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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

MARCH 1970

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

The Consumer Price Index for Canada increased by 0.2 per cent to 128.9 in March from 128.7 in February. The March 1970 index stood 4.6 per cent above its corresponding level twelve months earlier. In the latest month, four of the seven major components registered increases ranging from 0.4 to 0.7 per cent. Partially offsetting these upward movements the Food index declined by 0.6 per cent, while two other main components were unchanged since the preceding month. Among components that registered increases, the Housing index moved up by 0.7 per cent due to increased prices for both shelter and household operation items. The Clothing index also rose by 0.7 per cent, largely as a result of higher prices associated with the introduction of new spring lines and the removal of mid-winter sales. The Transportation and the Recreation and Reading indexes each rose by 0.4 per cent. The latest decrease in the Food index reflected lower prices for beef, pork and eggs.

Consumer Price Index and Main Components (1961=100)

|                          | Component Weight (1) | Index |          |       | Per Cent Change |            |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------|------------|
|                          |                      | 1970  |          | 1969  | March 1970 From |            |
|                          |                      | March | February | March | February 1970   | March 1969 |
| ALL-ITEMS                | 100                  | 128.9 | 128.7    | 123.2 | + 0.2           | + 4.6      |
| Food                     | 27                   | 130.5 | 131.3    | 123.8 | - 0.6           | + 5.4      |
| Housing (2)              | 32                   | 129.2 | 128.5    | 122.8 | + 0.7           | + 5.2      |
| Clothing                 | 11                   | 125.0 | 125.1    | 123.8 | + 0.7           | + 1.8      |
| Transportation           | 12                   | 124.0 | 124.0    | 118.3 | + 0.4           | + 4.8      |
| Health and Personal Care | 7                    | 137.7 | 137.7    | 129.5 | -               | + 6.3      |
| Recreation and Reading   | 5                    | 129.5 | 129.0    | 125.1 | + 0.4           | + 3.5      |
| Tobacco and Alcohol      | 6                    | 126.5 | 126.5    | 121.9 | -               | + 3.8      |

ALL-ITEMS Consumer Price Index Converted to 1949=100 ..... 166.5

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

The Food index declined 0.6 per cent to 130.5 in March from 131.3 in February. In the latest month, beef and pork prices registered decreases of 1.2 and 1.5 per cent respectively, following two successive months of increases. Egg quotations dropped 11.9 per cent between February and March and were almost thirty per cent below their December 1969 level. The March price level for eggs was 1.1 per cent higher than a year earlier. Several vegetable items also

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Prices Division

8200-503

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

The price index of Thirty Industrial Materials, calculated as an unweighted geometric average, advanced 0.4 per cent to 277.0 from 275.8 in the three-week period March 6th to March 27th. Prices were higher for six commodities, lower for six and unchanged for eighteen. Principal changes included increases for steel scrap, raw sugar, spruce lumber, steers, tin and oats while decreases occurred for hogs.

In the same three-week period, the price index of Canadian Farm Products at terminal markets declined 2.2 per cent to 276.4 from 282.7. The Animal Products index moved 3.2 per cent lower to 363.9 from 375.8 reflecting price decreases for lambs and hogs on both Eastern and Western markets and for raw wool in the East and calves and steers in the West. Higher prices were shown for eggs and steers in the East. The Field Products index moved down 0.4 per cent to 188.9 from 189.6 on lower prices for hay and oats on the Eastern market and for flax and rye in the West; potatoes were lower on both markets.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

|                              | 1970 Week Ended                           |              |              |              |             | Monthly Indexes  |              |              |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                              | Apr.<br>3rd                               | Mar.<br>27th | Mar.<br>20th | Mar.<br>13th | Mar.<br>6th | Mar. (P)<br>1970 | Feb.<br>1970 | Mar.<br>1969 |
| Industrial Materials .....   | N<br>O<br>T                               | 277.0        | 276.9        | 275.7        | 275.8       | 275.7            | 272.3        | 264.1        |
| Canadian Farm Products ..... |   | 276.4        | 278.1        | 280.3        | 282.7       | 280.3            | 281.8        | 264.1        |
| Field .....                  | A<br>V<br>A<br>I<br>L<br>A<br>B<br>L<br>E | 188.9        | 189.1        | 189.4        | 189.6       | 189.4            | 189.2        | 183.5        |
| Animal .....                 |   | 363.9        | 367.2        | 371.2        | 375.8       | 371.2            | 374.5        | 344.8        |
| Regional Indexes:            |   |              |              |              |             |                  |              |              |
| Eastern Canada .....         |   | 299.4        | 300.9        | 304.7        | 305.5       | 304.7            | 305.5        | 282.4        |
| Western Canada .....         |   | 253.4        | 255.3        | 255.9        | 259.9       | 255.9            | 258.1        | 245.9        |

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.



