

**World Wholesale Price Indexes.**—Price changes within different countries have varied widely since the years before World War II. Comparisons between Canadian wholesale price changes and those that have occurred in other countries are provided in Table 3.

### 3.—Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Canada and other Countries, 1949, and December, 1950 and 1951

NOTE.—Base: 1948=100 except for France, where 1949=100.

(SOURCE: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations*)

'Country	1949	Month of December—		Country	1949	Month of December—	
		1950	1951			1950	1951
Australia.....	112	143	173	New Zealand.....	99	113	135
<b>Canada</b> .....	<b>103</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>123</b>	Norway.....	102	127	149
Chile.....	114	151	192	Peru (Lima).....	140	178	203
Denmark.....	102	129	151	Portugal (Lisbon).....	102	100	117
Finland.....	101	132	177	Sweden.....	101	118	149
France.....	100	120	152	Switzerland.....	95	101	105
India.....	104	112	118	Union of South Africa.....	106	119	142
Mexico (Mexico City).....	110	129	154	United Kingdom.....	105	133	151
The Netherlands.....	104	128	145	United States.....	95	107	109

## Section 2.—The Consumer Price Index

A new measurement of retail prices entitled, "The Consumer Price Index", was introduced by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in October 1952. This index has been constructed to replace the Cost-of-Living Index and marks the most thorough and comprehensive index of retail prices ever constructed in Canada. The new index was introduced in a Bureau publication entitled *The Consumer Price Index, January 1949–August 1952*, which contains detailed information on such aspects of the new index as purpose, family coverage, base period, and provides details of the items included as well as their relative importance. It also gives the formula used in calculating the index, outlines methods of price collection and explains the special features of the new index.

The purpose of the Consumer Price Index is essentially the same as that of the Cost-of-Living Index; that is, to measure changes in retail prices of goods and services bought by a representative cross-section of the Canadian urban population. The families covered by the new index, however, are somewhat different from those represented in the Cost-of-Living Index and consist of those families who, during the survey year ended Aug. 31, 1948, lived in 27 Canadian cities of 30,000 population or over, ranged in size from two adults to two adults with four children and had annual incomes ranging from \$1,650 to \$4,050.

To measure the influence of price change upon the cost of goods and services purchased by such families, the Consumer Price Index contains 225 items, nearly 40 p.c. more than the Cost-of-Living Index. This expanded list of items reflects changes in consumption habits of Canadian families that occurred over the decade