

World Wholesale Price Indexes.—Price changes within different countries have varied widely during the years. Comparisons of Canadian wholesale price indexes with those of other countries are given in Table 5.

5.—Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Canada and Other Countries, 1959-61
(1958=100)

SOURCE: *United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, May 1963.

Country	1959	1960	1961	Country	1959	1960	1961
Belgium.....	100	101	100	India.....	104	111	113
Brazil.....	138	180	249	Iran.....	99	102	102
Britain.....	101	101	100	Israel.....	98	105	115
Canada.....	101	101	102	Korea, Republic of.....	102	113	134
Chile.....	130	137	138	Netherlands.....	101	99	98
Denmark.....	100	100	102	New Zealand.....	102	102	102
Dominican Republic (St. Domingo).....	94	97	91	Norway.....	100	101	102
France.....	105	107	110	Sweden.....	100	103	105
Germany, Federal Republic of.....	99	100	102	Switzerland.....	98	99	99
Greece.....	101	103	104	Turkey.....	120	126	130
				United Arab Republic.....	100	100	102
				United States.....	100	100	100

Section 2.—Consumer Price Index*

The purpose of the consumer price index is to measure the movement from month to month in retail prices of goods and services bought by a representative cross-section of the Canadian urban population. For a particular article or service, a price index number is simply the price of the article in one period of time expressed as a percentage of its price in a reference period, usually called a base period. However, indexes for individual goods may be combined to form indexes representing prices of broad groups of goods and services. Thus, the consumer price index relates to the wide range of goods and services bought by Canadian urban families. The index expresses the combined prices of such goods each month as a percentage of their prices in the base period 1949.

The group of goods and services represented in the index is called the index "basket" and "weights" are assigned to the price indexes of individual items for purposes of combining them into an over-all or composite index. The weights reflect the relative importance of items in expenditures of middle-size urban families with medium incomes. The basket is an unchanging or equivalent quantity and quality of goods and services. Only prices change from month to month and the index, therefore, measures the effect of changing prices on the cost of purchasing the fixed basket. The basket and weights now used in the index are based on expenditures in 1957 of families of two to six persons, with annual incomes of \$2,500 to \$7,000, living in cities of 30,000 population or over.

* A comprehensive description of the index is contained in the publication *The Consumer Price Index (1949=100)*—Revision Based on 1957 Expenditures (Catalogue No. 62-518).

6.—Consumer Price Index Numbers, 1935-62
(1949=100)

Year	Index	Year	Index	Year	Index	Year	Index
1935.....	59.9	1942.....	72.9	1949.....	100.0	1956.....	118.1
1936.....	61.1	1943.....	74.2	1950.....	102.9	1957.....	121.9
1937.....	63.0	1944.....	74.6	1951.....	113.7	1958.....	125.1
1938.....	63.7	1945.....	75.0	1952.....	116.5	1959.....	126.5
1939.....	63.2	1946.....	77.5	1953.....	115.5	1960.....	128.0
1940.....	65.7	1947.....	84.8	1954.....	116.2	1961.....	129.2
1941.....	69.6	1948.....	97.0	1955.....	116.4	1962.....	130.7