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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

DECEMBER 1969



THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:  
(1961=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada rose by 0.4 per cent to 127.9 in December from 127.4 in November. The December 1969 index stood 4.6 per cent above its level of December 1968. Most of the movement in the latest month was attributable to advances of 0.8 per cent in the Food index and 0.6 per cent in the Housing index. After a largely seasonal decline of 2.2 per cent between August and October, the Food index had regained, by December, just over two-thirds of this decline to reach a level 0.6 per cent below its August peak of 130.6. The increase in Housing was largely attributable to higher shelter costs, especially home-ownership. Among the less heavily weighted components that registered increases in the latest month, the Transportation index was up 0.2 per cent, the Health and Personal Care index 0.3 per cent, and the Clothing index 0.1 per cent. The Recreation and Reading index declined by 0.3 per cent reflecting lower magazine subscription rates, while the Tobacco and Alcohol index was unchanged.

Consumer Price Index and Main Components (1961=100)

	Component Weight (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1969		1968	Dec. 1969 From	
		Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	Nov. 1969	Dec. 1968
ALL-ITEMS	100	127.9	127.4	122.3	+ 0.4	+ 4.6
Food	27	129.8	128.8	124.5	+ 0.8	+ 4.3
Housing (2)	32	127.6	126.9	121.0	+ 0.6	+ 5.5
Clothing	11	126.4	126.3	123.4	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
Transportation	12	122.0	121.8	115.7	+ 0.2	+ 5.4
Health and Personal Care	7	136.8	136.4	129.4	+ 0.3	+ 5.7
Recreation and Reading	5	128.1	128.5	123.3	- 0.3	+ 3.9
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	126.3	126.3	121.3	-	+ 4.1

ALL-ITEMS Consumer Price Index Converted to 1949=100 ..... 165.2

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

The Food index advanced by 0.8 per cent to 129.8 in December from 128.8 in November. Notably higher prices were recorded for fresh vegetables, eggs  
(Continued on Page 4)

Prices Division

8201-503

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)<sup>1</sup>  
(1935-1939=100)

The price index of Thirty Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, advanced 1.2 per cent to 271.3 from 268.2 in the four-week period November 28th to December 26th. Prices were higher for eight commodities, lower for eight and unchanged for fourteen. Principal changes included increases for steel scrap, rosin, raw rubber, steel bars, domestic lead, steers, beef hides and white lead while decreases occurred for hogs, raw sugar, tin and raw cotton.

In the same four-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced slightly to 270.0 from 269.9. The Field Products index moved 0.3 per cent higher to 183.3 from 182.7 reflecting price increases for potatoes, hay, corn and wheat on the Eastern market. Lower prices were shown for tobacco in the East and for flax in the West. The Animal Products index moved down 0.1 per cent to 356.8 from 357.2 on lower prices for hogs and eggs on both Eastern and Western markets. Higher prices were shown for calves, steers and raw wool on both markets.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1969 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Dec. 26th	Dec. 19th	Dec. 12th	Dec. 5th	Nov. 28th	Dec. (P) 1969	Nov. 1969	Dec. 1968
Industrial Materials .....	271.3	271.5	269.0	269.0	268.2	271.5	267.8	258.9
Canadian Farm Products .....	270.0	270.4	273.2	273.0	269.9	270.4	267.8	264.4
Field .....	183.3	182.9	183.0	183.0	182.7	182.9	183.6	183.8
Animal .....	356.8	357.9	363.4	363.0	357.2	357.9	352.1	345.0
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada .....	291.8	293.0	294.9	294.9	291.2	293.0	288.6	284.8
Western Canada .....	248.3	247.8	251.4	251.1	248.7	247.8	247.1	244.0

