

CATALOGUE No.

62-001

MONTHLY

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# DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Published by Authority of the Minister of Trade and Commerce

Vol. 47 No. 4

Price: 10 cents, \$1.00 a year

## PRICE MOVEMENTS

APRIL 1969

### THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1961=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada advanced by 1.1 per cent to 124.6 in April from 123.2 in March. At its April 1969 level the index stood 4.4 per cent above its corresponding figure in April 1968. Prices in the latest month advanced across a broad front, with main component increases ranging from 0.2 per cent in the Recreation and Reading component to 3.2 per cent for Health and Personal Care. Higher than average price rises at this time of year for food, combined with unusually large increases in the indexes for housing, health and personal care, tobacco and alcohol, and transportation were the major elements in the advance. Increased sales or excise taxes in the Provinces of Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland accounted for most of the advance in the Tobacco and Alcohol index and for nearly a fifth of the rise in the total index since the preceding month.

Consumer Price Index and Main Components (1961=100)

	Component Weights (1)	Index		Per Cent Change		
		1969		1968	April 1969 From	
		April	March	April	March 1969	April 1968
ALL-ITEMS	100	124.6	123.2	119.3	+ 1.1	+ 4.4
Food	27	125.0	123.8	120.8	+ 1.0	+ 3.5
Housing (2)	32	123.7	122.8	117.6	+ 0.7	+ 5.2
Clothing	11	124.3	123.8	121.2	+ 0.4	+ 2.6
Transportation	12	119.9	118.3	114.4	+ 1.4	+ 4.8
Health and Personal Care	7	133.7	129.5	126.9	+ 3.2	+ 5.4
Recreation and Reading	5	125.4	125.1	117.8	+ 0.2	+ 6.5
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	125.5	121.9	121.2	+ 3.0	+ 3.5

ALL-ITEMS Consumer Price Index Converted to 1949=100 ..... 161.0

- (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)<sup>1</sup>

(1935-1939 = 100)

The price index of Thirty Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, advanced 0.6 per cent to 270.2 from 268.6 in the three-week period April 4th to April 25th. Prices were higher for nine commodities, lower for three and unchanged for eighteen. Principal changes included price increases for steers, domestic lead, raw sugar, beef hides, white lead and tin.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets advanced 0.5 per cent to 267.7 from 266.4. The Animal Products index moved up 0.9 per cent to 352.8 from 349.7 reflecting price increases for lambs on both Eastern and Western markets, for steers and hogs in the East, and for cheesemilk and calves in the West. Lower prices were shown for eggs on both markets, for calves in the East, and for hogs and fluid milk in the West. The Field Products index declined 0.3 per cent to 182.6 from 183.1 on lower prices for hay on both Eastern and Western markets, for potatoes in the East, and for flax in the West. Higher prices were recorded for corn in the East and for potatoes and rye in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1969 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	May 2nd	Apr. 25th	Apr. 18th	Apr. 11th	Apr. 4th	Apr. (P) 1969	Mar. 1969	Apr. 1968
Industrial Materials .....	E L B	270.2	269.6	269.5	268.6	269.6	264.1	251.0
Canadian Farm Products .....	A L B	267.7	268.3	267.3	266.4	268.3	264.1	253.5 <sup>r</sup>
Field .....	I L B	182.6	183.0	183.2	183.1	183.0	183.5	193.3 <sup>r</sup>
Animal .....	A V A	352.8	353.7	351.5	349.7	353.7	344.8	313.8
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada .....	N O T	286.9	285.8	284.1	283.4	285.8	282.4	264.1
Western Canada .....	N O T	248.5	250.8	250.5	249.4	250.8	245.9	243.0 <sup>r</sup>

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. The April 1968 index reflects final payments for the crop year 1967-68 announced for barley and oats March 13, 1969, and for wheat March 28, 1969.

(P) - Preliminary.

r - Revised, see Note 1 above.



**SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:**  
(1956 = 100)

The Investors Index of common stock prices rose 2.2 per cent to 204.3 from 199.9 in the four-week period March 27th to April 24th with gradual increases throughout the month. Indexes for the three major groups increased, with Industrials up 2.0 per cent, Utilities up 2.1 per cent to a record high of 186.9, and Finance up 3.5 per cent. Within Industrials, indexes for nine sub-groups increased and four decreased. Increases ranged from 6.3 per cent for Pulp and Paper to 1.1 per cent for Primary Metals, while Metal Fabricating registered the largest decrease of 3.9 per cent. Beverages rose 3.3 per cent to an all-time high of 324.6 and Construction reached 126.3, its highest in ten years. In Utilities, four of the five sub-groups increased, with Telephone up 7.6 per cent to 117.9, its highest in two years. In Finance, Banks increased 1.5 per cent while Investment and Loan advanced 8.0 per cent to 188.8, its highest in four years.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices rose 4.7 per cent to 128.3 in response to increases of 7.6 per cent and 2.2 per cent for Golds and Base Metals respectively.

Of the two supplementary price indexes, Uraniums edged up 1.5 per cent while Primary Oils and Gas advanced 8.1 per cent to a record high of 298.8.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956 - 100)

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from Mar. 27th	Monthly average		
	Apr. 24th	Apr. 17th	Apr. 10th	Apr. 2nd	Mar. 27th		Apr. 1969	Mar. 1969	Apr. 1968
<b>Investors Price Index</b> ..... 114	204.3	204.2	203.4	202.2	199.9	+ 2.2	203.5	198.0	169.1
<b>Industrials</b> ..... 80	208.7	208.9	208.0	206.3	204.6	+ 2.0	208.0	203.0	178.8
Industrial mines ..... 4	209.4	211.5	212.7	210.1	209.9	- 0.2	210.9	206.6	210.8
Foods ..... 10	235.4	231.9	225.7	226.1	223.8	+ 5.2	229.8	223.2	180.2
Beverages ..... 7	322.6	324.6	317.3	311.3	312.3	+ 3.3	319.0	311.0	251.3
Textiles and clothing ..... 5	174.7	173.9	168.7	171.0	168.9	+ 3.4	172.1	169.9	130.1
Pulp and paper ..... 7	169.7	163.9	163.7	163.6	159.7	+ 6.3	165.2	156.8	97.0
Printing and pub. .... 4	753.1	746.6	750.9	728.5	711.4	+ 5.9	744.8	721.8	682.5
Primary metals ..... 8	114.4	115.7	116.9	114.7	113.1	+ 1.1	115.4	110.8	87.4
Metal fabricating ..... 9	147.2	151.5	147.8	153.1	153.1	- 3.9	149.9	154.4	104.2
Non-metallic minerals ..... 4	134.0	136.6	135.2	131.8	128.2	+ 4.5	134.4	128.6	88.8
Petroleum ..... 7	177.7	179.0	176.2	178.6	178.3	- 0.3	177.9	175.5	160.4
Chemicals ..... 4	134.0	133.7	134.0	128.0	127.8	+ 4.9	132.4	126.4	100.4
Construction ..... 4	121.1	120.7	126.3	126.0	121.5	- 0.3	123.5	121.2	66.2
Retail trade ..... 7	272.8	267.6	268.3	269.8	264.7	+ 3.1	269.6	264.3	277.1
<b>Utilities</b> ..... 20	186.9	186.0	186.2	186.4	183.1	+ 2.1	186.4	181.3	154.1
Pipelines ..... 5	196.8	193.4	193.0	196.4	194.1	+ 1.4	194.9	192.4	164.0
Transportation ..... 4	262.4	262.9	267.0	267.1	269.0	- 2.5	264.8	259.6	171.0
Telephone ..... 3	117.1	116.6	117.9	114.5	108.8	+ 7.6	116.5	107.9	104.7
Electric power ..... 3	137.2	137.1	133.0	138.2	135.2	+ 1.5	136.4	137.5	121.9
Gas distribution ..... 5	441.5	440.8	442.3	438.3	433.8	+ 1.8	440.7	429.4	374.0
<b>Finance</b> ..... 14	205.6	204.7	203.2	202.5	198.7	+ 3.5	204.0	195.0	141.7
Banks ..... 6	213.9	214.6	214.4	214.4	210.7	+ 1.5	214.3	205.7	150.6
Investment and loan ..... 8	188.8	184.9	180.9	178.7	174.8	+ 8.0	183.3	173.5	124.2
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b> ..... 24	128.3	126.7	127.0	126.6	122.5	+ 4.7	127.2	126.5	102.4
Golds ..... 6	174.3	170.2	171.4	170.7	162.0	+ 7.6	171.6	172.4	149.4
Base metals ..... 18	103.1	102.9	102.7	102.5	100.9	+ 2.2	102.8	101.4	76.7
<b>Uraniums Price Index</b> ..... 4	204.1	206.9	207.2	207.4	201.1	+ 1.5	206.4	208.1	251.3
<b>Primary Oils and Gas</b> ..... 6	298.8	289.4	287.9	283.0	276.3	+ 8.1	289.8	265.6	189.9





