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PRICE MOVEMENTS

FEBRUARY 1969

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1961=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada in February remained unchanged from its January level of 122.6. Although there was no change in the latest month, the index was 3.7 per cent higher than in February 1968. A drop of 1.0 per cent in the Food index since January counterbalanced fractional increases in the six other major components. This food price decline marked the third consecutive year when a drop was registered between January and February. The Transportation index advanced by 0.9 per cent, largely as a result of increased car insurance rates and local transit fares, while the other main components registered increases ranging from 0.5 to 0.1 per cent.

Consumer Price Index and Main Components (1961=100)

	Component Weights (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1969		1968	Feb. 1969 From	
		Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan. 1968	Feb. 1968
ALL-ITEMS	100	122.6	122.6	118.2	-	+ 3.7
Food	27	123.9	125.1	120.8	- 1.0	+ 2.6
Housing (2)	32	122.3	121.9	116.7	+ 0.3	+ 4.8
Clothing	11	121.8	121.5	119.1	+ 0.2	+ 2.3
Transportation	12	117.3	116.3	113.2	+ 0.9	+ 3.6
Health and Personal Care	7	129.6	129.5	125.1	+ 0.1	+ 3.6
Recreation and Reading	5	124.7	124.2	117.6	+ 0.4	+ 6.0
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	121.9	121.3	117.3	+ 0.5	+ 3.9

ALL-ITEMS Consumer Price Index Converted to 1949=100 158.4

- (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, advanced 0.2 per cent to 265.8 from 265.3 in the three-week period February 7th to February 28th. Prices were higher for eight commodities, lower for four and unchanged for eighteen. Principal changes included price increases for raw rubber, raw sugar and steers, while decreases were shown for hogs and raw wool.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets declined 0.5 per cent to 264.9 from 266.3. The Animal Products index moved down 0.7 per cent to 345.0 from 347.4 on price decreases for hogs, eggs and raw wool on both Eastern and Western markets and for lambs and calves in the West. Higher prices were shown for steers on both markets and for lambs in the East. The Field Products index declined 0.2 per cent to 184.7 from 185.1 on lower prices for tobacco, corn and potatoes on the Eastern market and for flax in the West. Higher prices were shown for hay on both markets and for potatoes in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1969 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Mar. 7th	Feb. 28th	Feb. 21st	Feb. 14th	Feb. 7th	Feb. (P) 1969	Jan. 1969	Feb. 1968
Industrial Materials	A	265.8	264.9	264.6	265.3	264.6	261.4	252.5
Canadian Farm Products	A	264.9	264.8	265.3	266.3	265.3	264.2	250.9
Field	A	184.7	185.0	185.3	185.1	185.3	185.4	186.4
Animal	A	345.0	344.5	345.4	347.4	345.4	343.0	315.4
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada	N	284.0	285.0	286.9	288.7	286.9	285.7	268.2
Western Canada	N	245.7	244.5	243.8	243.9	243.8	242.7	233.6

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)

After reaching a record high of 205.4 at the beginning of the month, the Investors Index of common stock prices registered a sharp decrease in the second half to finish 3.9 per cent below its level of January 30th. Indexes for the three major groups decreased, all falls, however, being under five per cent. Within Industrials, indexes for eleven sub-groups decreased and one increased. Textiles and Clothing remained unchanged at 174.4. Construction registered the only increase in the Investors Index, a rise of 1.5 per cent, and at the beginning of the month reached a seven-year high of 124.3. Decreases ranged from 0.7 per cent for Beverages to 8.9 per cent for Petroleum. In Utilities, all sub-groups showed similar movements. All fell, but none by as much as three per cent. In Finance, Banks dropped 5.2 per cent and Investment and Loan eased 0.2 per cent but at one point reached its highest in three years, 172.9.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices decreased 1.7 per cent, after reaching a record high of 130.1 in the second week. Golds remained unchanged at 171.1 while Base Metals dropped 3.4 per cent to 100.9.

Of the two supplementary price indexes, both Uraniums and Primary Oils and Gas registered their largest decrease in the last year, the former down 7.1 per cent to 228.8 and the latter down 14.1 per cent to 249.3.