1 - All 1969 indexes are subject to revision. For Canadian Farm Products, indexes subsequent to July 1968 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 was virtually unchanged over the four-week period, showing 199.9 at December 30th compared with 200.0 on December 4th. Of the three major groups, Industrials edged up 0.5 per cent, while Utilities and Finance showed decreases of 1.1 and 1.6 per cent respectively. Within Industrials, indexes for seven sub-groups increased and six decreased. Increases ranged from 5.5 per cent for Non-metallic Minerals to 0.7 per cent for Retail Trade, with record highs being reached by Industrial Mines, Foods, and Printing and Publishing. Construction, Chemicals and Primary Metals each lost ground and now stand below their 1956 base level. In Utilities, three sub-groups registered losses, Pipelines and Transportation less than one per cent but Gas Distribution fell 6.6 per cent. In Finance, Banks eased 0.7 per cent and Investment and Loan decreased 3.6 per cent.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices dropped 1.4 per cent, due to a decrease of 8.1 per cent for Golds. Base Metals increased 2.3 per cent.

Of the two supplementary price indexes, Uraniums fell steadily throughout the month to register a loss of 11.2 per cent while Primary Oils and Gas recovered in the fifth week to 216.8.

**Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)**

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from Dec. 4th	Monthly average		
	Dec. 30th	Dec. 23rd	Dec. 18th	Dec. 11th	Dec. 4th		Dec. 1969	Nov. 1969	Dec. 1968
<b>Investors Price Index</b> ..... 114	199.9	198.8	199.9	198.1	200.0	-	199.3	201.9	201.5
<b>Industrials</b> ..... 80	209.4	207.7	209.1	207.3	208.3	+ 0.5	208.4	209.1	205.2
Industrial mines ..... 4	235.7	230.3	234.5	232.5	230.6	+ 2.2	232.7	228.8	203.7
Foods ..... 10	266.8	261.9	256.2	255.2	257.9	+ 3.5	259.6	258.9	243.3
Beverages ..... 7	329.6	332.4	338.5	338.4	337.8	- 2.4	335.3	336.1	310.8
Textiles and clothing ..... 5	131.6	131.4	131.4	133.2	133.7	- 1.6	132.3	136.9	169.0
Pulp and paper ..... 7	159.5	158.1	157.9	156.2	157.2	+ 1.5	157.8	160.8	133.0
Printing and pub. .... 4	843.9	833.4	838.0	812.4	835.6	+ 1.0	832.7	830.0	747.6
Primary metals ..... 8	96.9	97.3	97.7	97.8	99.1	- 2.2	97.8	100.8	109.0
Metal fabricating ..... 9	131.7	131.7	132.1	131.8	135.7	- 2.9	132.6	142.8	157.7
Non-metallic minerals ..... 4	122.9	125.6	121.6	116.2	116.5	+ 5.5	120.6	116.9	131.4
Petroleum ..... 7	160.5	159.2	160.7	158.8	157.4	+ 2.0	159.3	164.5	193.7
Chemicals ..... 4	97.9	98.7	98.5	100.8	102.2	- 4.2	99.6	101.4	121.2
Construction ..... 4	69.5	72.8	72.0	73.2	75.3	- 7.7	72.6	78.9	109.2
Retail trade ..... 7	262.5	262.6	256.0	257.1	260.6	+ 0.7	259.8	272.4	289.8
<b>Utilities</b> ..... 20	164.5	164.0	164.4	162.5	166.4	- 1.1	164.4	171.3	184.9
Pipelines ..... 5	192.5	190.2	193.0	190.1	192.7	- 0.1	191.7	193.3	192.6
Transportation ..... 4	222.1	217.3	213.1	213.0	223.7	- 0.7	217.8	231.0	250.2
Telephone ..... 3	104.6	103.4	102.7	103.8	103.6	+ 1.0	103.6	105.4	114.0
Electric power ..... 3	121.3	123.9	126.7	120.4	119.9	+ 1.2	122.4	129.0	144.2
Gas distribution ..... 5	352.2	357.2	357.8	353.8	377.0	- 6.6	359.6	390.4	442.7
<b>Finance</b> ..... 14	200.6	201.1	201.8	200.3	203.9	- 1.6	201.5	207.2	205.2
Banks ..... 6	213.7	214.0	213.9	212.1	215.3	- 0.7	213.8	217.0	224.6
Investment and loan ..... 8	174.7	175.5	177.7	176.9	181.2	- 3.6	177.2	187.6	167.1
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b> ..... 24	111.1	108.6	109.6	108.0	112.7	- 1.4	110.0	115.6	121.1
Golds ..... 6	103.5	101.5	103.6	101.2	112.6	- 8.1	104.5	120.0	170.6
Base metals ..... 18	115.3	112.5	112.9	111.8	112.7	+ 2.3	113.0	113.1	94.0
<b>Uraniums Price Index</b> ..... 4	143.5	143.9	144.8	150.3	161.6	-11.2	148.8	166.4	251.7
<b>Primary Oils and Gas</b> ..... 6	216.8	203.4	207.7	202.5	208.8	+ 3.8	207.8	222.5	272.4



