

social and economic patterns, and that the administration of the national parks of Canada had been made keenly aware of this fact by the entry of more than 12 million visitors into parks during 1967, compared to a mere 500,000 in 1936.

"One of the objectives of the Department, in meeting this trend of increased visitation to national parks, is to give vocational direction towards the natural resource based park planning and outdoor recreation management fields," the Minister said.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Canada's consumer price index increased by 0.5 per cent, to 151.8, at the beginning of December from 151.0 at the beginning of November. The December 1967 index was 4.0 percent above the December 1966 level of 145.9. Of the seven major components, the largest contributor to the rise was the tobacco-and-alcohol component, which advanced by 3.3 per cent, partly as a result of a recent increase in excise taxes on these products. An advance of 1.1 per cent was registered in the transportation index, while the food and housing components advanced by 0.4 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively. Clothing prices increased marginally and there was a fractional decline in the recreation-and-reading index. The health-and-personal-care component remained unchanged at its November level.

FOOD

The food index rose 0.4 per cent, to 148.6 in December from 148.0 in November, reflecting price increases for a number of staple food items. The price of fresh milk and other dairy products, including cheese and ice cream, moved up generally. Bread prices also increased, as did most other bakery and cereal products. Among the miscellaneous grocery items, sugar prices advanced by over 2 per cent, while infants' food rose a little less. On the other hand, both tea and coffee prices declined somewhat, and butter and margarine prices also decreased marginally. Among the produce items, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, tomatoes and citrus fruits rose in price, but this increase was offset by price decreases for bananas and celery. Meats, on the average, were lower in price in December, the most notable declines occurring for bacon and other pork products and for poultry.

HOUSING

The housing index increased by 0.3 per cent, to 153.8 in December, owing to higher shelter and household operation costs. Rents rose generally, the largest increases occurring in Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. Home-ownership costs edged up, largely because of higher repair expenses. Household operation costs rose slightly as higher prices

for fuel, furniture, and utensils outweighed declines for floor coverings and some household textiles. The clothing index edged up 0.1 per cent, to 134.7 from 134.5 the preceding month, owing to marginal increases in men's and women's wear, footwear, piece goods and clothing services. These upward movements were partly offset by declines in children's wear prices. The transportation index advanced by 1.1 per cent, to 159.6 in December from 157.9 in November, largely owing to the introduction of 1968 automobile prices, which were higher than those of the year-end prices of 1967 models. Minor price rises also occurred for motor-oil and for automobile lubrication. A substantial increase in Edmonton bus fares also contributed to the advance in the transportation index.

HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE

The health-and-personal-care index remained unchanged at its November level of 193.8, slightly lower prices for toilet soap, razor blades and toothpaste offsetting rises in the price of cleansing tissues and of men's haircuts in two cities. The recreation-and-reading index declined by 0.5 per cent, to 169.7 from 170.5 the preceding month, mainly as a result of variations in magazine subscription rates. The tobacco-and-alcohol index advanced by 3.3 per cent, to 133.0 in December from 128.7 in November, reflecting, in part, the higher excise taxes imposed on these products. Price rises were registered in all surveyed cities for cigarettes and tobacco. For alcoholic beverages, however, higher prices were recorded only in those places where increases became effective by the middle of December.

CANADA ADJUSTS TO KENNEDY ROUND RESULTS

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Unemployment insurance arrangements, of course, are also designed to facilitate changes of this sort, as well as other adjustments that may be required in the economy. Obviously, it is essential that a proper level of benefits be provided if the unemployment-insurance programme is to work effectively. The Government is, therefore, proposing to introduce an amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act later this session, which will provide for an increase in the level of unemployment insurance benefits....

The Government believes that this programme of adjustment-assistance will provide Canadian manufacturers with the assurance of financial and technical assistance which they need for improving their competitive strength in the post Kennedy Round commercial environment.