

housing index increased 0.5 per cent and that for transportation 0.9 per cent. The clothing component rose 0.4 per cent while the indexes for tobacco and alcohol and for recreation, education and reading both edged up 0.1 per cent. The index for health and personal care remained unchanged. From June 1972 to June 1973, the all-items index advanced 8.1 per cent.

Food chief culprit

The food index rose 2.0 per cent to 160.5 in June from 157.4 in May. This latest advance is in sharp contrast to the increases of 0.1 per cent between May and June of 1972 and 0.2 per cent a year earlier, but compares with an advance of 2.2 per cent between these two months in 1969. In the latest month, prices for food eaten away from home rose, on average, 0.6 per cent, while those for the home consumption component climbed 2.2 per cent. Although all main elements of home-consumed foods registered increases, the major contributors were fresh produce, beef and poultry. Fresh produce, which normally increases in price at this time of year, was markedly higher in June than it was in May. Prices of fresh vegetables rose, on average, 8.7 per cent as higher quotations for — amongst other items — potatoes, lettuce and tomatoes, offset decreases for other vegetables. Fresh fruit prices advanced 5.1 per cent with most items surveyed recording increases. Over the past 12 months, the index for fresh vegetables climbed over 51 per cent and for fresh fruit 23 per cent. The meat, poultry and fish index, which recorded a decline in early May, advanced 2.7 per cent in the latest month with beef prices increasing 5.1 per cent and poultry 2.3 per cent. Pork prices rose 0.5 per cent. Since June 1972, the retail price of beef rose, on average, 21 per cent, pork prices were almost 22 per cent higher and poultry prices advanced over 26 per cent. Between May

and June egg prices rose 2.0 per cent to stand over 61 percent above their level of a year earlier. A rise of 1.0 per cent in the cereal and bakery products index in June was mainly the result of higher bread and breakfast cereal prices. Prices of dairy products rose, on average, 0.3 per cent largely because of increases for ice cream, evaporated and powdered skim milk. The index for fats and oils, including margarine, shortening, cooking oil and salad dressing, advanced 1.4 per cent. In the 12 months since June 1972, the food index advanced 16.7 per cent with the price of food consumed at home rising 17.7 per cent and that for food away from home 11.1 per cent.

Housing

The housing index advanced 0.5 per cent to 152.1 in June from 151.3 in May because of increases of 0.4 per cent in shelter and 0.6 per cent in household operation. In the 12-month period ending June 1973, the housing index rose 6.7 per cent.

Clothing

The clothing index rose 0.4 per cent to 138.1 in June from 137.5 in May mainly because of increases in clothing service charges and higher prices for men's and children's wear. Charges for clothing services advanced 2.5 per cent owing to higher prices for laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repairs. Between June 1972 and June 1973, the clothing index rose 5.2 per cent.

Transportation

The transportation index rose 0.9 per cent to 136.1 in June from 134.9 in May as price increases were recorded in both the private and the public transportation components. Within the former an advance of 1.4 per cent in the automobile operation and maintenance index was largely attributable to widespread increases in gasoline and motor oil prices. The advance of the public transportation component was caused by a rise in the train fares index and by some increases in inter-city bus fares. Between June 1972 and June 1973, the transportation index rose 1.9 per cent.

Goods and services

Consumer price movements, reclassified by goods and services, offer another view of the incidence of price change.

Between May and June, the total goods index advanced 1.1 per cent. Durable goods were 0.3 percent higher mainly as a result of increased prices for furniture, household appliances and equipment and new cars. Semi-durable goods also rose 0.3 per cent chiefly because of increased prices for household furnishings and utensils and clothing. A 1.5 percent advance in the non-durable goods component was mostly attributable to higher prices for food, gasoline, fuel oil, domestic supplies and alcoholic beverages. The services index rose 0.4 per cent mainly in response to increased charges for shelter and clothing services and driving lessons. Between June 1972 and June 1973, the total goods index advanced 8.8 per cent and that for services 6.5 per cent.

Women in banking

As at April 30, 1973, the chartered banks in Canada had over 106,000 employees, of which 70 per cent, or some 74,000, were women. Although the majority were employed in clerical jobs such as teller, machine-operator, stenographer and typist, a large number were filling management jobs not only in specialized functions in divisional headquarters and at head office but in line-management jobs at the branch level as well.

In the past, the banks have tended to overlook the management potential of many of their women employees, but in recent years have been moving to correct the situation. While figures for all banks are not available, at the Bank of Montreal 12 per cent of all management jobs are now held by women, compared to 5 per cent only seven years ago, and the proportion, says the Bank, will undoubtedly continue to rise in coming years. □

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