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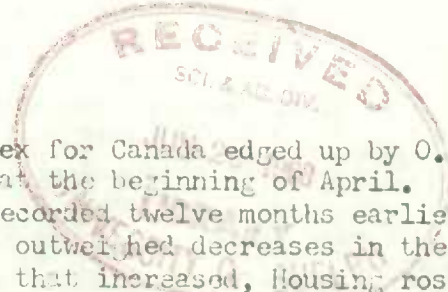
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PRICE MOVEMENTS

MAY 1968



THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada edged up by 0.1 per cent to 154.2 at the beginning of May from 154.1 at the beginning of April. The index was 4.1 per cent above the level of 148.1 recorded twelve months earlier. Increases in five main component indexes slightly outweighed decreases in the indexes for both food and clothing. Among the components that increased, Housing rose by 0.3 per cent, largely as a result of higher shelter costs, while Recreation and Reading advanced by 1.2 per cent. Food prices declined, thus eliminating most of the advance of the preceding month. Clothing prices were lower by 0.4 per cent as a result of May sales for many items.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component weight (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1968		1967	May 1968 From	
		May	April	May	April 1968	May 1967
ALL-ITEMS	100	154.2	154.1	148.1	+ 0.1	+ 4.1
Food	27	148.9	149.8	143.7	- 0.6	+ 3.6
Housing (2)	32	157.1	156.6	150.5	+ 0.3	+ 4.4
Clothing	11	135.8	136.3	131.9	- 0.4	+ 3.0
Transportation	12	161.0	160.8	157.2	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
Health and Personal Care	7	197.8	197.0	191.0	+ 0.4	+ 3.6
Recreation and Reading	5	174.2	172.1	166.6	+ 1.2	+ 4.6
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	141.1	140.9	127.9	+ 0.1	+ 10.3

(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 0.6 per cent to 254.3 from 252.8 in the three-week period May 3rd to May 24th. Prices increased for five commodities, decreased for nine and remained unchanged for sixteen. Principal changes included higher prices for linseed oil, raw rubber, steers, raw sugar and hogs.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced 3.0 per cent to 257.7 from 250.1. The Animal Products index moved up 3.7 per cent to 325.9 from 314.3 reflecting higher prices for lambs, calves, steers and hogs on both Eastern and Western markets. Lower prices were shown for eggs and raw wool on both markets. The Field Products index advanced 1.9 per cent to 189.5 from 186.0 as a result of higher prices for potatoes on both Eastern and Western markets and for flax in the West. Lower prices were shown for hay on both markets, oats and barley in the East and rye in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1968 Week Ended				Monthly Indexes			
	May 31st	May 24th	May 17th	May 10th	May 3rd	May (P) 1968	Apr. 1968	May 1967
Industrial Materials	A V A I L A B L E	254.3	253.9	252.6	252.8	252.9	251.2	254.7
Canadian Farm Products		257.7	255.5	252.4	250.1	255.5	249.0	266.6
Field		189.5	188.7	186.1	186.0	188.7	184.2	205.4
Animal		325.9	322.2	318.7	314.3	322.2	313.8	327.8
Regional Indexes:	N O T							
Eastern Canada		274.6	273.4	269.2	266.4	273.4	264.1	276.2
Western Canada		240.8	237.6	235.5	233.9	237.6	233.9	257.1

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)

The Investors Index of common stock prices fell 2.1 per cent from May 2nd to May 30th. The three major groups fell by similar amounts, and declines were widespread, although most sub-groups fell by less than five per cent. The most notable exception to this trend was Metal Fabricating which rose to its highest level since September 1966 due mainly to sharp rises of the stock of Massey Ferguson Limited in the middle of the month and of Ford Motor Company of Canada and Anthes Imperial Limited at the end. On the other hand the rise of Molson Breweries Limited was in line with the trend of the Beverages sub-group.

In the same period the Mining Index rose 2.1 per cent reflecting a rise of Gold stocks. Base Metals fell during May, but a rise of 3.9 per cent between April 25th and May 2nd is shown in neither this nor the last issue.

