

CA 1 BSS 2.  
C001  
Feb. '70

CATALOGUE No.

62-001

MONTHLY

3

# DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Published by Authority of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce

Vol. 48 No. 2

Price: 10 cents, \$1.00 a year

## PRICE MOVEMENTS

FEBRUARY 1970

### THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1961=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada moved up by 0.4 per cent to 128.7 in February from 128.2 in January. At its February 1969 level, the index was 5.0 per cent higher than twelve months earlier. In the latest month, over half of the rise in the All-Items index was attributable to a 0.9 per cent advance in the Food index, with especially notable increases recorded for beef, pork and other meats. Among the four other major components that registered advances, the Recreation and Reading index advanced by 0.8 per cent reflecting higher magazine subscription rates, while the Transportation and the Recreation and Reading indexes each moved up by 0.7 per cent. The Housing index rose 0.2 per cent due entirely to an increase in the shelter component. The Clothing index declined 0.3 per cent to reflect the continuation of mid-winter sales on many apparel items. The Tobacco and Alcohol index was unchanged from its January level.

Consumer Price Index and Main Components (1961=100)

	Component Weight (1)	Index			Per Cent Change	
		1970		1969	February 1970 From	
		February	January	February	January 1970	February 1969
ALL-ITEMS	100	128.7	128.2	122.6	+ 0.4	+ 5.0
Food	27	131.3	130.1	123.9	+ 0.9	+ 6.0
Housing (2)	32	128.3	128.1	122.3	+ 0.2	+ 4.9
Clothing	11	125.1	125.5	121.8	- 0.3	+ 2.7
Transportation	12	123.5	122.7	117.3	+ 0.7	+ 5.3
Health and Personal Care	7	137.7	136.8	129.6	+ 0.7	+ 6.2
Recreation and Reading	5	129.0	128.0	124.7	+ 0.8	+ 3.4
Tobacco and Alcohol	6	126.5	126.5	121.9	-	+ 3.8

ALL-ITEMS Consumer Price Index Converted to 1949=100 ..... 166.3

- (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 0.9 per cent to 131.3 in February from 130.1 in January. Over half of this upward movement in the Food index was attributable to a 6.1 per cent advance in beef prices. After declining over thirteen per cent between June and December 1969, the beef index, in the last two months, has regained approximately half of this decline. In the latest month, price increases for beef were registered in most major cities across the country reflecting higher prices paid at livestock auctions. Other meat items also rose in price in the latest month:

(Continued on Page 4)

Prices Division

8200-303

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

The price index of Thirty Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, advanced 0.3 per cent to 275.0 from 274.1 in the three-week period February 6th to February 27th. Prices were higher for six commodities, lower for six and unchanged for eighteen. Principal changes included increases for steel scrap, beef hides, raw sugar and steers while decreases occurred for raw rubber and hogs.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets declined 0.2 per cent to 281.1 from 281.6. The Animal Products index moved 0.4 per cent lower to 372.2 from 373.8 reflecting price decreases for eggs and hogs on both Eastern and Western markets and for raw wool in the East. Higher prices were shown for lambs, steers and calves on both markets. The Field Products index moved up 0.3 per cent to 189.9 from 189.3 on higher prices for oats on the Eastern market and for hay and flax in the West. Lower prices were shown for rye in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1970 Week Ended					Monthly Indexes		
	Mar. 6th	Feb. 27th	Feb. 20th	Feb. 13th	Feb. 6th	Feb. (P) 1970	Jan. 1970	Feb. 1969
Industrial Materials .....	N O T	275.0	275.2	274.3	274.1	274.3	272.3	263.5
Canadian Farm Products .....		281.1	282.2	281.8	281.6	281.8	275.2	265.4
Field .....	A V A I L A B L E	189.9	189.9	189.2	189.3	189.2	185.4	185.3
Animal .....		372.2	374.6	374.5	373.8	374.5	364.9	345.5
Regional Indexes:								
Eastern Canada .....		304.9	306.0	305.5	305.3	305.5	295.4	287.0
Western Canada .....		257.2	258.5	258.1	257.8	258.1	254.9	243.8

1 - All 1970 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.

CATALOGUE No.