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

The Food index increased by 1.0 per cent to 125.0 in April from 123.8 in March, reflecting higher quotations for both food at home and restaurant meals. Among food items consumed at home, higher prices for beef, chicken, and eggs were the main contributions to the upward movement. At 3.7 per cent price increase in beef items, which comprise some ten per cent of the food basket, was the largest monthly rise since July 1967. By contrast, pork prices declined by 2.1 per cent to reach their lowest level since August 1968. Among the staples, milk, bread and butter remained unchanged in price, while sugar rose by 4.8 per cent to continue its marked upward movement since last October. Produce items as a whole registered less increase than is normal for this month; higher prices for carrots, cabbage, lettuce, and apples were substantially offset by lower prices for tomatoes, celery and oranges. The April 1969 Food index was 3.5 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Housing index rose by 0.7 per cent to 123.7 in April from 122.8 in the preceding month. Home-ownership costs advanced by 1.5 per cent in response to increased new house prices and higher mortgage interest rates. Rents, on the other hand, edged up by only 0.2 per cent. Among household operation items, furniture, appliances, utensils and most household supplies were generally higher in price since the preceding month. The April Housing index stood at a level 5.2 per cent higher than the twelve months previous.

The Clothing index increased by 0.4 per cent to 124.3 in April from 123.8 in March. Most items of men's and women's wear increased in price since the preceding month, with notable advances recorded for men's suits, shirts, and windbreakers, and women's suits and hosiery. Footwear, piece goods, and jewellery also registered increases, while prices for children's wear declined marginally due to sales on a number of items. The April Clothing index was 2.6 per cent above its level of a year ago.

The Transportation index advanced by 1.4 per cent to 119.9 in April from 118.3 a month earlier. Most of the increase in this component was attributable to higher local transit fares in Montreal, Winnipeg, and Hamilton. Bus and subway fares have now risen some seventy per cent since 1961, advancing in this period faster than any other non-food item in the C.P.I. While new automobile prices generally remained unchanged, or registered slight declines in the latest month, automobile operation costs increased marginally following extension of provincial sales taxes to these items in Nova Scotia and further increase in New Brunswick rates. The April 1969 Transportation index was 4.8 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Health and Personal Care index advanced by 3.2 per cent to 133.7 in April from 129.5 in March. Largest contributor to the increase was private prepaid medical care premiums in Ontario and Alberta. In addition, doctors, dentists and optometrists also increased their fees in a number of cities. Among personal care items, the price of haircuts increased in Montreal and Saskatoon. The Health and Personal Care index was 5.4 per cent higher than its corresponding level of twelve months previous.

The Recreation and Reading index edged up by 0.2 per cent to 125.4 in April from 125.1 in the preceding month. Increased prices for television sets and bicycles outweighed decreases for phonograph records and radios. Newspaper subscription rates increased in Quebec city. The Recreation and Reading index stood 6.5 per cent higher than in April 1968.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index advanced by 3.0 per cent to 125.5 in April from 121.9 a month earlier. Increased taxes on these products in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick accounted for most of the rise in this component. The Tobacco and Alcohol index was 3.5 per cent above its corresponding level of a year earlier.