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PRICE MOVEMENTS

MARCH 1969

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
 (1949=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada increased by 0.5 per cent to 123.2 in March from 122.6 in February. The March 1969 index stood 3.9 per cent above its March 1968 level of 118.6. In the latest month, the Clothing, Transportation and Housing components were the major contributors to the rise. Higher quotations for new lines of spring clothing, combined with the removal of mid-winter sales prices helped boost the Clothing index by 1.6 per cent. The Transportation component advanced by 0.9 per cent, due largely to higher automobile licensing and repair charges, while increased home-ownership costs were chiefly responsible for the 0.4 per cent rise in the Housing component. The Recreation and Reading index was the only other main component to register an increase; the price levels for food and for health and personal care both decreased by 0.1 per cent.

Consumer Price Index and Main Components (1961=100)

	Component Weights (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1969		1968	Mar. 1969 From	
		Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb. 1969	Mar. 1968
ALL-ITEMS	100	123.2	122.6	118.6	+ 0.5	+ 3.9
Food	27	123.8	123.9	119.9	- 0.1	+ 3.3
Housing (2)	32	122.8	122.3	117.1	+ 0.4	+ 4.9
Clothing	11	123.8	121.8	120.5	+ 1.6	+ 2.7
Transportation	12	118.3	117.3	114.0	+ 0.9	+ 3.8
Health and Personal Care	7	129.5	129.6	125.1	- 0.1	+ 3.5
Recreation and Reading	5	125.1	124.7	118.1	+ 0.3	+ 5.9
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	121.9	121.9	119.0	-	+ 2.4

ALL-ITEMS Consumer Price Index Converted to 1949=100 159.2

- (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

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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 0.4 per cent to 267.0 from 266.0 in the three-week period March 7th to March 28th. Prices were higher for eight commodities, lower for seven and unchanged for fifteen. Principal changes included price increases for steel bars, raw sugar, beef hides, steers and rayon, while decreases were shown for tin, linseed oil, wheat, sisal, hogs and oats.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced 0.4 per cent to 265.4 from 264.3. The Animal Products index moved up 1.0 per cent to 347.8 from 344.4 reflecting price increases for eggs, steers and lambs on both Eastern and Western markets and for raw wool in the East. Lower prices were shown for hogs on both markets and for calves in the West. The Field Products index declined 0.6 per cent to 183.1 from 184.2 on lower prices for potatoes on both Eastern and Western markets, for tobacco and corn in the East, and flax in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1969 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Apr. 4th	Mar. 28th	Mar. 21st	Mar. 14th	Mar. 7th	Mar. (P) 1969	Feb. 1969	Mar. 1968
Industrial Materials	E	267.0	266.0	266.1	266.0	266.1	263.5	253.5
Canadian Farm Products	A	265.4	265.3	264.1	264.3	264.1	265.3	249.0
Field	I	183.1	182.9	183.5	184.2	183.5	185.3	185.1
Animal	L	347.8	347.7	344.8	344.4	344.8	345.4	312.9
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada	N	283.2	283.7	282.4	283.1	282.4	286.9	266.7
Western Canada	O	247.6	246.8	245.9	245.5	245.9	243.8	231.3

¹ - All 1969 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 rose 1.9 per cent to 199.9 in the four-week period February 27th to March 27th with increases at the beginning of the month, but levelling off towards the end. Indexes for the three major groups increased, with Industrials up 1.3 per cent, Utilities up 3.1 per cent and Finance up 3.4 per cent over the previous month. Within Industrials, indexes for eight sub-groups increased and five decreased.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices eased 2.6 per cent to 122.5 from 125.8, after having reached a record high of 131.0 at the beginning of the month. Golds also reached an all-time high of 181.5 in the first week, but dropped 5.3 per cent over last month to 162.0. Base Metals remained unchanged at 100.9.

Of the two supplementary price indexes, Uraniums fell 12.1 per cent to 201.1 from 228.8 while Primary Oils and Gas advanced 10.8 per cent to 276.3 from 249.3.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 = 100)