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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (Continued from Page 1)  
(1961=100)

and poultry. Substantially higher quotations for tomatoes, carrots, cabbage and lettuce were the main contributors to a 6.1 per cent rise in vegetable prices. Egg prices advanced by 8.5 per cent to reach their highest level since December 1966. Chicken quotations moved up by 2.2 per cent, while beef and pork prices remained virtually unchanged. Among staple foods, the price of milk rose 0.3 per cent in response to increases in Vancouver and St. John's, while bread and sugar prices were unchanged. Bakery and cereal products increased by 0.5 per cent with higher quotations recorded for breakfast cereals, flour, cake mixes and some biscuits. Both regular and instant coffee prices advanced in the latest month, reflecting recent increases at the wholesale level. Some produce items that registered sizeable price decreases since November were grapefruit down 8.8 per cent, California oranges down 5.4 per cent, and celery down 6.8 per cent. The December Food index was 4.3 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Housing index moved up by 0.6 per cent to 127.6 in December from 126.9 in November. Home-ownership costs advanced by 1.9 per cent in response to increased prices for new houses and repairs, and higher property taxes. Rents, on the other hand, rose by 0.3 per cent. Household operation costs also were higher, mainly on increased prices for furniture, household textiles, floor coverings and household supplies. The price of fuel oil increased by 0.6 per cent in the latest month, reflecting increases of up to one cent per gallon in a number of western cities. The December Housing index was 5.5 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Clothing index edged up by 0.1 per cent to 126.4 in December from 126.3 in the preceding month. Increased prices for most men's wear items and clothing services outweighed lower prices for women's and children's wear, footwear and piece goods. Dry cleaning and shoe repair charges each rose by about two per cent since the last pricing period. While winter sale prices are not usually in full swing until January, women's winter coats, wool dresses and suits were already reduced from their November levels. Sale prices also were registered for some yard goods and various articles of children's clothing. The December Clothing index was 2.4 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Transportation index rose by 0.2 per cent to 122.0 in December from 121.8 in the previous month. Higher prices were recorded for gasoline and chassis lubrications, while the price of motor oil registered a marginal decline. The Transportation index was 5.4 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Health and Personal Care index increased by 0.3 per cent to 136.8 in December from 136.4 in November. The price of men's haircuts rose by 1.0 per cent reflecting increases in Winnipeg, Saint John and some smaller cities. Also registering increases in the latest month were a number of toiletry items. The Health and Personal Care index stood 5.7 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Recreation and Reading index declined by 0.3 per cent to 128.1 in December from 128.5 a month earlier as a result of seasonally lower magazine subscription rates. The Recreation and Reading index was 3.9 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index was unchanged since November. At its December level of 126.3, it was 4.1 per cent higher than a year earlier.

NOTE

The 1969 annual average Consumer Price Index was 125.5 and stood 4.5 per cent above the 1968 level of 120.1. For detailed analysis of annual price movements between 1964 and 1969 see the December 1969 issue of Prices and Price Indexes (Monthly), Catalogue No. 62-002.

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