

would be a very rough translation necessitating human post-editing, but with the demand for professional translators exceeding the supply, such a method could be an important aid to the already overburdened Canadian translator.

Although other countries such as the United States, Britain, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany, have been experimenting in machine translation for some years, their programs are concerned with the translation of Russian documents into various languages. It was found that, while a very low-quality translation could be produced which could be understood by an expert, a high-quality, automatic translation appeared to be a goal which might be reached only in the very distant future.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index (1961=100) for Canada increased by 0.2 per cent to 124.9 in May from 124.6 in April. The May 1969 index was 4.7 percent above its level of May 1968. The latest month's increase was largely attributable to a 0.4 percent increase in the heavily-weighted housing component and to a 1.6 percent advance in the recreation-and-reading index. All other main component indexes registered slight increases with the exception of clothing, which declined in response to sales on a number of items.

FOOD

The food index edged up by 0.1 per cent to 125.1 in May from 125.0 in April. Price movements generally were mixed with higher prices for beef and some fresh vegetables and fruit outweighing declines for poultry, pork and other meats. The May 1969 food index was 4.2 percent higher than that of a year earlier.

HOUSING

The housing index rose by 0.4 per cent to 124.2 in May from 123.7 in the preceding month. Prices for new houses advanced by 2.0 per cent, while repairs rose by 1.4 per cent. Much of this rise can be traced to increased prices for building materials and higher wage rates in construction. Rents edged up by 0.2 per cent, with the largest increases from the preceding month occurring in Calgary and Halifax. Household operation costs as a whole were slightly higher, as sales on carpets, sheets and utensils

moderated the effect on higher prices for other household supplies and services. The May 1969 housing index stood 5.3 percent above its level of last May.

CLOTHING

The clothing index decreased by 0.4 per cent to 123.8 in May from 124.3 a month earlier. Men's, women's and children's wear, as well as footwear and piece-goods, registered price declines, reflecting spring sales on a number of items, notably men's and boys' suits and women's and girls' spring coats. Clothing services registered a fractional increase as laundry and dry-cleaning charges advanced marginally. The latest clothing index was 2.6 percent above that of May 1968.

TRANSPORT

The transportation index increased by 0.4 per cent to 120.4 in May from 119.9 in April. Increased train fares were responsible for much of the rise in the latest month; however, part was attributable to seasonal changes in fare patterns. Despite slightly lower new car prices, automobile operating costs were marginally higher as gasoline prices in Montreal advanced by 1 cent a gallon. Some air fares between Canada and the United States were increased. The transportation component stood 5.2 percent higher than that of last year.

HEALTH AND RECREATION

The health-and-personal care component increased by 0.4 per cent to 134.2 in May from 133.7 in April. Most pharmaceuticals and toiletries were higher in price, as were men's haircuts and women's hair-dressing in a number of cities. The health-and-personal care index for May 1969 was 5.3 percent higher than that of a year ago.

The recreation-and-reading index advanced by 1.6 per cent to 127.4 in May from 125.4 the month before. Higher cinema admissions provided most of the impetus as virtually all major cities recorded marked increases. Prices for toys, camera film and processing also rose to contribute to the increase in this component. The recreation-and-reading index was 6.9 percent above its level of last May.

The tobacco-and-alcohol index edged up by 0.2 per cent to 125.8 in May, from 125.5 a month earlier, as a result of marginally higher cigarette prices in a number of cities. At its May level, the tobacco-and-alcohol index was 3.7 percent higher than that of a year ago.