62-001

MONTHLY

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Re: Wholesale and Security Price Indexes

Consideration is being given to deleting from this publication the information on Wholesale Price Indexes and Security Price Indexes contained on pages 2 and 3. The information on Security Price Indexes is released in The D.B.S. Daily (Catalogue No. 11-001), which is available on a free distribution basis, and The Wholesale Price Indexes could be made available in the same way.

If this change in content of the present publication, which would then contain only Consumer Price Movements, would seriously inconvenience you please advise us. For this purpose your comments may be noted on this sheet and mailed to:

Director, Prices Division,  
Dominion Bureau of Statistics,  
Ottawa, Canada

8200-503



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

The Investors Index of common stock prices rose 1.8 per cent to 198.6 in the four-week period January 29th to February 26th. Among the three major groups, Industrials increased 1.8 per cent, Utilities eased 0.6 per cent, and Finance rose 4.9 per cent. Within Industrials, indexes for seven sub-groups increased and six decreased. Increases ranged from 6.6 per cent for Foods to 0.6 per cent for Printing and Publishing. Non-metallic Minerals continued a downward trend to register the largest decrease at 7.9 per cent; similarly, Construction fell by 6.6 per cent. In Utilities, Telephone increased 1.6 per cent and Electric Power edged up 0.3 per cent, while the other sub-groups registered decreases. In Finance, Banks rose 6.0 per cent to 213.4 and Investment and Loan increased 2.1 per cent to 168.1.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices eased 1.0 per cent in response to losses in Golds and Base Metals of 2.0 and 0.5 per cent respectively.

Of the two supplementary price indexes, Uraniums advanced 12.3 per cent to 146.6 and Primary Oils and Gas rose 3.3 per cent to 238.7.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956=100)

Index and numbers of stocks priced	Week ended					% change from Jan. 29th	Monthly average		
	Feb. 26th	Feb. 19th	Feb. 12th	Feb. 5th	Jan. 29th		Feb. 1970	Jan. 1970	Feb. 1969
Investors Price Index .... 114	198.6	195.2	194.3	192.8	195.0	+ 1.8	195.2	199.0	202.0
Industrials ..... 80	210.5	207.6	206.3	204.3	206.8	+ 1.8	207.2	210.8	208.4
Industrial mines ..... 4	242.3	233.7	232.8	226.0	228.5	+ 6.0	233.7	234.8	212.2
Foods ..... 10	265.0	253.8	248.5	248.5	248.6	+ 6.6	254.0	257.3	226.9
Beverages ..... 7	326.0	328.1	320.9	315.8	318.4	+ 2.4	322.7	324.3	319.6
Textiles and clothing ..... 5	136.2	135.2	133.6	133.8	140.2	- 2.9	134.7	138.2	180.3
Pulp and paper ..... 7	155.7	153.7	151.3	148.7	148.9	+ 4.6	152.4	155.0	154.8
Printing and pub. .... 4	823.1	810.4	805.5	804.0	818.1	+ 0.6	810.8	841.6	732.2
Primary metals ..... 8	96.7	94.4	92.0	91.3	92.3	+ 4.8	93.6	93.7	114.4
Metal fabricating .... 9	129.1	126.4	126.8	127.2	127.3	+ 1.4	127.4	134.0	160.2
Non-metallic minerals ..... 4	106.3	108.8	107.0	111.4	115.4	- 7.9	108.4	119.7	134.3
Petroleum ..... 7	180.8	181.8	184.6	186.9	190.8	- 5.2	183.5	184.1	184.2
Chemicals ..... 4	86.2	87.5	87.2	87.9	87.0	- 0.9	87.2	91.6	128.4
Construction ..... 4	60.9	58.7	58.9	64.8	65.2	- 6.6	60.8	68.7	121.9
Retail trade ..... 7	234.4	241.2	242.4	243.0	248.8	- 5.8	240.2	257.6	272.9
Utilities ..... 20	155.3	153.4	153.8	156.1	156.2	- 0.6	154.6	160.3	181.5
Pipelines ..... 5	177.0	173.0	180.3	182.3	179.7	- 1.5	178.2	186.3	195.6
Transportation ..... 4	203.6	200.3	199.8	204.5	210.2	- 3.1	202.0	213.7	255.4
Telephone ..... 3	99.7	99.8	97.8	97.9	98.1	+ 1.6	98.8	100.6	107.7
Electric power ..... 3	115.9	112.9	112.6	116.5	115.5	+ 0.3	114.5	119.5	137.2
Gas distribution ..... 5	345.1	344.3	341.1	346.4	345.7	- 0.2	344.2	351.4	433.1
Finance ..... 14	198.2	190.0	189.4	185.3	189.0	+ 4.9	190.7	192.6	197.6
Banks ..... 6	213.4	201.7	199.9	195.5	201.3	+ 6.0	202.6	205.0	211.2
Investment and loan .. 8	168.1	166.9	168.4	164.9	164.6	+ 2.1	167.1	168.0	170.7
Mining Stock Price Index . 24	112.4	112.9	112.1	112.0	113.5	- 1.0	112.4	115.4	128.5
Golds ..... 6	104.0	106.3	104.7	103.1	106.1	- 2.0	104.5	110.6	173.7
Base metals ..... 18	117.0	116.5	116.2	116.9	117.6	- 0.5	116.6	118.0	103.8
Uraniums Price Index ..... 4	146.6	141.3	137.4	131.0	130.5	+ 12.3	139.1	136.7	234.5
Primary Oils and Gas ..... 6	238.7	238.2	226.1	228.5	231.1	+ 3.3	232.9	238.4	267.8