The annual review of the indexes was completed this month, and the new selection incorporated into the indexes of February 27th. A complete list of stocks included in the indexes will be published in the February edition of Prices & Price Indexes.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from Jan. 30th	Monthly average		
	Feb. 27th	Feb. 20th	Feb. 13th	Feb. 6th	Jan. 30th		Jan. 1969	Jan. 1969	Feb. 1968
Investors Price Index 114	196.2	201.1	205.4	205.4	204.2	- 3.9	202.0	203.1	163.8
Industrials 80	202.0	207.6	211.8	212.1	211.4	- 4.4	208.4	208.7	172.8
Industrial mines 4	204.4	208.4	218.0	218.1	216.7	- 5.7	212.2	212.8	199.8
Foods 10	217.0	225.1	234.0	231.6	229.6	- 5.5	226.9	238.9	198.3
Beverages 7	312.9	322.6	322.3	320.8	315.1	- 0.7	319.6	311.8	237.4
Textiles and clothing 5	174.4	180.2	186.4	180.1	174.4	-	180.3	164.3	152.8
Pulp and paper 7	152.6	155.8	156.5	154.2	155.6	- 1.9	154.8	144.4	97.1
Printing and pub. 4	728.8	748.3	726.4	725.5	750.4	- 2.9	732.2	752.9	630.2
Primary metals 8	108.7	113.6	117.6	117.8	113.7	- 4.4	114.4	111.8	88.2
Metal fabricating 9	155.0	156.8	163.5	165.3	163.5	- 5.2	160.2	157.5	96.8
Non-metallic minerals 4	130.8	134.6	136.1	135.6	138.8	- 5.8	134.3	130.3	92.0
Petroleum 7	176.4	184.0	184.9	191.3	193.6	- 8.9	184.2	194.7	162.7
Chemicals 4	123.8	127.5	129.9	132.6	130.1	- 4.8	128.4	126.3	94.0
Construction 4	118.8	120.9	123.6	124.3	117.1	+ 1.5	121.9	112.8	61.2
Retail trade 7	263.9	268.1	284.3	275.3	270.5	- 2.4	272.9	275.2	259.4
Utilities 20	177.6	180.1	185.5	182.9	181.0	- 1.9	181.5	181.7	153.7
Pipelines 5	190.9	192.3	198.7	200.3	195.8	- 2.5	195.6	195.5	166.0
Transportation 4	247.6	250.7	267.8	255.3	252.7	- 2.0	255.4	247.3	171.1
Telephone 3	106.1	106.6	109.3	108.7	108.9	- 2.6	107.7	110.7	103.8
Electric power 3	134.5	138.2	137.1	138.9	136.3	- 1.3	137.2	138.3	122.8
Gas distribution 5	424.0	433.0	445.5	430.0	427.9	- 0.9	433.1	432.2	366.6
Finance 14	192.1	196.6	199.8	201.8	199.7	- 3.8	197.6	204.2	132.8
Banks 6	204.3	210.0	213.4	216.9	215.6	- 5.2	211.2	223.5	137.1
Investment and loan 8	167.9	170.1	172.9	172.0	168.3	- 0.2	170.7	166.2	124.0
Mining Stock Price Index 24	125.8	128.8	130.1	129.3	128.0	- 1.7	128.5	125.7	109.8
Golds 6	171.1	174.9	174.8	173.9	171.1	-	173.7	172.6	163.3
Base metals 18	100.9	103.6	105.6	104.9	104.4	- 3.4	103.8	100.1	80.6
Uraniums Price Index 4	228.8	228.7	236.9	243.6	246.4	- 7.1	234.5	245.9	243.5
Primary Oils and Gas 6	249.3	259.6	279.1	283.0	290.3	-14.1	267.8	277.6	193.1



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4

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

The Food index declined by 1.0 per cent to 123.9 in February from 125.1 in January. While prices for some staples including milk and butter remained unchanged, bread and sugar prices declined marginally. Vegetable prices declined, on average, with markedly lower quotations registered for lettuce, celery, tomatoes and cabbage. Higher prices for oranges and apples contributed to an upward movement for fresh fruits. Meat price movements were mixed, with lower quotations for most beef items outweighing rises in the prices for pork products and for processed meats. Though egg prices declined seasonally by nine per cent from the preceding month, their average February level was higher than in earlier years. The Food index in February stood 2.5 per cent above its level of a year ago.

The Housing index rose by 0.3 per cent to 122.3 in February from 121.9 in January due to higher shelter costs. The home-ownership component rose by 0.9 per cent as a result of increased prices for new houses, together with higher insurance premiums and maintenance charges. Rents edged up, on average, by 0.2 per cent across the country. Among household operation items, furniture and floor covering prices were marginally lower as a result of mid-winter sales of these items, while utensils and equipment prices rose fractionally. The February 1969 Housing index stood 4.8 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Clothing index edged up by 0.2 per cent to 121.8 in February from 121.5 in the preceding month. Prices generally edged up from their sale levels of a month earlier. While men's and women's wear prices increased marginally, children's wear declined slightly and footwear remained unchanged. The price level for yard goods rose by nearly two per cent, exceeding declines due to sales in the preceding month. The February Clothing index was 2.3 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Transportation index advanced by 0.9 per cent to 117.3 in February from 116.3 in the preceding month. Higher car insurance premiums in a number of cities contributed heavily to a 0.4 per cent rise in the automobile operation group. At the same time, taxi fares increased in Montreal and Regina, and public transit users in Toronto encountered a substantial fare raise. The February Transportation index stood 3.6 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Health and Personal Care index edged up by 0.1 per cent to 129.6 in February from 129.5 in January. Higher prices for pharmaceuticals and toiletries were mainly responsible for the rise. The Health and Personal Care component in February 1969 was 3.6 per cent above its corresponding level in February 1968.

The Recreation and Reading index rose by 0.4 per cent to 124.7 in February from 124.2 in January. Higher cinema admissions in Vancouver, and increased magazine subscription rates were the main contributors to the increase.

The Tobacco and Alcohol component increased by 0.5 per cent to 121.9 in February from 121.3 a month earlier. The latest rise was mainly attributable to an increase in the price of beer in the Province of Quebec. At its February 1969 level the Tobacco and Alcohol component was 3.9 per cent higher than a year ago.

NOTE

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

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