

Consumer price indexes

From September to October, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities with increases ranging from 0.2 per cent in Saint John, New Brunswick, to 1.4 per cent in Regina, Saskatchewan. Higher home ownership charges resulting mainly from annual increases in residential property taxes were largely responsible for these advances, while increased prices for clothing contributed to a lesser extent. Other contributing factors included higher fees for dental care and for university tuition. Movements of prices for food at home varied across the country with prices of fresh vegetables generally higher and those for beef lower.

St. John's, Newfoundland – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.3 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.4 per cent.

Halifax, Nova Scotia – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.6 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.0 per cent.

Saint John, New Brunswick – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.2 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 5.4 per cent.

Quebec City, Quebec – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.7 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 5.5 per cent.

Montreal, Quebec – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.5 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 5.3 per cent.

Ottawa, Ontario – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.7 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.2 per cent.

Toronto, Ontario – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.7 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.5 per cent.

Thunder Bay, Ontario – All items:

September to October 1976, up 0.6 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 7.8 per cent.

Winnipeg, Manitoba – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.9 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 7.7 per cent.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.5 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.6 per cent.

Regina, Saskatchewan – All items: September to October 1976, up 1.4 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 8.1 per cent.

Edmonton, Alberta – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.6 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.2 per cent.

Calgary, Alberta – All items: September to October 1976, up 1.3 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 7.0 per cent.

Vancouver, British Columbia – All items: September to October 1976, up 0.6 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 8.8 per cent.

News briefs

■ The Joint Co-operation Committee established under the Framework Agreement on Commercial and Economic Co-operation between Canada and the European Communities, which entered into force October 1, met for the first time in Brussels on December 10.

■ Justice Minister Ron Basford introduced legislation on human rights in the House of Commons on November 29, which would establish an anti-discrimination code and allow citizens to examine their own Government files. The Government also proposes to establish a human rights commission of five to nine members to investigate complaints.

■ CBC president Al Johnson says the corporation will offer to set up a new cable-television network if Members of Parliament vote to televise parliamentary debates.

■ The Bank of Montreal reports that central banks in most Western industrialized countries, including the Bank of Canada, have turned to tighter control of money supply growth in an effort to avoid economic fluctuations in the short run and inflation in the long run.

Apartment vacancies

The average vacancy rate for privately-initiated apartment structures of six units and more in Canada's 22 metropolitan areas in October was 1.3 per cent, according to a survey undertaken by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

This figure, an increase from 1.1 per cent last April, represents a total of 14,299 vacant units completed after April 1976.

The tightest market conditions for rental apartments was in Edmonton, Alberta, where the rate was effectively 0, followed by Calgary, Alberta, Regina and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan at 0.1 per cent, Thunday Bay, Ontario, at 0.2 per cent, Victoria, British Columbia, at 0.6 per cent and Quebec and Vancouver, British Columbia, at 0.7 per cent.

The highest vacancy levels were found to be in Hull, Quebec, at 8.8 per cent, Saint John, New Brunswick, at 7.9 and Hamilton, Ontario, at 3.0.

■ Secretary of State John Roberts has announced that a special Canadian medal will be struck to mark the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth. The Canadian Jubilee Medal will be presented to outstanding Canadians during 1977, the twenty-fifth year of the Queen's reign.

■ International Development Research Centre president Dr. W.D. Hopper has announced a grant of \$41,000 in support of a major initiative to increase rice production in West Africa.

■ Robert Rene de Cotret, president of the Conference Board in Canada, has forecast real growth in Canada's gross national product next year of 4.5 per cent.

■ House prices and sales have levelled off nationally and the outlook is for a continuation of this trend for at least another year, Blair Jackson, executive vice-president of the Canadian Real Estate Association, says.

■ Ontario Treasurer Darcy McKeough said recently there would be no increase in personal income tax for the province at the beginning of 1977, but the statement did not preclude the possibility of increases next year.

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