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

The Investors Index of common stock prices edged up 0.3 per cent to 199.1 in the four-week period February 26th to March 25th. Among the three major groups, Industrials rose just 0.5 per cent, Utilities increased 2.4 per cent, and Finance dropped 3.4 per cent. Within Industrials, indexes for six sub-groups increased while seven decreased. Non-metallic Minerals jumped 8.9 per cent over last month, while other increases ranged from 2.0 per cent for Printing and Publishing to 0.9 per cent for Industrial Mines which reached an all-time high of 244.4. The decreases were all under two per cent, except for Textiles and Clothing which dropped 6.3 per cent. In Utilities, all sub-groups rose with the largest increase of 3.7 per cent in Electric Power. In Finance, Banks and Investment and Loan fell 3.7 and 2.6 per cent respectively.

In the same period, the index of Mining stock prices increased 1.9 per cent as a result of an advance of 10.6 per cent for Golds and a loss of 2.4 per cent for Base Metals.

Of the two supplementary price indexes, Uraniums edged up 0.6 per cent while Primary Oils and Gas fell 7.2 per cent.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1956=100)

| Index and numbers of stocks priced | Week ended |           |           |          |           | % change from Feb. 26th | Monthly average |           |           |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                    | Mar. 25th  | Mar. 19th | Mar. 12th | Mar. 5th | Feb. 26th |                         | Mar. 1970       | Feb. 1970 | Mar. 1969 |
| Investors Price Index ..... 114    | 199.1      | 197.8     | 200.1     | 201.0    | 198.6     | + 0.3                   | 199.5           | 195.2     | 198.0     |
| Industrials ..... 80               | 211.6      | 209.9     | 211.8     | 212.3    | 210.5     | + 0.5                   | 211.4           | 207.2     | 203.0     |
| Industrial mines ..... 4           | 244.4      | 241.3     | 243.1     | 241.6    | 242.3     | + 0.9                   | 242.6           | 233.7     | 206.6     |
| Foods ..... 10                     | 262.7      | 262.2     | 265.2     | 265.5    | 265.0     | - 0.9                   | 263.9           | 254.0     | 223.2     |
| Beverages ..... 7                  | 330.3      | 326.1     | 326.5     | 331.6    | 326.0     | + 1.3                   | 328.6           | 322.7     | 311.0     |
| Textiles and clothing . 5          | 127.6      | 125.9     | 130.9     | 129.5    | 136.2     | - 6.3                   | 128.5           | 134.7     | 169.9     |
| Pulp and paper ..... 7             | 154.8      | 154.9     | 157.1     | 157.8    | 155.7     | - 0.6                   | 155.2           | 152.4     | 156.8     |
| Printing and pub. .... 4           | 839.6      | 834.7     | 848.0     | 843.4    | 823.1     | + 2.0                   | 841.4           | 810.8     | 721.8     |
| Primary metals ..... 8             | 98.4       | 99.1      | 100.8     | 99.8     | 96.7      | + 1.8                   | 99.5            | 93.6      | 110.8     |
| Metal fabricating .... 9           | 126.8      | 128.0     | 128.9     | 130.8    | 129.1     | - 1.8                   | 128.6           | 127.4     | 154.4     |
| Non-metallic minerals . 4          | 115.8      | 115.5     | 111.5     | 110.5    | 106.3     | + 8.9                   | 113.3           | 108.4     | 128.6     |
| Petroleum ..... 7                  | 180.0      | 177.4     | 178.5     | 181.0    | 180.8     | - 0.4                   | 179.2           | 183.5     | 175.5     |
| Chemicals ..... 4                  | 85.0       | 86.7      | 88.6      | 91.2     | 86.2      | - 1.4                   | 87.9            | 87.2      | 126.4     |
| Construction ..... 4               | 62.0       | 63.0      | 59.0      | 60.7     | 60.9      | + 1.8                   | 61.2            | 60.8      | 121.2     |
| Retail trade ..... 7               | 231.2      | 227.2     | 228.0     | 229.7    | 234.4     | - 1.4                   | 229.0           | 240.2     | 264.3     |
| Utilities ..... 20                 | 159.0      | 156.9     | 157.5     | 158.9    | 155.3     | + 2.4                   | 158.1           | 154.6     | 181.3     |
| Pipelines ..... 5                  | 181.1      | 176.8     | 177.4     | 177.6    | 177.0     | + 2.3                   | 178.2           | 178.2     | 192.4     |
| Transportation ..... 4             | 207.5      | 206.7     | 204.8     | 212.4    | 203.6     | + 1.9                   | 207.8           | 202.0     | 259.6     |
| Telephone ..... 3                  | 102.6      | 101.9     | 101.3     | 102.2    | 99.7      | + 2.9                   | 102.0           | 98.8      | 107.9     |
| Electric power ..... 3             | 120.2      | 119.5     | 118.5     | 117.4    | 115.9     | + 3.7                   | 118.9           | 114.5     | 137.5     |
| Gas distribution ..... 5           | 349.4      | 341.3     | 353.6     | 355.9    | 345.1     | + 1.2                   | 350.0           | 344.2     | 429.4     |
| Finance ..... 14                   | 191.5      | 192.9     | 199.4     | 201.3    | 198.2     | - 3.4                   | 196.3           | 190.7     | 195.0     |
| Banks ..... 6                      | 205.5      | 208.4     | 216.0     | 217.6    | 213.4     | - 3.7                   | 211.9           | 202.6     | 205.7     |
| Investment and loan ... 8          | 163.7      | 162.2     | 166.8     | 169.1    | 168.1     | - 2.6                   | 165.4           | 167.1     | 173.5     |
| Mining Stock Price Index .. 24     | 114.5      | 113.9     | 115.7     | 116.1    | 112.4     | + 1.9                   | 115.0           | 112.4     | 126.5     |
| Golds ..... 6                      | 115.0      | 114.2     | 115.2     | 114.0    | 104.0     | + 10.6                  | 114.6           | 104.5     | 172.4     |
| Base metals ..... 18               | 114.2      | 113.7     | 115.9     | 117.2    | 117.0     | - 2.4                   | 115.2           | 116.6     | 101.4     |
| Uraniums Price Index ..... 4       | 147.5      | 158.6     | 158.3     | 151.3    | 146.6     | + 0.6                   | 153.9           | 139.1     | 208.1     |
| Primary Oils and Gas ..... 6       | 221.4      | 217.5     | 221.3     | 219.9    | 238.7     | - 7.2                   | 220.0           | 232.9     | 265.6     |



