

## CHAPTER XXIII.—PRICES\*

### CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES.....	1073	SECTION 3. INDEX NUMBERS OF SECURITY PRICES.....	1083
SECTION 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.....	1078		

NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

### Section 1.—Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

The term "wholesale prices" refers in this Chapter to sales transactions that occur below the retail level; it has more of a connotation of bulk purchase than of any homogeneous level of distribution. Ingredients for the general wholesale price index are obtained mainly from manufacturers but include prices from wholesalers proper, assemblers of primary products, agents and the other types of commercial enterprises who trade in commodities of a type or in quantities characteristic of primary marketing functions. Wholesale price indexes are grouped according to a commodity classification scheme based on chief component material similarities. In addition, indexes classified according to degree of manufacture are available. For the latter, however, because significant groups of manufactured products are not directly included, tabulations are not attempted on narrower bases than "Raw and Partly Manufactured" and "Fully and Chiefly Manufactured" commodity groups. Wholesale price indexes are regularly released in the DBS monthly publication *Prices and Price Indexes* which contains related current series on retail and security prices. Volume 23 of that publication is a historical summary reaching back to the year 1867 for some series and, together with DBS Reference Paper 24, *Wholesale Prices Indexes 1930-1950*, contains an explanation of index construction and meaning.

The number and identity of commodities contained in the index has been virtually fixed since 1951 when the index was placed on a 1935-39 base. Commodities were included either because they bulked large in total marketings at that time or because they were

\* Revised in the Prices Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.