

CONSUMER PRICE MOVEMENTS

The Consumer Price Index for Canada (1961=100) rose 0.1 per cent, to 138.3 in May from 138.2 in April. The food component fell 0.7 per cent but all other components increased. The housing index rose 0.4 per cent, while the indexes for health and personal care and for recreation and reading each advanced 0.7 per cent. Both the clothing and the tobacco-and-alcohol components moved up 0.3 per cent and a 0.2 percent rise was recorded in the transportation index. Between May 1971 and May 1972, the all-items index advanced 4.2 per cent.

The *food index* fell 0.7 per cent to 137.4 in May from 138.3 in April, mainly because of price declines in Montreal and Toronto. The price level of food consumed at home decreased by 0.8 per cent; food eaten outside the home rose by 0.7 per cent. Dairy, bakery and cereal products, as well as some other foodstuffs, were the main contributors to the decline in the average price of food at home. The bakery and cereal index moved down 1.0 per cent during April and May as special prices in Montreal and Toronto took effect on bread, cake mixes and a variety of other such products. The price of butter, cheese, powdered and evaporated milk and ice-cream also declined, but fluid milk edged up in price as higher quotations were registered in Vancouver and Winnipeg.

The *housing index* advance of 0.4 per cent to 142.2 in May from 141.6 in April, was attributable to a 0.7 percent increase in the shelter component, mainly because of higher new-house prices and repair charges; rents rose only fractionally in the latest month. No change was recorded in the household-operation component as furniture prices rose 0.2 per cent and quotations for floor coverings, on the average, dipped 0.4 per cent. Lower prices due to sales were also recorded for a number of household supplies, including light bulbs, toilet paper, floor-wax and detergents. Amongst household-services items, telephone rates increased in St. John's. In May 1972, the housing index stood 4.5 percent above its level of May 1971.

The *clothing index* rose 0.3 per cent to 131.5 in May from 131.1 in April because of increases in the men's wear (0.5 per cent), footwear (0.6 per cent) and children's wear (0.2 per cent) components. Among men's wear items, higher prices were recorded for suits, topcoats, trousers and sweaters, partly owing to the removal of earlier sale prices.

The *transportation index* rose 0.2 per cent, to 133.2 in May from 133.0 in April. A 0.2 percent increase in the automobile-operations component was the result of slightly higher new-car and gasoline prices, while the price level for local public transportation moved up by 0.8 per cent because of advances in Montreal and Toronto taxi fares. Between

May 1971 and May 1972, the transportation index rose 2.5 per cent.

The *health-and-personal-care index* advanced 0.7 per cent to 149.0 in May from 148.0 in April mainly because of a 1.1 percent increase in the personal-care component; in contrast, health care edged up only 0.1 per cent as a result of higher prices for some pharmaceuticals. The chief contributors to an advance of 1.8 per cent in personal-care services were higher men's haircut and women's hairdressing charges in a number of cities across the country. Toiletry items, on average, rose in price by 0.2 per cent as prices increased for toothpaste, face cream and cleansing tissues. In the 12 months since May 1971, the health-and-personal-care index moved up by 4.9 per cent.

The *recreation-and-reading index* advanced 0.7 per cent to 139.2 in May from 138.3 in April because of a 0.8 percent increase in the recreation element. Motion-picture admission charges rose 3.3 per cent as a result of higher prices in a number of cities including Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, and prices of toys and games rose, on average, 1.2 per cent as advances were recorded in most cities. Camera film and processing charges, however, dipped 0.9 per cent. In May 1972, the recreation-and-reading index stood 2.7 percent above its level of May 1971.

The *tobacco-and-alcohol index* rose 0.3 per cent to 132.5 in May from 132.1 in April, mainly because of tax increases on tobacco products in Manitoba, though scattered price increases for cigarettes and cigarette tobacco were also recorded in other parts of the country. In the 12 months to May 1972, the tobacco-and-alcohol index increased 3.3 per cent.

Consumer price index items, when classified by commodities and services, offer another view of the incidence of the change in prices. The services index advanced 0.7 per cent in April and May, with higher prices for movie admission, men's haircuts and women's hairdressing, together with increased taxi fares. On the other hand the total commodities index dipped 0.2 per cent because of the decline in food prices. The index for non-durables, excluding food rose 0.2 per cent, mainly as a result of higher prices for clothing, tobacco, toys and games, and durables edged up 0.1 per cent because of slightly higher new car and furniture prices.

GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS BACK TO SCHOOL

Forty geography teachers from high schools across Canada were in Ottawa in June for a special week-long course in mapping offered by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The Surveys and Mapping Branch of the Department conducted lectures and practical training