

Section 3.—Consumer Expenditure Surveys

A continuing program of surveys of family income and expenditure in urban areas was begun in 1953 and surveys have been conducted since then at two-year intervals. The primary purpose of these surveys has been to collect information for reviewing and revising, if necessary, the weights of the consumer price index. The surveys have therefore been restricted to cover only those families which were comparable in family composition and income level to the consumer price index target group which was selected for index number purposes from a nation-wide survey conducted in 1947-48. For each of the three survey periods covering 1953, 1955 and 1957, respectively, the program consisted of a series of monthly surveys in which the major objective was the collection of detailed expenditure data on food, followed by a recall survey of all expenditures and income for the same calendar year. Detailed results for each survey have been published in two series of occasional publications, of which the latest are *Urban Family Food Expenditure, 1957*, (Catalogue No. 62-516) and *City Family Expenditure, 1957* (Catalogue No. 62-517).

Summary results of the 1959 surveys appear in the 1962 Year Book at pp. 934-937 where tables are given showing how expenditure patterns varied among families grouped by income levels, and the average dollar expenditure per family and per person for major items. No expenditure surveys were taken in 1961, the decennial census year, but the regular program was resumed in 1962 when monthly surveys of food expenditure were made throughout the year and a recall survey of the complete budget was made in February and March 1963. Results of these surveys were not yet available at the time of printing.

Section 4.—Security Price Indexes*

Security price indexes measure, through time, the effect of price change on the value of a portfolio of stocks bought and held by a hypothetical investor (as opposed to the more speculative trader). The portfolio represents stocks of Canadian companies listed on the Toronto, Montreal and Canadian stock exchanges. In the case of the mining and the two supplementary indexes (primary oils and gas, and uraniums), eligible issues are for producing mines and wells only. The number of shares held for each issue is in proportion to the total number of shares outstanding. Prices in the weekly common stock indexes (investors, mining and supplementary indexes) are Thursday's closing quotations. For the monthly preferred stock indexes, prices are monthly weighted averages of the daily closing prices in which weights are daily total sales. The indexes express current prices as a percentage of prices in 1956. Monthly and certain weekly indexes appear in DBS monthly publication *Prices and Price Indexes* (Catalogue No. 62-002) and a weekly DBS report gives indexes on a weekly basis for all groups and sub-groups.

The investors index is comprised of three major groups, with relative importance indicated by percentage weights as follows: industrials, 67.2; utilities, 18.5; and finance, 14.3. Each major group is further divided into industry sub-groups corresponding to the Standard Industrial Classification, adopted as the basis of classification in the revision of the index to the 1956 = 100 base. The mining index is composed of two groups: base metals with a weight of 64.6 p.c. and golds with a weight of 35.4 p.c. The two supplementary indexes of common stocks—primary oils and gas, and uraniums—and the index of preferred stocks are not divided into component groups.

* All security price indexes presented in this Section are on the new base 1956=100; indexes presented in the 1962 and previous editions of the Year Book were on the 1935-39=100 base. Historical indexes on the 1956 base are available from the Prices Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.