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PRICE MOVEMENTS

JULY 1968



THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
 (1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada rose by 0.6 per cent to 155.6 at the beginning of July from 154.7 at the beginning of June. The July 1968 index was 3.6 per cent above the July 1967 level of 150.2. About three-quarters of the advance in the index over the preceding month was attributable to a 1.7 per cent increase in food prices. All other main components of the index, except Clothing and Tobacco and Alcohol, moved up less markedly. The index for Clothing declined by 0.2 per cent while that for Tobacco and Alcohol remained unchanged.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weight (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1968		1967	July 1968 From	
		July	June	July	June 1968	July 1967
ALL-ITEMS	100	155.6	154.7	150.2	+ 0.6	+ 3.6
Food	27	151.9	149.4	148.5	+ 1.7	+ 2.3
Housing (2)	32	158.3	157.6	151.9	+ 0.4	+ 4.2
Clothing	11	136.1	136.4	132.5	- 0.2	+ 2.7
Transportation	12	161.9	161.8	158.3	+ 0.1	+ 2.3
Health and Personal Care	7	198.8	197.9	191.5	+ 0.5	+ 3.8
Recreation and Reading	5	174.8	174.2	167.8	+ 0.3	+ 4.2
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	141.1	141.1	128.1	-	+10.1

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

The Food index increased by 1.7 per cent to 151.9 in July from 149.4 in June, mainly in reflection of higher prices for meats and for

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Prices Division

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WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)¹
(1935-1939 = 100)

The price index of Thirty Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, advanced slightly to 255.3 from 255.2 in the three-week period June 28th to July 19th. Prices increased for six commodities, decreased for seven and were unchanged for seventeen. Principal changes included higher prices for sisal, hogs, steers, linseed oil, beef hides and raw wool. Prices were lower for domestic copper, and raw sugar.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced 1.2 per cent to 262.0 from 258.8. The Animal Products index moved up 1.8 per cent to 333.1 from 327.1 reflecting higher prices for eggs, hogs, and steers on both Eastern and Western markets, for calves in the East and raw wool in the West. Lower prices were shown for lambs on both markets and for calves in the West. The Field Products index advanced 0.3 per cent to 191.0 from 190.5 as a result of higher prices for potatoes and corn on the Eastern market and for flax in the West. Lower prices were shown for oats, rye, wheat and barley in the East and for hay in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1968 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	July 26th	July 19th	July 12th	July 5th	June 28th	July (P) 1968	June 1968	July 1967
Industrial Materials	A V A I L A B L E	255.3	255.2	254.5	255.2	255.3	253.0	253.0
Canadian Farm Products		262.0	261.4	259.4	258.8	262.0	259.9	266.8
Field		191.0	191.7	191.7	190.5	191.0	189.8	208.6
Animal		333.1	331.1	327.0	327.1	333.1	330.0	325.0
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada	N O T	282.6	282.0	278.3	277.6	282.6	279.0	277.4
Western Canada		241.5	240.8	240.4	240.0	241.5	240.8	256.2

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)

Despite a marked fall at the end of the month, the Investors Index was 0.5 per cent higher on July 25th than four weeks earlier. All major groups reached highs for the year in mid-month. Eight of the sub-groups in Industrials reached 1968 highs although most declined again to show little overall change. The exceptions were Foods and Non-metallic Minerals which both showed a net rise of 10.7 per cent, and Construction which finished 5.5 per cent lower than a month ago. Textiles and Clothing also rose strongly but is still below its January level. The pattern was similar in Utilities and Finance where all sub-groups except Telephone reached highs for the year, but declined again. Nevertheless the Finance group rose 2.1 per cent overall.

While the Golds index continued to fluctuate with the price of free gold, Base Metals fell during the month to bring the Mining index down 2.4 per cent.