After an early rise Uraniums fell during the month to finish 3.4 per cent lower; Primary Oils and Gas rose 3.3 per cent.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from May 2nd	Monthly average		
	May 30th	May 23rd	May 16th	May 9th	May 2nd		May 1968	Apr. 1968	May 1967
Investors Price Index 114	169.5	169.5	171.1	172.9	173.2	- 2.1	171.2	169.1	175.3
Industrials 80	179.0	179.8	181.0	182.5	182.9	- 2.1	181.0	178.8	181.6
Industrial mines 4	202.0	206.8	204.9	214.3	213.2	- 5.3	208.2	210.8	188.5
Foods 11	191.9	193.2	192.1	191.3	188.4	+ 1.9	191.4	180.2	219.1
Beverages 7	260.2	257.4	258.5	260.0	259.0	+ 0.5	259.0	251.3	240.6
Textiles and clothing 5	144.6	138.0	143.2	146.7	139.3	+ 3.8	142.4	130.1	218.2
Pulp and paper 7	93.6	93.3	93.4	93.5	94.2	- 0.6	93.6	97.0	141.0
Printing and pub. 4	678.9	684.7	705.4	674.3	700.3	- 3.1	688.7	682.5	637.3
Primary metals 8	84.3	86.3	88.5	89.0	90.1	- 6.4	87.6	87.4	116.0
Metal fabricating 9	124.9	118.8	117.0	109.7	106.0	+ 17.8	115.3	104.2	117.2
Non-metallic minerals 4	91.7	92.3	94.6	100.3	98.6	- 7.0	95.5	88.8	145.0
Petroleum 7	162.8	161.0	163.6	164.4	164.7	- 1.2	163.3	160.4	147.4
Chemicals 4	103.0	104.6	103.3	110.8	108.0	- 4.6	105.9	100.4	141.9
Construction 4	69.3	72.0	74.7	70.1	70.2	- 1.3	71.3	66.2	68.2
Retail trade 6	278.8	280.9	284.4	287.7	288.2	- 3.3	284.0	277.1	244.9
Utilities 20	153.5	151.4	152.3	155.7	157.3	- 2.4	154.0	154.1	168.5
Pipelines 5	168.8	163.0	166.0	169.7	170.3	- 0.9	167.6	164.0	181.0
Transportation 4	184.2	177.9	173.6	174.1	173.7	+ 6.0	176.7	171.0	220.4
Telephone 3	100.5	100.1	100.9	102.0	104.0	- 3.4	101.5	104.7	121.6
Electric power 3	114.9	117.0	116.7	123.6	127.9	- 10.2	120.0	121.9	137.7
Gas distribution 5	370.7	366.9	373.5	381.7	380.5	- 2.6	374.7	374.0	318.6
Finance 14	144.2	142.7	147.5	148.4	146.7	- 1.7	145.9	141.7	152.6
Investment and loan 8	127.2	128.1	131.1	129.2	127.6	- 0.3	128.6	124.2	155.6
Banks 6	152.8	150.0	155.8	158.1	156.3	- 2.2	154.6	150.6	150.7
Mining Stock Price Index 24	107.8	109.8	107.6	105.9	105.6	+ 2.1	107.3	102.4	98.9
Golds 13	160.3	163.7	158.5	155.5	152.5	+ 5.1	158.1	149.4	126.4
Base metals 11	79.1	80.2	79.7	78.7	79.9	- 1.0	79.5	76.7	83.9
Uraniums Price Index (1) 4	247.0	254.1	257.1	264.6	255.7	- 3.4	255.7	251.3	243.1
Primary Oils and Gas 6	193.1	187.7	190.7	187.8	187.0	+ 3.3	189.3	189.9	159.8

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



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

The Food index declined by 0.6 per cent to 148.9 in May from 149.8 in April, partially reflecting lower quotations for a number of meat items. Many staple foods, including fresh milk, butter, and cheese remained unchanged in price, while bread, sugar and egg prices declined slightly. In contrast, most fresh fruits, including grapefruit, bananas, and apples registered upward movements. Among fresh vegetables, celery, onions and tomatoes rose in price, while lettuce declined markedly. Meats were generally lower in price; beef quotations, in particular, declined for the seventh consecutive month. The Food index in May 1968 was 3.6 per cent above its level of twelve months earlier.

The Housing index rose 0.3 per cent to 157.1 in May from 156.6 in April. Rents increased by 0.3 per cent, led by rises of 0.6 per cent in Ottawa and 0.5 per cent in Edmonton. Home-ownership costs also continued their steady advance. Fuel oil prices rose in a number of cities, while prices for homefurnishings showed little change. The May 1968 Housing index was 4.4 per cent above its level of May 1967.

The Clothing index declined by 0.4 per cent to 135.8 in May from 136.3 in April. While a number of items of apparel remained unchanged in price, sales on many articles accounted for decreases in all categories of clothing. Even the footwear index, which tends to be relatively resistant to price decreases, registered its first decline in seven months. The Clothing index stood 3.0 per cent above its level of May 1967.

The Transportation index edged up by 0.1 per cent to 161.0 in May from 160.8 in the preceding month. The only major increase was an advance of approximately ten per cent in domestic air fares which had remained virtually unchanged since 1962. Partially offsetting this increase were declines of 0.2 per cent in the prices of both new automobiles and gasoline. The Transportation index was 2.4 per cent above its level of twelve months earlier.

The Health and Personal Care index rose by 0.4 per cent to 197.8 in May from 197.0 a month earlier. Higher prices were recorded for pharmaceuticals, most toiletries and for men's and women's hairdressing. The Health and Personal Care component was 3.6 per cent above its level twelve months ago.

The Recreation and Reading index advanced by 1.2 per cent to 174.2 in May from 172.1 a month earlier, as a result of higher prices for cinema admissions, camera film, bicycles and other toys. This index stood at a level 4.6 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index edged up by 0.1 per cent to 141.1 in May from 140.9 a month earlier, reflecting higher tobacco and cigarette prices in several cities. The Tobacco and Alcohol component was 10.3 per cent higher than twelve months earlier.

NOTE

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

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