

PRICE MOVEMENTS

AUGUST 1968

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
(1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada rose by 0.3 per cent to 156.0 at the beginning of August from 155.6 at the beginning of July. The August 1968 index was 3.4 per cent above the August 1967 level of 150.9. The latest monthly increase was mainly attributable to a 1.1 per cent advance in the Food index, while the remaining component indexes registered only fractional movements. The Housing and Transportation indexes both edged up by 0.1 per cent, whereas the Clothing component declined by 0.3 per cent, in response to several mid-summer sales. The indexes for health and personal care and for recreation and reading each rose by 0.2 per cent, while the Tobacco and Alcohol component remained unchanged from the previous month.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Component Weights (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1968		1967	Aug. 1968 From	
		Aug.	July	Aug.	July 1968	Aug. 1967
ALL-ITEMS	100	156.0	155.6	150.9	+ 0.3	+ 3.4
Food	27	153.6	151.9	151.2	+ 1.1	+ 1.6
Housing (2)	32	158.4	158.3	152.2	+ 0.1	+ 4.1
Clothing	11	135.7	136.1	132.3	- 0.3	+ 2.6
Transportation	12	161.8	161.9	158.0	- 0.1	+ 2.4
Health and Personal Care	7	199.1	198.8	191.9	+ 0.2	+ 3.8
Recreation and Reading	5	175.2	174.8	167.9	+ 0.2	+ 4.3
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	141.1	141.1	128.6	-	+ 9.7

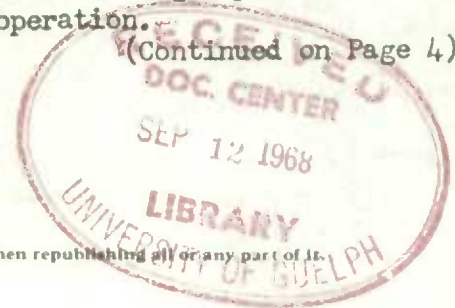
(1) Component weights indicate the relative importance of item groups.

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

(Continued on Page 4)

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, declined 0.1 per cent to 255.7 from 255.9 in the three-week period August 2nd to August 23rd. Prices decreased for six commodities, increased for five and were unchanged for nineteen. Principal changes included lower prices for raw sugar, steel scrap, oats and raw rubber, while increases occurred for steers, hogs, raw cotton and wheat.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced 0.9 per cent to 266.1 from 263.8. The Animal Products index moved up 3.4 per cent to 345.8 from 334.4 reflecting higher prices for hogs, steers, and eggs on both Eastern and Western markets, for poultry in the East and for calves in the West. Lower prices were shown for lambs on both markets. The Field Products index declined 3.5 per cent to 186.5 from 193.3 as a result of lower prices for potatoes on both Eastern and Western markets and for hay and rye in the East. Higher prices were shown for flax in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1968 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Aug. 30th	Aug. 23rd	Aug. 16th	Aug. 9th	Aug. 2nd	Aug. (P) 1968	July 1968	Aug. 1967
Industrial Materials	AVAILABLE	255.7	256.0	255.5	255.9	256.0	253.4	252.1
Canadian Farm Products	AVAILABLE	266.1	265.0	263.2	263.8	265.0	262.0	260.4
Field	AVAILABLE	186.5	189.2	191.3	193.3	189.2	191.0	190.9
Animal	AVAILABLE	345.8	340.8	335.1	334.4	340.8	333.1	329.8
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada	NOT	284.6	284.5	283.7	285.1	284.5	282.6	281.2
Western Canada	NOT	247.7	245.5	242.6	242.6	245.5	241.5	239.5

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)

Following successive weekly increases during the month, the Investors Index rose to 182.6 on the 29th, 2.5 per cent above the August 1st index of 178.2. Similar increases were recorded for all three major groups. Finance in particular responded to continuing advances for Investment and Loan, closing at an all time high of 169.3. Nine of the thirteen sub-groups in Industrials averaged approximately two to three per cent higher. Exceptions to this were increases of close to nine per cent for Textiles and Clothing, Petroleum, and Construction. In the case of the latter two, Petroleum closed at an all time high of 189.6, while Construction moved up to 92.9, its highest level since February 1966.

Gold and Base Metals climbed steadily during the month with a resultant increase of 4.0 per cent in the Mining index.

