

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES

Consumer price indexes rose in February and March in five of the ten regional cities, fell in four, and were unchanged in the other. Increases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Vancouver to 0.3 per cent in St. John's and Halifax; decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Ottawa and Toronto to 0.3 per cent in Montreal.

Food indexes rose in five cities and fell in five, with increases ranging from 0.2 per cent in Winnipeg to 0.7 per cent in St. John's and Halifax and decreases ranging from 0.3 per cent in Toronto to 1.6 per cent in Montreal. Housing indexes were up in seven cities, down in one, and unchanged in two. Clothing indexes were higher in nine cities and lower in one. Indexes for transportation registered increases in five cities, a decrease in one, and no change in four. In five cities the health-and-personal-care indexes were higher; in five, they were unchanged. The indexes for recreation and reading showed one higher, five lower, and four unchanged. The tobacco-and-alcohol indexes were unchanged in all cities.

St John's - The all-items index rose 0.3 per cent from 119.0 to 119.3 as increases were reported in the food, housing, clothing and transportation indexes. The recreation-and-reading index declined slightly, while the health-and-personal-care index was unchanged.

Halifax - The index for all items moved from 130.9 to 131.3, an increase of 0.3 per cent. The indexes for food, clothing and health and personal care were higher; indexes for housing, transportation, and recreation and reading were unchanged.

Saint John - The all-items index rose 0.2 per cent from 132.7 to 132.9 as a result of higher indexes for food, housing, clothing and transportation. The health-and-personal-care and recreation-and-reading indexes showed no change from the previous month.

Montreal - A drop of 0.3 per cent in the all-items index, which moved from 132.4 to 132.0, followed decreases for the food and recreation-and-reading components. Three indexes - clothing, transportation, and health-and-personal-care - were higher, while the housing index was unchanged.

Ottawa - The all-items index fell 0.1 per cent, from 133.2 to 133.1, as increases in the housing and clothing indexes were not sufficient to offset the lower food index. All other component indexes were unchanged.

Toronto - The index for all items declined 0.1 per cent, from 133.8 to 133.7, as the food, transportation and recreation-and-reading indexes showed declines while housing, clothing and health and personal care increased slightly.

Winnipeg - The all-items index was unchanged at 129.8 as higher indexes for food, transportation and recreation and reading were offset by lower indexes for housing and clothing. The health-and-personal-care index was unchanged.

Saskatoon-Regina - Higher component indexes for food, housing and clothing moved the all-items index upward 0.2 per cent from 128.1 to 128.3. The recreation-and-reading index declined, while transportation and health and personal care were unchanged.

Edmonton-Calgary - With a lower index reported for food, the all-items index fell 0.2 per cent from 127.4 to 127.2. Three indexes - housing, clothing, and health and personal care - were higher, while the other three components registered no change.

Vancouver - Increases in four components - housing, clothing, transportation and health and personal care - and decreases in two - food and recreation and reading - moved the index for all items from 131.6 to 131.7, an increase of 0.1 per cent.

CANADA'S FOREST WEALTH

Forest industries in Canada employ nearly 300,000 persons and pay out \$1,200 million in salaries and wages each year, more than any other group of industries. This and many other facts showing the economic reliance of Canadians on their forest resources are condensed in a pamphlet recently issued by the Department of Forestry, Ottawa.

Entitled "Canada - A Forest Nation", the booklet contains information regarding Canada's forest area of 1,700,000 square miles, the annual forest harvest, employment in forest industries, and the value of the forest-products exports that make up 30 per cent of Canada's total export trade.

The respective roles of the provinces and the Federal Government in forest administration are outlined briefly. The pamphlet also refers to professional and technical training in forestry, and to the need for public education to encourage better protection and wiser use of the forest.

SEAWAY SEASON STARTS

Eighteen vessels passed through the St. Lambert Lock at the Montreal entrance of the St. Lawrence Seaway in the first 24 hours of the 1963 navigation season, according to the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority.

Sixteen ships, including the Seaway Authority's own 275-ton gate-lifter-crane "S.L.S. Hercules", followed in the wake of the huge Canadian lake S.S. "Montrealais", which inaugurated the Seaway's traffic on April 15. One ship transited downbound.

Though lighted aids have not yet been placed along the Seaway channels, owing to earlier ice conditions, the "Montrealais" did not anchor for the night, and passed through the Iroquois Lock, at the Western end of the seven-lock system between Montreal and Lake Ontario at 20 minutes past midnight on April 16. She was followed just two hours after by the ocean-going ship S.S. "Polaris" of the Chicago-America Line, bound for Toronto.

This season is the fifth on the St. Lawrence Seaway, and the third during which the Montreal-Lake Ontario section has opened on April 15, the official opening date. The two earlier seasons were retarded several days by weather and ice conditions.

The Welland Canal opens each year April 1, but ice conditions on Lake Erie often denies useful through transit for ships for a few days.