in April from 156.0 in March. Home-ownership costs rose by 1.0 per cent, largely as a result of higher property taxes and advances in building materials prices and wage rates in construction. Rents edged up by 0.3 per cent from the preceding month. The household operation component remained unchanged as higher prices for furniture, household textiles and some appliances were offset by lower prices for household supplies and floor coverings. The April 1968 Housing index was 4.3 per cent above its level of twelve months earlier.

The Clothing index rose by 0.5 per cent to 136.3 in April from 135.6 in March. The price of women's wear, men's wear and children's wear advanced generally and footwear also registered an increase. Jewellery, a small component of the Clothing index, also rose in price. The Clothing index stood 3.3 per cent over its level of twelve months earlier.

The Transportation index rose by 0.3 per cent to 160.8 in April from 160.3 in the preceding month, largely as a result of higher taxes on gasoline in a number of cities. The price of motor oil also advanced. Taxi fares increased in Ottawa, while the price of new automobiles showed little change across the country. The Transportation index was 2.4 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Health and Personal Care component rose by 1.4 per cent to 197.0 in April from 194.3 in March as a result of generally higher professional fees. The price of dental care and optical care rose 7.8 per cent and 3.3 per cent, respectively. Doctors' fees also edged up. Most personal care supplies, including toilet soap, cleansing tissues and shaving cream, declined in price. The Health and Personal Care index stood 3.7 per cent above the corresponding April 1967 figure.

The Recreation and Reading component declined by 0.2 per cent to 172.1 in April from 172.5 in March. Price decreases for television sets and phonograph records outweighed minor increases in the prices of radios and bicycles. The Recreation and Reading index stood 4.8 per cent above its level of twelve months earlier.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index advanced by 1.8 per cent to 140.9 in April from 138.4 in the preceding month. The increase this month was largely attributable to the imposition of higher taxes on these products in both Quebec and Newfoundland. The Tobacco and Alcohol index in April 1968 was 10.3 per cent above the corresponding level of April 1967.