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from Feb. 27th	Monthly average			
	Mar. 27th	Mar. 20th	Mar. 13th	Mar. 6th	Feb. 27th		Mar. 1969	Feb. 1969	Mar. 1968	
Investors Price Index	114	199.9	199.5	195.5	196.9	196.2	+ 1.9	198.0	202.0	157.7
Industrials	80	204.6	203.8	201.2	202.3	202.0	+ 1.3	203.0	208.4	167.2
Industrial mines	4	209.9	206.3	203.1	207.3	204.4	+ 2.7	206.6	212.2	203.1
Foods	10	223.8	222.3	224.2	222.7	217.0	+ 3.1	223.2	226.9	178.1
Beverages	7	312.3	313.0	310.0	308.6	312.9	- 0.2	311.0	319.6	235.5
Textiles and clothing	5	168.9	173.6	165.6	171.4	174.4	- 3.2	169.9	180.3	130.4
Pulp and paper	7	159.7	158.9	154.8	153.8	152.6	+ 4.7	156.8	154.8	87.9
Printing and pub.	4	711.4	731.9	717.6	726.1	728.8	- 2.4	721.8	732.2	610.7
Primary metals	8	113.1	111.3	110.0	109.0	108.7	+ 4.0	110.8	114.4	83.2
Metal fabricating	9	153.1	154.9	154.4	155.2	155.0	- 1.2	154.4	160.2	94.1
Non-metallic minerals	4	128.2	128.9	126.4	131.1	130.8	- 2.0	128.6	134.3	85.8
Petroleum	7	178.3	175.0	174.2	174.5	176.4	+ 1.1	175.5	184.2	150.6
Chemicals	4	127.8	127.7	124.9	125.2	123.8	+ 3.2	126.4	128.4	92.4
Construction	4	121.5	122.4	121.4	119.3	118.8	+ 2.3	121.2	121.9	58.7
Retail trade	7	264.7	265.0	263.8	263.7	263.9	+ 0.3	264.3	272.9	247.9
Utilities	20	183.1	182.2	179.8	180.0	177.6	+ 3.1	181.3	181.5	146.1
Pipelines	5	194.1	193.8	190.6	190.9	190.9	+ 1.7	192.4	195.6	155.6
Transportation	4	269.0	260.3	257.8	251.4	247.6	+ 8.6	259.6	255.4	164.8
Telephone	3	108.8	108.6	105.9	108.2	106.1	+ 2.5	107.9	107.7	101.9
Electric power	3	135.2	137.5	137.0	140.3	134.5	+ 0.5	137.5	137.2	117.2
Gas distribution	5	433.8	432.3	428.5	423.0	424.0	+ 2.3	429.4	433.1	336.5
Finance	14	198.7	201.0	187.7	192.4	192.1	+ 3.4	195.0	197.6	126.1
Banks	6	210.7	214.7	195.0	202.5	204.3	+ 3.1	205.7	211.2	131.0
Investment and loan	8	174.8	174.0	173.0	172.1	167.9	+ 4.1	173.5	170.7	116.3
Mining Stock Price Index	24	122.5	125.6	127.0	131.0	125.8	- 2.6	126.5	128.5	109.6
Golds	6	162.0	171.3	174.7	181.5	171.1	- 5.3	172.4	173.7	163.3
Base metals	18	100.9	100.5	100.8	103.4	100.9	-	101.4	103.8	80.2
Uraniums Price Index	4	201.1	209.6	199.9	221.9	228.8	-12.1	208.1	234.5	239.4
Primary Oils and Gas	6	276.3	263.7	265.4	257.1	249.3	+10.8	265.6	267.8	174.3



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

The Food index dipped by 0.1 per cent to 123.8 in March from 123.9 in February. Price movements generally were mixed, with lower prices for meats, dairy products and eggs outweighing increases for fresh fruits and vegetables. Among meat items, "specials" in a few major cities reduced beef steaks, ham and bacon prices, but chicken prices increased in a number of centres. In Toronto and other eastern cities, increases of fifty per cent or more since the preceding month were recorded in the retail price of lettuce, reflecting the near doubling of prices at wholesale. Other notable but lesser increases among vegetables and fruits were recorded for tomatoes, apples, and both canned and frozen orange juice. Among staple foods, bread and sugar prices increased, while milk, butter, and margarine experienced fractional declines. The March 1969 Food index was 3.3 per cent above its level of a year earlier.

The Housing index rose by 0.4 per cent to 122.8 in March from 122.3 in the preceding month. While rents edged up by 0.2 per cent, higher prices for new houses and repairs, together with increased property taxes, combined to advance home-ownership costs by 0.9 per cent. Among household operation items, homefurnishings, including floor coverings, increased in price after mid-winter sales on these items had expired. The March 1969 Housing index stood 4.9 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Clothing index advanced by 1.6 per cent to 123.8 in March from 121.8 in February. The removal of sale prices on many items, plus additional mark-ups on new lines were mainly responsible for price increases in most outer garments, and footwear items. In addition, increased charges for laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repairs contributed to the overall rise. The Clothing index was 2.7 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Transportation index advanced by 0.9 per cent to 118.3 in March from 117.3 in the preceding month. While the price of new automobiles and gasoline showed little change since the preceding month, other automobile operating costs increased markedly. Increased registration fees were recorded in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, while the price of auto repairs increased substantially throughout the country. The Transportation index was 3.8 per cent above its corresponding level a year earlier.

The Health and Personal Care index declined by 0.1 per cent to 129.5 from 129.6 a month earlier, as the price of toiletries registered a fractional decrease. At its March 1969 level, this component was 3.5 per cent higher than twelve months previous.

The Recreation and Reading index rose by 0.3 per cent to 125.1 in March from 124.7 in February. Contributing to the latest month's rise were generally increased television repair costs and higher newspaper subscription rates in Ottawa and Saint John. The Recreation and Reading index in March was 5.9 per cent higher than twelve months earlier.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index remained unchanged since the previous month. At its March level of 121.9 it was 2.4 per cent above its level of a year previous.

NOTE

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

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