

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index (1949=100) was unchanged at 132.3 between the beginning of April and May. The May index was 1.7 per cent above the May 1962 index of 130.1. In the current period, declines in the food, clothing, and tobacco-and-alcohol indexes offset increases in the transportation, health-and-personal-care, and recreation-and-reading indexes. The housing index was unchanged.

The food index decreased 0.5 per cent from 128.9 to 128.3, as lower prices were reported for eggs, fats, lettuce, oranges, pork, veal, chicken and turkey. Prices rose for milk, sugar, jams, most fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, orange juice and beef.

### HOUSING

The housing index was unchanged at 136.0, with a fractional decline in the household-operation component balanced by a rise in the shelter component. In shelter, rents were unchanged but the index of home-ownership was up slightly. In household operation, price increases for furniture, floor coverings and textiles more than balanced lower prices for fuel, utensils and equipment, and household supplies.

The clothing index declined 0.1 per cent, from 115.7 to 115.6. Decreases in men's and women's wear outweighed higher prices for children's wear and foot-wear.

### TRANSPORTATION

The transportation index rose 1.0 per cent, from 139.2 to 140.6, largely as a result of higher transit fares in Toronto at the beginning of May (rescinded May 20). The automobile-operation component also increased, however, with higher prices for gasoline and automobile insurance. Prices for new passenger cars edged up.

The health-and-personal care index increased 0.3 per cent, reflecting price increases for pharmaceuticals in the health-care component and for both supplies and services in the personal-care component. In personal-care services, prices of men's haircuts and women's hairdressing were higher.

The recreation-and-reading index increased 0.5 per cent, from 148.0 to 148.8. The reading component was unchanged, but the recreation component rose, as a result of higher prices for motion-picture admissions, camera film, bicycles and toys.

The tobacco-and-alcohol index declined from 117.9 to 117.8, as lower prices for cigarettes moved the tobacco component. The alcoholic-beverages component was unchanged.

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## VISIT OF RN FRIGATES

Three ships of the Royal Navy will visit Canada this summer during a month's training cruise in the Western Atlantic. They are HMS "Tenby", "Torquay" and "Wizard", of the Royal Navy's Dartmouth Training Squadron, based at Devonport, England. "Tenby" and "Torquay" are "Whitby"-class anti-submarine frigates, each displacing 2,144 tons. "Wizard", a Type 15 anti-submarine frigate, displaces 2,380.

The squadron's function is to provide basic ship experience for officer cadets of the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. Each year the squadron makes three overseas training cruises.

During their Canadian visit a total of 689 officers cadets and men will be embarked in the three ships. "Tenby", commanded by Captain T.T. Lewin, RN, is senior ship of the squadron. "Torquay" is commanded by Commander P.E.C. Berger, RN, and Lieutenant-Commander W.D. Jenks, RN, is in command of "Wizard".

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## CREDIT STATISTICS

Balances outstanding on the books of sales-finance companies, small-loan companies, department stores, furniture and appliance stores, and chartered banks (personal loans) were larger at the end of March this year than last.

"Outstandings" at the end of March were, in millions (percentage gains from a year earlier in brackets): sales finance companies for consumer goods, \$771 (5.3 per cent); sales-finance companies for commercial goods, \$423 (9.6 per cent); small-loan companies for cash loans, \$658 (15.0 per cent); small-loan companies for instalment credit, \$44 (25.7 per cent); department stores, \$383 (6.7 per cent); furniture and appliance stores, \$183 (1.1 per cent); and chartered banks for personal loans, \$1,625 (9.5 per cent).

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## "CANADA WEEK" AT PHILADELPHIA

The Department of Trade and Commerce recently announced that the Mayor of Philadelphia had decreed that November 11-16 should be "Canada Week" in that city. During the week, Philadelphia will play host to a friendly invasion of Canadians participating in a major sales programme spearheaded by the Department of Trade and Commerce.

A feature of the week will be an all-Canadian trade fair, aimed at capturing for Canadian products a greater share of the Philadelphia market.

Preparations are already in high gear. More than half the space has been reserved, and requests are coming in daily. The Department hopes to have representatives from all ten provinces.

Products already in the show include a wide range of Canadian goods - from home freezers to openers.

The decision to hold the all-Canadian fair in Philadelphia was based on an intensive survey of the area by the Department of Trade and Commerce of population, income, freight facilities and Canada's exports and potential for export to the region. A prospectus, summarizing the results of the survey, is available to interested businessmen, from the Trade Publicity Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce.

In addition to the trade fair, a number of special events are planned during "Canada Week". These include skating exhibitions by champion Canadian skaters and a ceremonial visit by a Royal Canadian Navy flotilla.