After rises in the middle of the month, both Uraniums and Primary Oils and Gas fell at the end to show slight net increases of 1.3 and 0.9 per cent respectively.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from June 27th	Monthly average		
	July 25th	July 18th	July 11th	July 4th	June 27th		July 1968	June 1968	July 1967
Investors Price Index 114	179.3	183.4	183.2	181.1	178.4	+ 0.5	181.8	174.4	177.5
Industrials 80	186.8	190.8	191.2	188.7	186.3	+ 0.3	189.4	182.7	185.2
Industrial mines 4	197.6	199.5	199.6	196.7	200.8	- 1.6	198.4	202.5	198.2
Foods 11	229.7	231.8	225.5	214.2	207.5	+ 10.7	225.3	199.8	210.8
Beverages 7	274.9	279.0	277.8	278.0	272.8	+ 0.8	277.4	263.8	238.6
Textiles and clothing 5	163.2	165.1	159.2	160.9	150.2	+ 8.7	162.1	146.1	217.7
Pulp and paper 7	105.4	114.1	115.3	113.2	107.3	- 1.8	112.0	100.4	133.5
Printing and pub. 4	679.8	677.5	697.1	703.5	693.4	- 2.0	689.5	677.9	694.1
Primary metals 8	90.9	94.6	96.2	93.2	88.4	+ 2.8	93.7	88.0	108.4
Metal fabricating 9	130.9	134.0	130.5	125.9	124.9	+ 4.8	130.3	123.8	119.1
Non-metallic minerals 4	104.2	111.4	111.0	101.4	94.1	+ 10.7	107.0	93.0	124.4
Petroleum 7	173.5	178.2	176.8	175.8	174.2	- 0.4	176.1	168.0	162.1
Chemicals 4	112.0	117.4	120.7	115.9	112.1	- 0.1	116.5	106.7	124.8
Construction 4	79.3	84.2	84.6	83.5	83.9	- 5.5	82.9	77.4	64.5
Retail trade 6	304.2	310.9	312.5	306.8	301.1	+ 1.0	308.6	294.6	248.2
Utilities 20	163.7	169.2	166.9	166.3	163.2	+ 0.3	166.5	159.0	175.2
Pipelines 5	177.7	184.4	178.7	178.4	178.1	- 0.2	179.8	176.4	201.7
Transportation 4	197.1	202.2	195.1	194.0	192.1	+ 2.6	197.1	189.6	227.2
Telephone 3	104.0	107.6	107.6	107.8	106.1	- 2.0	106.8	101.9	116.4
Electric power 3	127.0	131.2	127.5	127.4	124.0	+ 2.4	128.3	118.6	138.0
Gas distribution 5	401.4	415.7	422.1	416.7	401.7	- 0.1	414.0	392.8	355.8
Finance 14	163.2	166.0	165.7	163.2	159.8	+ 2.1	164.5	154.0	142.6
Banks 6	173.7	176.1	175.6	173.9	171.6	+ 1.2	174.8	164.9	142.8
Investment and loan 8	142.4	145.9	146.0	141.9	136.4	+ 4.4	144.0	132.4	141.6
Mining Stock Price Index 24	104.6	106.5	104.5	105.9	107.2	- 2.4	105.4	108.6	100.0
Golds 13	152.5	153.5	147.5	152.5	154.4	- 1.2	151.5	158.1	128.2
Base metals 11	78.3	80.8	81.0	80.4	81.4	- 3.8	80.1	81.4	84.5
(1)									
Uraniums Price Index 4	263.6	277.5	276.8	269.1	260.2	+ 1.3	271.8	257.8	261.5
Primary Oils and Gas 6	205.1	213.1	214.5	205.1	203.3	+ 0.9	209.4	205.5	190.8

(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)

fresh vegetables. Retail prices for beef and pork products evidenced a general advance for the second consecutive month while chicken prices registered a slight decline. Scattered increases in the price of home-delivered milk outweighed marginally lower prices for ice cream, cheese and some other dairy products. Among other staple items, bread and butter prices did not change appreciably. Sugar prices, on the other hand, continued their decline to a level nearly nine per cent below that of twelve months earlier. In July 1968 the Food index was 2.3 per cent above its July 1967 level.

The Housing index rose by 0.4 per cent to 158.3 in July from 157.6 in June, due to higher costs for both shelter and household operation. Rents continued to advance, with the latest rise of 0.4 per cent equalling the average monthly increase over the past year. Household operation costs were up by 0.5 per cent, a major contributor being an advance of 2.8 per cent in electricity charges reflecting higher costs in Toronto and Ottawa. The level of homefurnishings prices remained unchanged with higher prices for furniture and appliances being offset by declines in the price of household textiles. Generally higher prices for household supplies and increased rates of pay for domestic help contributed to an advance of 0.8 per cent in the household supplies and services component. The July 1968 Housing index was 4.2 per cent above its level of July 1967.

The Clothing index declined by 0.2 per cent to 136.1 in July from 136.4 in June, as decreases in the price of women's wear, children's wear and footwear, attributable to summer sales, outweighed advances in men's wear and piece goods. The July 1968 Clothing index stood 2.7 per cent above its level of July 1967.

The Transportation index edged up by 0.1 per cent to 161.9 in July from 161.8 in the preceding month. Increases were recorded in fares for local and inter-city travel. Automobile operation costs were down 0.1 per cent from June, with reductions in the price of new cars, typical at this time of year, outweighing a slight increase in gasoline prices. The July 1968 Transportation index was 2.3 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Health and Personal Care index rose by 0.5 per cent to 198.8 in July from 197.9 in June. Prepaid medical care premiums increased in Manitoba, and general increases in soap, toothpaste and other toiletries were also registered. The Health and Personal Care index for July 1968 was 3.8 per cent above its level twelve months ago.

The Recreation and Reading index rose by 0.3 per cent to 174.8 in July from 174.2 a month earlier. Among recreational items there were marginal decreases in the price of radios, television sets and bicycles. However, these were outweighed by an increase in subscription rates for daily newspapers in five cities, including Toronto and Montreal. The Recreation and Reading index for July 1968 stood 4.2 per cent above its July 1967 level.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index at 141.1 was unchanged from the preceding month, reflecting a 10.1 per cent increase over its July 1967 level.

NOTE

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

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