Uraniums, and Primary Oils and Gas both followed the general upward trend with the latter rising a sharp 14.7 per cent to 230.0, its highest point since mid-January of the current year.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from Aug. 1st	Monthly average		
	Aug. 29th	Aug. 22nd	Aug. 15th	Aug. 8th	Aug. 1st		Aug. 1968	July 1968	Aug. 1967
Investors Price Index 114	182.6	181.8	181.3	180.3	178.2	+ 2.5	180.8	181.8	180.8
Industrials 80	189.5	188.9	188.4	187.3	185.2	+ 2.3	187.9	189.4	189.3
Industrial mines 4	193.4	196.8	198.4	195.3	191.4	+ 1.0	195.1	198.4	201.6
Foods 11	233.8	235.1	230.0	225.1	230.1	+ 1.6	230.8	225.3	215.7
Beverages 7	284.4	280.6	277.1	273.0	273.9	+ 3.8	277.8	277.4	248.8
Textiles and clothing 5	160.6	149.4	152.8	152.6	147.3	+ 9.0	152.5	162.1	223.8
Pulp and paper 7	108.9	107.9	106.4	108.0	105.4	+ 3.3	107.3	112.0	131.8
Printing and pub. 4	672.1	673.7	684.9	674.5	672.9	- 0.1	675.6	689.5	728.2
Primary metals 8	90.8	90.0	91.5	91.1	92.6	- 1.9	91.2	93.7	110.9
Metal fabricating 9	122.8	121.5	123.2	126.2	125.6	- 2.2	123.9	130.3	120.0
Non-metallic minerals 4	110.0	109.0	111.1	108.3	110.0	-	109.7	107.0	123.4
Petroleum 7	189.6	185.5	183.6	183.6	174.9	+ 8.4	183.4	176.1	164.1
Chemicals 4	115.7	112.0	111.8	112.0	112.5	+ 2.8	112.8	116.5	123.0
Construction 4	92.9	88.5	86.7	86.7	85.1	+ 9.2	88.0	82.9	64.6
Retail trade 6	312.2	313.9	299.5	302.8	305.9	+ 2.1	306.9	308.6	256.5
Utilities 20	167.1	165.6	165.3	164.5	162.1	+ 3.1	164.9	166.5	175.7
Pipelines 5	185.9	182.0	181.2	181.9	175.2	+ 6.1	181.2	179.8	197.8
Transportation 4	202.2	200.5	199.8	195.7	191.2	+ 5.8	197.9	197.1	223.5
Telephone 3	104.5	103.4	104.0	104.1	104.8	- 0.3	104.2	106.8	115.3
Electric power 3	127.6	127.3	126.9	124.1	124.8	+ 2.2	126.1	128.3	139.8
Gas distribution 5	409.9	409.5	407.1	408.7	399.7	+ 2.6	407.0	414.0	375.1
Finance 14	169.3	168.5	167.2	166.5	164.8	+ 2.7	167.3	164.5	146.2
Banks 6	174.6	176.1	175.2	176.3	174.0	+ 0.3	175.2	174.8	146.9
Investment and loan 8	158.6	153.3	151.2	147.1	146.5	+ 8.3	151.3	144.0	144.4
Mining Stock Price Index 24	110.0	109.6	107.3	105.7	105.8	+ 4.0	107.7	105.4	103.9
Golds 13	157.0	157.2	153.7	151.5	153.2	+ 2.5	154.5	151.5	135.1
Base metals 11	84.3	83.5	81.9	80.6	79.9	+ 5.5	82.0	80.1	86.7
Uraniums Price Index (1) 4	260.4	258.4	259.0	260.7	256.2	+ 1.6	258.9	271.8	255.4
Primary Oils and Gas 6	230.0	229.1	218.5	212.7	200.5	+14.7	218.2	209.4	205.9

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



1010751233

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

The Food index advanced by 1.1 per cent to 153.6 in August from 151.9 in July. Among staple items, bread prices increased by 2.6 per cent, and eggs also evidenced a substantial price advance since the preceding month. On the other hand, fresh milk and sugar remained virtually unchanged in price, and butter declined marginally. Among meat items, pork products rose markedly in price, chicken and beef edged up slightly, while turkey was marginally lower. Produce prices declined slightly, as lower quotations for potatoes, cabbage, celery and tomatoes outweighed increases for apples and strawberries. The August 1968 Food index was 1.6 per cent higher than its level of August 1967.

The Housing index edged up by 0.1 per cent to 158.4 in August from 158.3 in the preceding month. Generally higher rents were recorded, with the largest increases occurring in Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg. Home-ownership costs remained virtually unchanged except for higher insurance premiums and fuel oil prices in a number of cities, and a substantial increase in Winnipeg electricity rates. Furniture and carpet prices declined as a result of mid-summer sales, while supplies and services experienced little change from the preceding month. The Housing index was 4.1 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Clothing index declined by 0.3 per cent to 135.7 in August from 136.1 in July. Sales on a number of items reduced prices for most men's and women's outerwear. Footwear and piece goods, by contrast, increased marginally. The Clothing index was 2.6 per cent above its level of August 1967.

The Transportation index declined by 0.1 per cent to 161.8 in August from 161.9 in July. Generally lower train fares and new automobile prices outweighed increases for gasoline and taxi fares in a number of cities. The Transportation index stood 2.4 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Health and Personal Care index rose by 0.2 per cent to 199.1 in August from 198.8 in the preceding month. The rise was attributable to increased dentists' fees in Regina and Saskatoon, together with generally higher prices for pharmaceuticals and toiletries. The Health and Personal Care index was 3.8 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Recreation and Reading index increased by 0.2 per cent to 175.2 in August from 174.8 in July. Increased admissions for football games, together with higher prices for camera film and bicycles were responsible for the increase. The Recreation and Reading index was 4.3 per cent higher than its corresponding level twelve months earlier.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index remained unchanged at its July level of 141.1 and stood at a level 9.7 per cent higher than twelve months previous.

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