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

contributed to the latest month's decline: lower prices for potatoes, carrots, cabbage and celery outweighed increases for tomatoes, turnips and onions. Among fresh fruits, however, a six per cent drop in grapefruit prices was not enough to offset higher quotations for apples, oranges, and bananas. Fresh milk prices dipped by 0.1 per cent as lower quotations in a number of Toronto outlets more than offset increases in Vancouver. Among bakery and cereal items, lower prices for bread, cake mixes and some breakfast cereals were balanced by increases for flour and macaroni. Some items which in the latest month and since a year earlier have recorded marked upward movements included: peanut butter, up 6.0 per cent in the latest month and (thirteen per cent) since a year earlier; regular coffee, 1.8 per cent (ten per cent); and lard, 1.8 per cent (19.2 per cent). The price of restaurant meals edged up by 0.2 per cent between February and March. The Food index stood 5.4 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Housing index rose by 0.7 per cent to 129.2 in March from 128.3 a month earlier. Increased shelter and household operation prices contributed equally to the latest month's advance. While rents rose by 0.3 per cent, the home-ownership component moved up by 0.8 per cent reflecting higher prices for new houses and repairs. Among domestic utilities, electricity prices increased substantially in the Province of Quebec, while telephone rates rose in some cities in Nova Scotia. The price of homefurnishings was unchanged, as sales on some furniture items offset increases for floor coverings, household textiles, and utensils. The March Housing index was 5.2 per cent higher than its corresponding level a year earlier.

The Clothing index moved up by 0.7 per cent to 126.0 in March from 125.1 in February. Higher prices following mid-winter sales were registered for many items of men's, women's and children's wear. Especially noticeable increases were recorded for men's suits, topcoats, and women's spring coats, and dresses. Among children's wear items, boys' slacks and suits and girls' spring coats and dresses registered the largest increases. Footwear and piece goods also rose in price, while clothing services registered a decline due to specials on dry cleaning charges in Winnipeg and Saskatoon. The Clothing index was 1.8 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Transportation index rose by 0.4 per cent to 124.0 in March from 123.5 in the preceding month. Although new car prices edged down by 0.2 per cent, automobile operating costs were generally higher. These increases were led by repair prices which moved up by two to five per cent and by lubrication charges which increased 1.8 per cent. Gasoline prices rose by 0.5 per cent due mainly to increases in Saskatchewan, while the price of tires and batteries each moved up by 1.4 per cent. Among fixed expenses, licensing fees registered noticeable increases in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia. In the local transportation group, higher bus fares were recorded in Ottawa, Sudbury and Sherbrooke. The Transportation index was 4.8 per cent above its level of twelve months previous.

The Health and Personal Care index was unchanged from its February level of 137.7. A fifty cent rise in the price of men's haircuts in Quebec City was offset by minor declines for a number of toiletry items. The Health and Personal Care index stood 6.3 per cent above its level of a year ago.

The Recreation and Reading index increased by 0.4 per cent to 129.5 in March from 129.0 in February. The increase in the latest month was entirely attributable to a 6.6 per cent upward movement in the price of television repairs. At its March level, the Recreation and Reading index was 3.5 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The Tobacco and Alcohol index was unchanged from its February 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.

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