1010751251

- 4 -

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

pork was up 1.5 per cent, poultry 0.6 per cent and fish 1.6 per cent. Meat prices on the whole were just over ten per cent higher than they were twelve months earlier. Vegetable prices were relatively unchanged between January and February as markedly higher prices for onions, carrots, cabbage and potatoes were largely offset by lower prices for tomatoes, lettuce and celery. Since twelve months earlier, vegetable prices rose by some sixteen per cent in contrast to a price decline of 2.4 per cent for fruits over the same period. Some staple foods, including coffee, sugar and butter, increased since the preceding month. The average price of fresh milk also rose fractionally as a result of an upward movement in Toronto. In the latest month, egg prices declined seasonally by about six per cent to moderate price rises in other elements of the food budget. The February Food index was 6.0 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Housing index rose by 0.2 per cent to 128.3 in February from 128.1 in January. The latest month's increase was entirely attributable to a rise in the shelter component. The home-ownership index moved up by 0.3 per cent reflecting higher prices for new houses and repairs. Rents also shared in the increase, rising 0.2 per cent in the latest month. Within the household operation component, higher price levels for fuel and electricity were offset by sales on a number of furniture, floor covering, and household textile items. The February Housing index stood 4.9 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Clothing index declined by 0.3 per cent to 125.1 in February from 125.5 a month earlier. The latest decline was a reflection of the continuation of mid-winter sales which, a month earlier, had contributed to a 0.7 per cent decline in this index. Between January and February, men's wear, children's wear and footwear each registered decreases of 0.3 per cent, while women's wear and piece goods prices edged up slightly after recording declines a month earlier. The Clothing index in February was 2.7 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Transportation index moved up by 0.7 per cent to 123.5 in February from 122.7 a month earlier. Among automobile operation items, car insurance rates registered advances ranging between two and fifteen per cent in a number of major Canadian cities. Within the local transportation component bus fare increases were recorded for Regina and Thunder Bay, while taxi fares moved up in Hamilton and a number of smaller Ontario centres. The price of inter-city travel, on the other hand, dropped by eight per cent due to seasonally lower train fares. The February Transportation index stood 5.3 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Health and Personal Care index rose by 0.7 per cent to 137.7 in February from 136.8 in the preceding month. Higher prices were recorded for most pharmaceutical and toiletry items, while prices of men's and women's hairdressing moved up in a number of the outlets surveyed across the country. The Health and Personal Care index was 6.2 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Recreation and Reading index advanced by 0.8 per cent to 129.0 in February from 128.0 a month earlier. A 5.7 per cent increase in magazine subscription rates accounted for most of the rise in this component in the latest month. Other factors contributing to the increase were higher cinema admissions in Edmonton and Saint John, and marginal increases for camera film and processing in several major cities. The February Recreation and Reading index stood 3.4 per cent above its level of a year earlier.

The Tobacco and Alcohol component was unchanged from its January level of 126.5 and stood 3.8 per cent higher than a year earlier.

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