

## Questions

YEARLY INCREASE IN COST OF  
LIVING INDEX

## CANADA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Question No. 2,608—**Mr. Robinson:**

What was the increase per year in the cost of living index since its inception?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that: The yearly percentage change in the Consumer Price Index since 1913, is shown in the attached table. An explanation of the linking of the indexes to produce a continuous series is given below. The All-Items Consumer Price Index for Canada (1949=100)

The primary purpose of a consumer price index is the measurement of current price movements. Therefore, the items and their weights in the index should reflect the full range and relative importance of commodities and services bought by the population group to which the index relates. As the spending habits of the population change over time, the index based on a particular pattern of expenditure becomes a less and less reliable measure of price movement. For this reason major revisions of the index "basket" are made periodically. Such revisions break the continuity of the index and the separate indexes must be linked to provide an historical index.

The All-Items Consumer Price Index, from 1913 to date expressed in terms of 1949=100, incorporates five distinct series each covering part of the entire period. In each index the items and their weights are appropriate to the period covered by the specific index; i.e. each index relates to a particular "basket" of commodities and services.

The five indexes "linked" to produce one continuous series from 1913 to date are designated in the following table in terms of the period for which each constitutes the measure of price movement. The successive weight base periods are also indicated. The beginning and ending months of each index are specific link dates.

Index	Base Weight Period
1913, January 1914—January 1926	1913
January 1926—January 1935	1926
January 1935—January 1949	1937-38
January 1949—January 1961	1947-48
January 1961 forward	

[Mr. Pelletier.]

Percentage Change Since the Preceding Year<sup>1</sup>

1914	+ 0.6	1943	+ 1.8
1915	+ 1.8	1944	+ 0.5
1916	+ 8.3	1945	+ 0.5
1917	+ 18.4	1946	+ 3.3
1918	+ 13.1	1947	+ 9.4
1919	+ 9.9	1948	+ 14.4
1920	+ 15.8	1949	+ 3.1
1921	- 12.0	1950	+ 2.9
1922	- 8.5	1951	+ 10.5
1923	+ 0.3	1952	+ 2.5
1924	- 1.7	1953	- 0.9
1925	+ 0.9	1954	+ 0.6
1926	+ 1.1	1955	+ 0.2
1927	- 1.7	1956	+ 1.5
1928	+ 0.4	1957	+ 3.2
1929	+ 1.2	1958	+ 2.6
1930	- 0.7	1959	+ 1.1
1931	- 9.8	1960	+ 1.2
1932	- 9.1	1961	+ 0.9
1933	- 4.7	1962	+ 1.2
1934	+ 1.4	1963	+ 1.8
1935	+ 0.7	1964	+ 1.8
1936	+ 2.0	1965	+ 2.4
1937	+ 3.1	1966	+ 3.7
1938	+ 1.1	1967	+ 3.5
1939	- 0.8	1968	+ 4.2
1940	+ 4.0	<sup>2</sup> Average	
1941	+ 5.9	Change	+ 2.2
1942	+ 4.7		

<sup>1</sup> Data derived from Consumer Price Index for Canada (1949 = 100). See explanation for details.

<sup>2</sup> Simple average of the fifty-five annual percentage changes listed.

[Translation]

## MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

### AGRICULTURE

#### ALLEGED SERIOUS SITUATION FACING MILK PRODUCERS

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration.

[English]

Because of the urgency and importance of this matter and this motion, may I be permitted to explain in the second official language.