

CONSUMER PRICES

During May and June, Canadian consumer price indexes rose in eight regional cities and city-combinations and fell in four others. The movements ranged from an increase of 0.9 per cent in St. John's, Newfoundland, to a decrease of 0.5 per cent in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Food indexes rose in five cities, declined in six and remained unchanged in one, reflecting generally higher restaurant meal prices and mixed movements in quotations for food consumed at home. Housing indexes rose in 11 cities, chiefly as a result of increased rents and higher prices for many home furnishing items; increased telephone rates were also a contributing factor in a number of Ontario and Quebec cities. Clothing indexes rose in seven cities and declined in five. Increased charges for clothing-upkeep were recorded in most cities surveyed, but apparel prices were lower in many areas. Transportation indexes rose in nine cities, reflecting increased interurban bus and rail fares and higher charges for automobile lubrication in many centres. The health-and-personal-care components declined in six cities, rose in four and were unchanged in two others, mainly as the result of mixed price movements for toileteries. The recreation-and-reading components also registered mixed movements generally, while the tobacco-and-alcohol indexes rose in four cities, notably St. John's, and were unchanged in eight others.

St. John's – Higher prices for food and tobacco products were chiefly responsible for a 0.9 percent increase in the all-items index during the latest month. At its June 1972 level of 129.2 (1961=100), it stood 4.4 percent higher than last year's June figure.

Halifax – The Halifax consumer price index edged up 0.1 per cent in the latest month to a level 2.8 percent above that of June 1971.

Saint John – The all-items index increased 0.4 per cent from May to June to reach a level 3.8 percent above that of a year earlier.

Quebec City – Lower food and clothing prices were mainly responsible for a 0.3 percent decline in the Quebec City consumer price index during June. At its June 1972 level of 106.7 (1969=100) it stood 2.2 percent higher than the June 1971 figure.

Montreal – The Montreal consumer price index declined 0.2 per cent during June to a level 3.2 percent above that of June 1971.

Ottawa – The all-items index edged up 0.1 per cent in June to a level 3.1 percent above that of June 1971.

Toronto – At its June 1972 level of 133.9 (1961=100), the Toronto consumer price index stood

0.4 percent higher than in May 1972 and 3.4 percent above its June 1971 level.

Thunder Bay – The all-items index declined 0.5 per cent in June. At its June 1972 level of 106.6 (1969=100), it was 2.8 percent higher than it was in June 1971.

Winnipeg – From May to June, the Winnipeg consumer price index edged up 0.1 per cent to reach a level 3.0 percent above that of June 1971.

Saskatoon-Regina – The all-items index increased 0.4 per cent in June 1972 to a level 3.6 percent higher than it was 12 months ago.

Edmonton-Calgary – The consumer price index for Edmonton-Calgary rose 0.3 percent from May to June to reach a level 4.2 percent above that recorded a year earlier.

Vancouver – Lower food prices were chiefly responsible for a 0.1 percent decline in the Vancouver all-items index in June. At its June 1972 level of 131.7, it stood 3.9 percent higher than in June 1971.

NEW HORIZONS FOR ELDERLY CANADIANS

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talks with provincial governments as well as with agency representatives. I myself will be involved in these conversations.

The key feature of the program implementation from a federal-provincial relations standpoint will be the regional decentralization to eight locations across the country. Regional offices will be established to serve the following areas: British Columbia; Alberta; Yukon and Northwest Territories; Saskatchewan and Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; Nova Scotia; and Newfoundland. Through this regional network, the program will be able: to work in co-operation with social service agencies and senior citizens' organizations; to ensure a prompt response to the needs of project groups; to support retired citizens' groups that may require assistance in developing project proposals; to reach out to special-needs groups among the elderly who may be unorganized and inarticulate; to maintain close relations with provincial and municipal officials; to encourage community support that may result in alternate sources of funding; to monitor progress of the program as a whole and to develop an adequate evaluation of the program.

By involving many different interests in the implementation and assessment of selected projects, the New Horizons program will strengthen relationships across the country.